

Reader Letters



Two articles in your last issue caught my eye. Richard Thomas reported about the high fuel consumption of his Grasshopper lawn mower. Perhaps a change of fuel jets could correct the problem quickly and easily. This has helped us on two occasions with various motors.

There was also an article about a new-style spark plug with four electrodes instead of two. But this style plug is not really new. This same style plug was used by the Air Force on airplanes when I was in the service from 1942 to 1945. **(Mitch Plucar, Nampa, Idaho)**

I found a way to put heavy tractor chains on tires with no lifting. Tie the end of one chain to the tire with a rope and drive ahead one rotation of the wheel. Then untie the rope and fasten the fasteners together. Since I came up with this idea, I don't hesitate to put my chains on and off as needed. That's important to me because I often have to drive on the road. **(Neal McCleary, 325 McCleary Rd., Elkton, MD 21921)**

You can make swinging gates easier to handle by bolting a wheel to the end. We used a small wheel from our junkpile and a couple blocks of wood to bolt it to the bottom rail.



Lets the gate roll easily back and forth without sagging on the hinge. There are commercial units on the market but you can do this for nothing if you've got an old wheel around.

Another idea we came up with is to drape used tires over calf hutches to anchor the buildings in the wind. These hutches stand outside the University's dairy barn. We just tie a couple tires together and throw them over the top of a hutch. Works good and is easy to do. **(Wayne King, Iowa State University, 2015 Agronomy Bldg., Ames, Iowa 50011 ph 515 294-0359)**

Here's how I made inexpensive trailer fenders. I cut strips from a plastic barrel the width



I wanted with a skill saw. I bolted them to brackets welded to the frame of the trailer. They never need painting and are guaranteed for a lifetime against rust. What I did great, too. **(Henry Haley, 10 Baptist common Rd., Templeton, Mass. 01468-1410)**

When our power goes out during stormy weather, we use a pto-powered generator. The problem is that I don't like to run my tractor wide open to maintain the 540 rpm's needed to power the generator. What I did was to attach an IHC Super A pto to the belt pulley of my Farmall "M". It gives me the full 540 rpm's without running the "M" wide open.

Works well with my 18,000-watt generator. **(Robert Eaton, Box 387A, Ethelsville, Ala. 35464)**

I made a rotary "lump breaker" using a couple wheels from a mower. I welded four long bars between the two wheels, criss-crossed with



spikes that hold it all together. The combination of spikes and cross bars breaks up clods. It hinges up and down on brackets behind a Deere model B cultivator. I use the whole rig as a field harrow and it really digs well. **(Tom Kutruff, Rt. 1, Box 37, Altoona, Penn. 16601 ph 814 944-9205)**

We store round bales in two hay barns that are 10 miles apart. We feed from our five feeders that we built out of cotton trailers. The local cotton companies have gone to mod-



ules so the trailers are available cheap. The axles are 16 ft. apart with 24-ft. long beds that are 2 ft. deep and 4 ft. wide at bottom. They're 7 ft. wide at the top.

We have a 530 Deere round baler. Four of the bales fit into the trailer. All the trailers have 16-in. pickup wheels. Very cheap to put together and we can fill them and then pull them behind our pickup. **(E.F. Carson, 21 W. Lone Oak Rd., Valley View, Tex. 76272)**

There are now two types of "prime movers" on farms today: wheeled tractors and tracked tractors.

I suggest we need to come up with a new word so we can tell the difference between the two. We should call a wheeled tractor a "tractor" and a tractor with tracks a "trakator" (pronounced track-uh-tore). What do you think? **(David A. Hall, 3917 N. Ill Rt 23, Sheridan, Ill. 60551 ph 815 792-8637)**

There are other mailbox signaling devices on the market but we think our new "Tripsaver"



is the best and easiest to use. It attaches to the mailbox in seconds and is very visible. Will last for years. Works every time and meets all Postal Service regulations.

It consists of a round plastic disc with a magnet inside. The disc attaches to a string that ties to the mailbox flag. When the door is opened, the magnet pulls off and the yellow disk hangs loose. Lets you know at a glance that the mail has arrived.



Sells for \$5.00 each, shipping and handling included. **(Johnnie Buttram, Tripsaver™, P.O. Box 442, Stigler, Okla. 74462 ph 918 967-8739)**

Newer farm machinery is generally equipped with electric-over-hydraulic controls that can be engaged with just a touch of a finger. I came up with this protective cover to prevent



kids from accidentally activating the controls. It consists of sheet metal formed to cover all the controls on the console and a keyed latch to hold it securely in place. Padding on the bottom side prevents scratching. I lock the cover in place whenever getting out of the cab, especially when small children are around. **(Eric Schmidgall, 33652 Townline Rd., Mackinaw, Ill. 61755 ph 309-392-2322)**

FARM SHOW showed my home-built turn signal in an earlier issue but I thought your readers might like to see it again on my 4-WD tractor. Every year there are dozens of times when motorists pass or try to pass me when I'm about to make a left turn. They don't seem



to notice factory turn signals but they can't miss this big turn arrow I built. It's a 12 by 13-in. steel box with a flashing light inside. We painted a bright yellow arrow on the box's Plexiglass cover and also attached a bright yellow warning sign on top that we got from Gempeler's catalog (P.O. Box 270, Mt. Horeb, Wis. 53572; ph 608 437-4883). It mounts on the rear left fender. A separate toggle switch for the signal mounts in the cab. When this turn signal is on, it's almost impossible to ignore. **(Arvin De Cook, 9658 Hwy F 62E, Sully, Iowa 50251 ph 515 594-3438)**

My "Yellow Jacket Cooler" is designed to cool an irrigation engine without using energy-consuming fans and radiators. Irrigation water in my area is at 73°. I use this water to cool the coolant of the engine. It's not a totally new idea but my design is. It consists of two pipes - one 10 in. dia. and the other 8 in. dia. The 8-in. pipe carries water from the well up through the 10-in. pipe which is filled with coolant from the engine. The 73° well water cools the coolant and, therefore, the engine.

Other coolers on the market have small diameter copper tubes that handle well water

but they're often damaged by rocks or sand pumped by the well. My big pipe cooler should last for years even where the water is corrosive.

All it took to build was a welder and cutting torch and about 10 hrs. of labor. It's about 5



ft. long and will cool an engine with up to 150 hp. Higher horsepower engines will require a slightly longer or larger diameter cooler. **(Weldon Gilleland, P.O. Box 2132, Uvalde, Texas 78802 ph 830-278-3844)**

Anybody can open or close the longest gates with ease using my ratchet gate latch. You just pull the chain out and wrap it around the gate post and turn the ratchet. Lets children, wives and grandparents close heavy gates



and stretch them tight. It consists of two strap iron brackets that clamp over the post with two long bolts. Fits over any post from 6 to 11 in. dia. It costs a lot less to set up a gate this way than with solid gate panels. Our clamp-on model sells for \$24.95; bolt-on model for \$22.95. **(Jim Circle, 1090 30 Rd., Woodston, Kan. 67675 ph 785-994-6278)**

One frustration with operating an air seeder is switching the pipes on the air seeder tank from double to single shoot and back again. We've come up with a kit that solves the prob-



lem. We call it the "In Seconds Kit" because it lets you switch back and forth in seconds without any tools.

Normally, each time the pipes need changing you spend 30 to 60 min. doing the job. That's valuable time during planting. Our quick connectors and caps make it an easy job. The kit sells for \$299.95 (Canadian) including shipping and handling. We're also looking for distributors or air seeder manufacturers who might be interested in this product. **(Wayne Simon, Simon Enterprises, Box 52, Tramping Lake, Sask. S0K 4H0 Canada ph 306 755-2080; fax 306 755-2024)**

We make seed-treating products that we feel outperform anything else on the market.

Our Auger System is a 7-in. dia., 12-ft. long

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