

Reader Letters



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auger with a seed treating hopper over the down spout. It can be electric or hydraulic



powered. Can be easily moved from place to place on its own wheels.

Our Field Treating System mounts directly on an air seeder and treats seed as it's metered out of the tank so no treated seed is



ever left over. It applies either Vitavax solutions or water-based treatments. (Robert J. Graham, Graham Seed Farms Ltd., Box 9, Site 9, R.R. 1, Olds, Alberta T4H 1P2 ph 403 556-2846; fax 403 556-7781; E-mail: rjgraham@telusplanet.net)

Just a quick note to express my thanks for the article about my Accu Flex tillage tool that's designed to always follow the ground contour, even on terraces and hilly ground (Vol. 23, No. 1). I thought you covered the subject very concisely and clearly. You're one of the only publications that actually understood how it works. Generally when we try to describe the system people either give a blank stare or nod their heads in an unconvincing way. Thanks again for the outstanding coverage. (Kelly McNichols, Box 64, Burr Oak, Kan. 66936)

I've come up with a simple device for cracking pecans that works much faster than hand held units and is much less expensive than



electric-driven commercial models. It lets me crack a 5-gal. pail of pecans in just a little more than 15 minutes.

It bolts onto any flat surface and consists of a corrugated 10-in. dia. steel disc with a steel funnel and spout mounted alongside. An 8-in. long lever attaches to the disc. As nuts are poured into the spout they fall into a hole on either side of the funnel. The funnel is 1 1/2 in. wide at the top but only 1/2 in. wide at the bottom. Also, the sides angle inward toward the bottom. As a result, the nuts get packed together tighter and tighter as they slide down the funnel. To crack the nuts I simply move the lever back and forth. The corrugation on the disc grips the nuts and forces them to move with the motion of the disc so that the hulls get cracked. The cracked nuts

then drop into a container. I then have to manually separate the nuts from the hulls.

A big advantage of my pecan cracker is that the nuts don't have to be pregraded or pre-sized. It works on most types of pecans, and I've found that it also works on Brazil and English nuts. The hull gets cracked but normally stays with the nut, although I've found that with some nut varieties 95 percent of the hulls fall off. Sells for \$89.95 plus tax and \$12 to \$14 S&H. I also sell a model equipped with a 16-in. dia. disc that has almost twice as much capacity and can be motorized for commercial use. It sells for \$125 plus S&H. I'm looking for a distributor. (Karl Spencer, 1763 S. Green River Rd., Cowpens, S.C. 29330 ph 864 489-6611)

About 1 1/2 years ago I paid \$1,000 for a 1951 "M" Farmall wide front tractor that had two flat tires and a bad battery. I towed it to a mechanic who fixed it up and installed a new carburetor kit to get the tractor running again. This is an "all-fuel" tractor that runs on either kerosene or gas. It came equipped with a 3-pt. hitch that's now a faded yellow color. How-



ever, I don't know who made the hitch or if parts for it are still available. I need some of the end connectors, pins, etc., for it. There are numbers stamped on the left side lift arms but I can't make them out. Someone I work with said he thought the 3-pt. was probably made by a firm in Colorado but he couldn't remember the name. I'd like to hear from anyone who knows who made this hitch and how I can contact the company for parts. Another curiosity is that the former owner of this tractor cut off part of the drawbar.

I plan to add power steering and flat top fenders to the tractor, and convert to a remote live hydraulic system so that I can use a remote cylinder to operate the 3-pt. (Donald V. Wyckoff, 515 Read Ln., N. E., Atlanta, Ga. 30328 ph 404 252-1740)

My 3-pt. mounted, hydraulically-powered, retractable toolbar works great for topping crops like tobacco or detasseling corn. It costs far less than an automatic topper and requires far less labor than hand topping. You can use it to top up to 40 acres of tobacco per day. Each topper unit is equipped with an "edger blade" and a fan that blows the leaves down so you don't cut the leaves off. The boom that the topper units are mounted on can be ex-



tended out over four rows of tobacco in 36 to 48-in. rows. Hydraulic motors on the topper units are powered by an independent hydraulic system that's driven by the tractor pto. The topper rpm's are controlled by an adjustable flow control valve. A chain is used to draw the toolbar in or out. I've used the toppers on to-



Our son-in-law built this steel-wheeled Minneapolis-Moline mailbox for my wife Betty and me. It's mounted on a big steel pipe and has turned quite a few heads in our area. I've

farmed with Minneapolis-Molines and related tractors all my life, so I guess this mailbox was a natural for us. (Lloyd Monroe, RR 1, Castalia, Iowa 52133 ph 319 567-8344)

matos to stunt their growth so they put more tomatoes on. Sells for about \$8,000. (Larry Trowbridge, 2000 Thigpen Trail, Hartsfield, Ga. ph and fax 912 941-5031)

Our new Extend-A-Bed fits into the 2-in. receiver hitch on any short or longbed pickup, allowing the pickup to haul extra long material. The unit extends 3 ft. beyond the tailgate and is adjustable in width from 38 to 52 in.



and is also adjustable in height. Orange plastic caps slide over the top of the vertical side posts to make the unit more visible. Folds for storage in the back of the pickup, inside a toolbox, etc.

Sells for \$159 plus S&H. (The Spreader, Inc., Hwy. 136, Box 189, Gifford, Ill. 61847 ph 800 428-9046 or 217 568-7219; fax 7619)

I use a common household-type water filter to clean the water as it goes into my sprayer tank. The filter attaches to a 3-ft. high metal



pipe stand. I made the stand by welding a 3-ft. long, 3/4-in. dia. steel pipe into the center of a 2-ft. dia. disc.

I mounted a ball valve on the input side of the filter and attached a 6-ft. length of hose to it which hooks up to a valve on my house. I mounted an elbow fitting on the output side of the filter so I can hook a garden hose up to it to fill the sprayer tank. When I'm done I hang the hose on a pair of hooks at the top of the pipe.

The filter removes rust and lime particles from the water so I don't have to clean out my sprayer nozzles nearly as often. I paid only \$12 for it. These types of filters are widely available at hardware and farm supply stores. (Leonard Seltzer, 16040 W. Elwood Manhattan, Manhattan, Ill. 60442 ph 815 478-3578)

Your story on the "world's longest pickup" (Vol. 22, No. 6) caught my attention since I recently built a 24-ft. stretched limousine dually pickup. I married the front half of a 1991 GMC 4-door



crew cab pickup to the back half of a 1984 Chevy 4-door crew cab pickup. I bought the 1991 model at a city auction and cut it through the middle of the back doors. I bought the 1984 model at a wrecking yard and cut it through the middle of the front doors. I hired a welder to beef up the frame and lengthen it an additional 38 in.

A roof panel off a Chevy Suburban was welded to the top of both cabs in order to hide the joint welds between them and we painted the pickup black. A commercial company re-did the interior and I'm installing a wet bar, TV, and VCR.

The pickup is powered by a 350 cu. in., 350 hp engine coupled to a 5-speed transmission. It has a 198-in. long wheelbase so we had to lengthen the driveshaft and install two carrier bearings to support it.

It's fascinating to watch people try to figure it out. Many of them crawl underneath to see where we stretched the frame.

I want to thank Danny West of West Diesel, Hereford, Texas, for helping me on the project. (Jim Bob Perrin, Rt. 4, Box 146, Hereford, Texas 79045 ph 806 289-5876)

About a year ago you ran a story on my 2-way catch gate that I use to sort and catch hogs as I feed them out on a dry lot. To eat or drink, they have to walk through the gates (Vol. 22, No. 2). I'm now manufacturing it. The gate is really handy for catching hogs yet causes no stress to the animals. There's a spring-loaded gate on each side and each gate opens only in one direction. Pigs quickly learn which gate they can enter by and which is the exit so when you decide to catch some or all of the pigs, you simply lock the exit gate and the next morning all the hogs will have come in for feeding but none will get out. There's no need to have someone stand at the gate when catching individual hogs since they're already using the entrance gate.

Sells for \$195 plus S&H. (Matthew Hempel, Semper Fidelis Ranch, Rt. 1, Box 52, Eldridge, Mo. 65463 ph 573 363-5213; fax 5957)

We've come up with a complete system for safely and efficiently raising chickens on open range. We sell portable plastic pens that measure 12 ft. long, 8 ft. wide, and 2 ft. high and are screened over with chicken wire. Part of the roof is covered with poly cloth that provides shelter from bad weather. The sides of