

works fine on wet, dry or snowy ground. We pull it with a 10 to 12-ft. rope so we don't bother the mother, who follows behind. The calf isn't stressed at all. It rides on elastic straps strung back and forth across the rectangular frame at the top. **(Daryl Wiegand, 13578 159th Trail, Drakesville, Iowa 52552 ph 515 722-3253)**

We found this little earth mover in a dealer's junk pile and fixed it up. We have been unable to find anyone who knows who built it or when it might have



been built. Anyone out there know? **(George A. Wojnar, 5 Malsbury Lane, Cream Ridge, N.J. 08514)**

I'd like to thank Vermeer Mfg. for building their new Rebel baler, which is a "no frills" baler designed for smaller farmers. I think more companies should be looking at building smaller, simpler equipment. **(Joe Dugan, Box 906, Roblin, Man. ROC 1P0 Canada)**

My wife Sue and I recently became "non traditional" farmers. Changing from cattle and horses to llamas has been a major culture shock as well as a very steep learning curve for a couple of back country Yankees. We have been amazed at the number of farms (mostly small in this part of the country) that have changed from the traditional dairy or beef operation to deer, elk, goats (milking and fiber), sheep (milking and fiber), llamas, alpacas, birds, and so on.

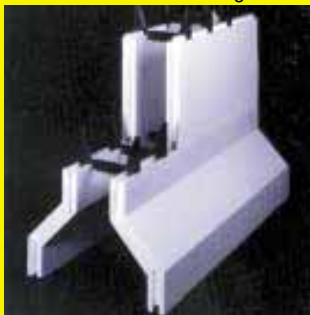
What's interesting is how this has impacted related businesses such as feed, veterinarians, crafts (spinning etc.), barn designs and so on. For example, it's easy to find a cow or horse vet but try to find a qualified and experienced llama vet. Feed is another issue that has not caught up to the changing make-up of farms. Our co-op wants to sell feed in 3-ton lots. With a relatively small herd of 32 animals, we only use about 700 pounds per week. Whole new industries and services are going to grow up to serve these "non traditional" farms. Everything from toe nail clippers to microchips to grinding up antlers. Rural people looking for new opportunities should look into it. **(Bob and Susan Simpson, Center Barnstead, N.H.; E-mail: rss@worldpath.net)**

Putting a tarp down on the ground when unloading grain helps make cleanup



easy. But holding it down against strong winds can be a problem. I solved the problem by simply laying a chain down around the perimeter of the tarp. **(T.J. Shambaugh, Cerro Gordo, Ill.)**

After four years in development, last year we started manufacturing our stay-in-place insulating concrete form, called Tech Bloc. Made of expanded polystyrene, this product can be used for basement foundations or entire single or multi-



story buildings – homes, barns, warehouses, churches, schools, and so on. It produces a quiet, energy-efficient structure with tremendous strength.

Tech Block is the first insulating concrete form with an offset panel which allows you to pour the footer and wall in one operation. The off-set panel can be turned upside down to form an exterior brick ledge or an interior ledge to set floor joists on. Finishing walls – drywall, paneling, stucco, siding, etc.) can be applied directly to the surface of the forms without furring. Each form is 16 by 48 in., 2 in. thick. They're lightweight, easy to handle and ship flat for low freight rates. They're assembled in pairs on site.

We provide whatever field and technical support might be needed. **(Dick Chambers, TechSystems, 10813 Zerkle Rd., Cridersville, Ohio 45802 ph 800 406-4096 or 419 657-6525)**

We are sending along copies of letters we have sent to a couple of your readers who have expressed dissatisfaction with their Red Wing boots in recent issues. Red Wing Shoe Company has built our success over the past 95 years by handcrafting the best footwear made in the U.S. We understand the needs of our customers and build a quality product. We get many letters from satisfied customers.

This is not to say we never have unsatisfied customers. We depend on our network of Red Wing dealers to provide the best customer service possible. We also have the most liberal return policy in the industry.

Our customers matter. We just wanted you and your readers to be aware that we respond to our customers and what they say is important. **(Cindy Taube, Public Relations Manager, Red Wing Shoe Company, 314 Main Street, Red Wing, Minn. 55066 ph 651 388-8211).**

Here's a simple idea to make it easy to hook up to gooseneck trailers with a pickup. I attached a 1/4-in. steel rod to a magnet. I stick the magnet to the top of the ball. I can then then back up to the receiver until it's right over the ball. When the hitch pushes the rod and magnet off the ball, you know you're lined up. **(Tom Boatright, 9765 State Park Rd., Lockhart, Tex. 78644 ph 512 488-2230)**

I thought you might like to see a little trailer my son-in-law, Clint Thomas, made to haul leaves and trash out of his yard. He took the wheels off a wheelbarrow



and mounted the frame to a mower deck. Then he took the top part of the mower handle off and turned it around, making a hitch out of the two loose ends. He can pull it behind his riding mower. **(Harvey Krein, RR1, Box 157, Kensington, Kan. 66951)**

If you live anywhere near a lake or river with snapper turtles, you're not far away from a good meal. I've been catching them for 25 years. Turtle meat is delicious.

Here's how I catch them: Attach some trot line or fairly heavy cord to a gallon milk jug with the cap on. Put the longest steel leader you can find on the end of the line and fit it with the biggest hook you can lay your hands on. My favorite bait is beef shank, which you can get at your local meat shop. After I catch one, I like to leave it out of the fridge for a day to age. **(Charlie Musser)**

I am almost 86 years old and have been a FARM SHOW subscriber for many years. I don't farm any more but I read every bit of it. As long as I can see to read, I'll be a subscriber. It's the best darn farm magazine ever. Keep it up. **(Fred Meier, 1948 Fir Dr. Apt. 12, Beloit, Wis. 53511)**

This is a simple idea but many may not have thought of it. To keep birds out of the open ends of grain augers, just use duct tape and aluminum pie plates to close them up. **(Edwin Mattix, RR1, Box 23A, St. Elmo, Ill. 62458 ph 618 829-9750)**

Here's a device I built to roll up plastic irrigation pipe. It could also be used to roll up fence wire.

I mounted a tire and wheel on a frame fitted with 3-pt. brackets. The tire is held



securely in place on one side by an auto hub on an arm. The tire is friction-driven by a 2-in. dia. pipe that turns against it. The pipe mounts on pillow block bearings and is driven by a small hydraulic motor that connects to tractor hydraulics.

The plastic is rolled up on a spool with a concave disc blade at either end. The spool simply bolts to the lug holes on the wheel. **(No name on report submitted)**



This photo was taken in 1919 at the Sioux City, Iowa, stockyards. My grandfather, Joseph Zenk, is on the far left. The trucks are 1919 Internationals. My grandfather sold the trucks from his farm, which was located three miles east of Remsen, Iowa. The trucks sold for about \$1,000. He sold 12 trucks during one 3-year period. **(David Zenk, RR 3, Box 126, New Ulm, Minn. 56073)**

This front-mounted long stock carrier, built by Bob Joiner, Carlinville, Ill., is an easy way to handle long stock, ladders



and other oversize loads. Joiner installed a receiver hitch on front of his pickup and built the stock carrier to fit into the hitch. He can quickly put the carrier into place as needed. Much better than letting long stock dangle off the back of the truck. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

This is a simple idea that saves us time at harvest. We fill the small dugout hole for the bottom end of our auger with concrete. It eliminates digging the next year



and also marks the correct spot for the auger. All we have to do is flip out the concrete plug the next year and put the auger in place. **(Jack Gogerty, 71095 105th St., Zearing, Iowa 50278 ph 515 487-7489)**



If you've got a pto that's missing its shield, you can use a piece of plastic drain tile to temporarily provide protection. **(Doug Phillips, 71835 150th St., Zearing, Iowa)**

Thanks for your article in the last issue of FARM SHOW about my "automatic" feed gate for cattle that knocks silage and hay loose as cattle feed. It used to take me four and a half hours to feed our herd each day but now I can do it in a half hour or less.

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