Reader Letters

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in. disc blade under each leg, just below ground level, with the concave side facing up. The center hole in the discs makes it easy to install the anchor rods and for water to drain out. ***(Bob Hudspeth, P.O. Box 51, Era, Tex. 76238 ph 940 665-5942)***

Here's a project that might interest some of your readers. I rescued an early 1970's Deere 400 tractor from a scrap pile after a lifetime of hard use. Then,

with some help from my Uncle, Lyle Williams, we added a front-end loader to make it more useful.

The loader has just one arm so it only requires two rams – one on the lift arm and one on the bucket. The loader is made from 3-in. sq. tubing and slides into a piece of 4-in. tubing mounted under the tractor like a receiver hitch. The frame mounts ahead of the brake pedals and then wraps back above them to the pivot point to keep the lift arm as close to the tractor center as possible. The pivot points are 1-in. pins riding on replaceable bronze bushings.

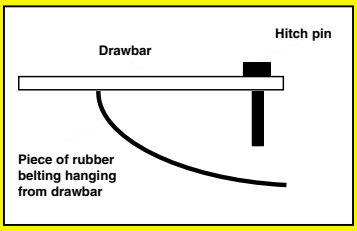
I found the bucket in a salvage yard and got the rams at an auction. The rest of the parts were off–the-shelf items we got at a local supply store. The entire loader project only cost about $250.

I also built a 3-pt. hitch for the tractor using mostly odds and ends from the scrap pile. It operates off the original mower lift. ***(Brad Wentzel, E6001 Evanswood Rd., Weyauwega, Wis. 54983)***

Thanks for writing about my father's repowered Farmall C tractor in your last

issue of FARM SHOW. I didn't get a chance to send you photos of the 3-pt. hitch he built.

He made the 3-pt. hitch for about $100, which he spent on the cylinder and iron. It works great. ***(Jeff Lang, Wisconsin, E-mail: ninahunsch@msn.com)***



Here's a very simple idea to keep hay and other crop residue from catching on hitch pins. Just hang a small piece of rubber belting from the drawbar ahead of the hitch pin. You'll never lose another hitch pin.

Another idea I had was to add a series of hooks to the frame of my tractors to hold log chains. Keeps them secure and out of the way yet easily accessible when you need them. Just cut hooks out of plate steel and weld them on. ***(Robert J. Neisen, 3946 County Rd. 30 SE, Delano, Minn. 55328 ph 612 972-2207)***

We've had a lot of interest in these new John Deere log cabin-style bird feeders and bird houses. They're quite unique and make a great Father's day gift, birth-

day, Christmas gift, etc. They're made out of wood and colored Deere green and yellow. The houses have a toy Deere tractor mounted on front, below the hole, and the feeders have clear glass sides with a tray at the bottom. There's an eye hook and rope at the top. They're available in several different shapes and sizes and sell from $19.99 to $29.99 plus S&H. ***(Glenn Metzger, MAC'S, 4200 Main Ave., Fargo, N. Dak. 58103 ph 701 282-9900; fax 4509)***

We've had a tremendous response to the story on our "Super Weeder" grass, weed, and brush trimmer replacement head for gas-powered trimmers (Vol. 23, No. 2). It consists of a circular steel head fitted with two freely rotating, 4-in. long,

We have about 600 ft. of feed bunks on our farm and had been cleaning dirty feed and snow out of them by shoveling it out by hand. To make the job easier I made my own bucket-mounted bunk cleaner using parts off a Deere chisel plow. The unit mounts alongside the grapple fork and bucket on our Deere payloader. A curved steel plate is bolted to a pair of chisel plow shanks that are attached to a short length of the chisel plow's toolbar. The toolbar slides into a 2-ft. length of sq. steel tubing that's welded to the back of the bucket. To mount the cleaner all I do is insert a pin.

To make the cleaner plate I traced the outline of the bunk onto some cardboard, then cut out the cardboard and traced it onto a plate. Then I cut the plate 2 in. smaller so that it fits inside the bunk.

It worked better than I expected and took less time to build than it took to shovel the bunks out just once. Springs

mounted above the shanks allow the unit to flex up and down. I spent very little to build it. Commercial blowers sell for about $3,000 and can't clean out frozen material like my rig can.

I used light gauge steel plate to keep from damaging the cement bunk, and I welded a short length of steel into the middle of the plate to stiffen it up. ***(Mike Heinze, 11843 14th St. S.E., Dazey, N. Dak. 58429 ph 701 733-2422)***

stainless steel blades that bolt on in place of the original plastic head on most Weed Eater-type string trimmers. We've now replaced the steel blades with much stronger, carbon fiber reinforced blades. The blades are very light in weight and and are super strong and long wearing. They will outlast any string or plastic blade and are also much sharper. As a result, when they cut the grass it drops immediately to the ground without getting all over your clothes or on you. The cut grass just slides right off the slick blades and falls to the ground. The blades also work great in heavy weeds and light brush. They can be resharpened with a grinder or a file.

The blades are available 1/4 or 3/8-in. thick. The 1/4-in. thick blades sells for $7.00 or two sets for $10.00. The basic Super Weeder sells for $24.95 to $59.95 depending on model. ***(Ed Silver, Super Weeder, 5001 Tobacco Road, LaGrange, Ky. 40031 ph 502 222-6127; E-mail: superweed3@aol.com; Website: www.superweeder.com).***

I wanted to use my Deere 318 garden tractor to cultivate weeds out of my garden, but I didn't want to spend the money for a new rotary tiller. Also, I didn't want

to have to remove the mower every time I needed to use the rototiller.

I solved the problem by building my own 42-in. wide cultivator-harrow and mounting it on a commercial 3-pt. hitch. I use a pair of J-bolts that go in the tractor frame to keep the mower up off the ground. That way I don't have to remove the mower every time I cultivate.

To make the cultivator I mounted five Danish shanks on a length of angle iron. To make the harrow I drilled a series of holes in a length of pipe and then bolted the double harrow tines onto the pipe. The pipe is bolted to another length of angle iron. A length of strap iron connects the cultivator and harrow. A series of holes were drilled into the strap iron so that I can adjust the angle of the tines and shanks by simply changing the position of a bolt. I added two tractor suitcase weights (from a Case-IH Magnum tractor) to assure adequate penetration even in the hardest soils. ***(Henry Isaac, Box 99, Boissevain, Manitoba, Canada R0K 0E0 ph 204 776-2112)***