

Reader Letters



I recently received a postcard from a company called Warranty USA in Seattle, Wash., asking me to call them concerning my 1993 Ford Ranger pickup. I called the 800 number and they proceeded to give me their sales pitch for a 2-year, 24,000 mile extended warranty on my Ranger. I informed them I was not interested, and then spent the next 30 min. attempting to get their sales representative to accept my decision. They called back two more times and I had to hang up on him both times before I finally got them to understand I was not buying.

I just wanted to tell anyone who gets a card from Warranty USA to throw it in the trash. **(Gene Bontrager, 1840-500 St. S.W., Kalona, Iowa 52247)**

The phone number listed in your last issue for the Washington Innovation Assessment Center was incorrect. It should have read 509 335-8045. We would be happy to talk to any of your readers with a new invention or idea they'd like to bring to market. **(Shaun Maxey, Washington Innovation Center, Washington State University)**

Thanks for featuring our Chopper Control Kit for Case-IH combines in the 2000 Edition of Best of FARM SHOW. The Chopper Control lets the operator adjust



the deflector pan to different heights for various crops without climbing into the combine.

We wanted to let your readers know that we have recently updated the Chopper Control kit for the 2000 season. It's available from Case-IH dealers, or you can buy direct from us for \$290. **(Robert Rottinghaus, Clever-Tech, Inc., 4121 South Canfield, Rd., Jesup, Iowa 50648 ph 319 827-1311)**

We read with interest the stories about big rocks in the past couple issues of FARM SHOW. Here's a story about a rock that took a long over-the-road journey.



My husband and father-in-law farmed over this big rock for a few years on our farm in Ashland County, Ohio. It was at plow depth. They finally decided it would be cheaper to dig it out than to keep

breaking plow points. They moved it over next to the driveway. It was the subject of a lot of conversation since it has eye-catching pink granite stripes running through it. We don't know what it weighs but it took a big tractor to move it.

In 1997, when we moved from Ohio to Ness City, Kansas, we decided to take the rock with us. We loaded it onto a truck and hauled it 1,300 miles to our new home. People around here have never seen anything like it. We decorate it at Christmas with Christmas lights.

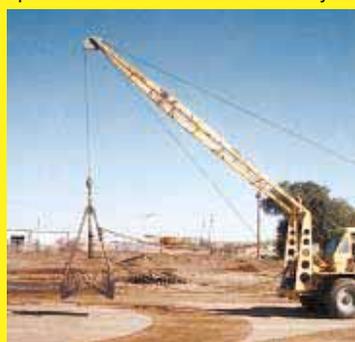
It's great to have a piece of our old place here in Kansas. **(Ben & Lue Evel, RR1, Box 92, Ness City, Kan. 67560)**

I mount 8-in. scaffold caster wheels under the ends of all my gates. They're heavy-built and can be locked so wind won't blow the gate. They also roll easily in snow.



It's a good way to save your end posts and your "wife's" back. You can buy the wheels out of the Northern Catalog (ph 800 556-7885). **(Robert Crampton, Box 194, Staples, Minn. 56479)**

Here's a photo of a clam shell bucket I built 35 years ago. It has a single hydraulic cylinder hanging at the center that opens and closes the bucket. The cylin-



der pulls up on the center hinge of the bucket. A pair of chains run from the bucket to the boom truck to keep it from swinging too much. This has worked great for me for all these years. **(Eugene M. Durand, 5404 Ocotillo, HC 31, Box 1020Z, Roswell, NM 88201)**

Here's a design for a breakaway mailbox that's easy to make. I used 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe for the upright and for the pipe that holds the mailbox, and the brace. Then I cut three 4-in. long pieces out of a piece of 2-in. dia. pipe.

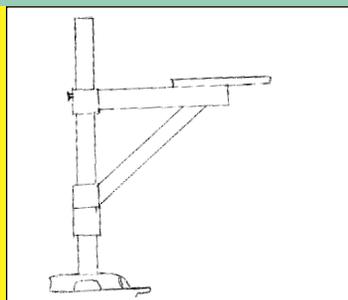
I welded the upright to an old truck wheel and then clipped the three 2-in. pieces over the upright. I welded the bottom 2-in. piece to the upright and welded the other pieces of pipe to the other two 2-in. pieces. Then I welded a piece of 4 by 6-in. flat steel to the horizontal pipe to



I made "chains" for my garden tractor out of rubber tires. I just cut strips out of a car tire and bolted them to lengths of chain that wrap around the sides of the tire. The rubber strips are a couple inches wide and lay flat on the tire, giving you extra traction without ripping up the ground. Great on steep hillsides when

mowing, and in winter for snow blowing.

We also made "shop stools" out of old implement seats by mounting the seat on a 6 by 6-in. post that stands in the middle of an old auto wheel. We painted one green and yellow and the other red and white. **(Lamar Fahnstock, 300 S. Ramona Rd., Lebanon, Penn. 17042)**



mount the mailbox to.

To make it break away, I drilled a hole in the top 2-in. piece and put a light screw into the hole. If the mailbox gets hit, it shears the screw off without breaking the mailbox stand. **(Submitted by FARM SHOW reader. No name attached.)**

I made a simple attachment for the tank on my sprayer that makes it easier and safer to fill the tank and rinse out jugs.

I mounted a bracket on the tank that



has a shut-off valve on it and 18 in. of hose. To fill the tank, just hook your hose up to the cut-off valve and then you can turn the valve on or off as needed right at the sprayer. Saves time and prevents overflow. **(Henry C. Steinacher, RR1, Box 173, Kane, Ill. 62054)**

After pulling two wagons full of beans or corn home from a field, we have to unhook the back wagon in the yard to get the individual wagons up to an auger. It's usually pretty hard to unhook the back wagon. Instead of having someone between the wagons to pull that pin as the driver jiggles the wagons, we simply hook a bungy cord up to the pin. Then you just jerk the wagon a bit and the pin comes out. It's something you can do alone. Saves pinched fingers. **(Robert Neisen, 3946 County Rd. 30 SE, Delano, MN 55328)**

Texas has quite an ant problem, and I'm sure other areas do, too. They were always getting into our dog's food dish. I solved the problem by getting a heavy, 10-in. dia. pottery food bowl and setting it into the middle of a 12-in. pan full of water. Even empty, the bowl is too heavy to float. The 1-in. moat of water around the bowl keeps all ants out. I've had no problems since. **(Bob Hudspeth, Box 51, Era, Tex. 76238)**

Here's a photo of a tow-behind roller I made using a "pony wheel" off an old tandem roller. I used the original yoke and



king pin, welding a 6-ft. drawbar to the kingpin. I used a 2 5/16-in. ball hitch to add flexibility when towing. I put a ratchet jack from the yoke to the drawbar to enable us to offset the roller to reach past the tractor wheel. The roller wheel is 50 in. wide and 40 in. high. **(George Wojnar, 5 Malsbury Lane, Cream Ridge, N.J. 08514 ph 609 758-7295)**

Here are a few ideas I've spotted recently in my travels around the state of Illinois.

With storage space at a premium on many farms, you might keep in mind that the space in the upper reaches of your machine sheds often goes unused. I was recently in the shed of Farley Cole, Girard, Ill., and noticed his weed wiper hanging from the joists. He just tied a couple ropes to it and hoisted it up. Of