

Reader Letters



Since 1995, when FARM SHOW first featured my build-it-yourself bandsaw mill, more than 2,300 people have ordered my "builders packets" to build their own. Many thanks to FARM SHOW and its readers.

We've just had one small problem that I'm sure might be a problem for other companies with products featured in FARM SHOW. Our local bank will not accept personal checks in Canadian funds. When we receive a Canadian check, we must return it to the person. The best solution is to send a money order in U.S. dollars or send U.S. cash (wrapped in a sheet of paper). I'm always sorry whenever there's a delay and I appreciate the patience of all my Canadian customers. (**Bill Reeks, Band Sawmills, 7104 Hwy 231 N., Cromwell, Ky. 42333 ph 270 274-3361**)

There aren't too many things tougher than a stand of osage orange trees in a hedge row. But when a tornado came



through our area recently, it had no trouble uprooting a row of the trees and depositing them in the adjacent corn field.

Osage orange is known for its toughness. Fence posts cut from these trees have remained in the ground for more than 50 years with no sign of rotting. American Indians used it to make bows for arrows. It was widely planted early in the century as an alternative to putting up labor-consuming rail fences. The problem was that it spread and often "got away" from farmers. After World War II, when the bulldozer became more widely available, the hedge fences started to disappear. Before that it was very difficult to remove Osage Orange because if you don't get the roots, it'll grow back.

Obviously, Mother Nature had no trouble pulling this hedge on the Harold Metzger farm near Tower Hill, Ill. It pulled the trees out by their roots and laid them in a pile. (**C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.**)

Several years back FARM SHOW featured a device which I designed and built called "The Lazy Man's Hitch" (Vol. 10, No. 4). It lets you hook up a pull-type implement, such as a wagon, without leaving the tractor seat and without affecting the pto. I used the 3-pt. hitch to raise and lower a custom-built drawbar. When we replaced that tractor with a new Ford industrial loader, I had to build a new hitch as well. This time I chose to keep my hitch independent of the tractor's 3-pt. I built a swing frame with drawbar attached, under the tractor's Gannon "Mod Hitch". I was able to tuck a pair of 2 by 5-in. hydraulic cylinders inside the Mod Hitch, on either side of the pto, to raise and lower the drawbar.



As the hard-faced pin on the end of the drawbar is raised, it engages an "eye" attached to the end of the implement's hitch. The hookup is secured by a retaining bar above the "eye" which keeps it from jumping off the pin. The "shoe" which supports the pin is removable, converting the drawbar back to normal operation when needed.

We like this hitch because it makes it easy to shuttle feed wagons to different feed storage sites, loading and feeding with the same tractor. (**Fred Hansen, 3420 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa, Calif. 95401 ph 707 523-0282**)

Thanks for including us in the Windmill Resource Guide published in the last issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 23, No. 4). Unfortunately, there was a typo in our name and web address. The name is "Aermotor Windmill Company" and our web address is www.aermotorwindmill.com. The e-mail address is info@aermotorwindmill.com. (**Aermotor Windmill Co. Inc., P.O. Box 5110, San Angelo, Tex. 76902 ph 800 854-1656 or 915 651-4951**)

Here's a great new way to display an antique gas engine. You can mount it



on an old lawn mower frame and then drive it around. The kids love it and it's an eye-catching way to show off your hard work. (**Joe Eliker, 408 E. Wayne, New Madison, Ohio 45346 ph 937 996-1501**)

I read with interest the article in your last issue, "Should Farmers Sue Monsanto?" about the possible contamination of non-Roundup Ready crops growing in fields adjacent to fields planted to those crops. My question is, should we hold Monsanto responsible for lowering the price of corn and other crops because the European markets will not accept genetically modified crops or products? I feel that we farmers have been sold a bill of goods and Monsanto is laughing all the way to the bank.

And what about the large regional co-ops going into agricultural production? I can't imagine that farmer boards of these co-ops have given them permission to start raising hogs, cattle, and row crops. These decisions were certainly respon-



We recently introduced three feeder chain roller kits for all 60 and 80 Series Case-IH combines. The kits are designed to reduce wear on the feederhouse chain by keeping the chain off the upper and lower wear plates, which dramatically improves chain life and also makes it run quieter. Each kit includes a shaft, rollers, washers and nuts as needed for installation, as well as instructions and a template for drill-

sible for last year's 10 cent hogs. (**Alfred Jessen, RR2, Box 180, Tyler, Minn. 56178**)

I've gotten FARM SHOW for a number of years and have profited from many of the good ideas. I wanted to pass along



one of my ideas. It's a way to make use of an old pickup topper. I used it as a roof for a tool shed that stands in the back yard. The sides are made from particle board. I put a hinged door in the wood on one end. Many of the old toppers don't fit newer trucks so there are a lot of them around. (**Bill Miller, Box 151, Landis, Sask. S2K 2K0 Canada**)

For two years I've been trying to get rid of a gopher at the bottom of my pasture. This gopher knew everything that a gopher needed to know. I caught the males and the young, but not the female. She would plug up the traps with dirt. I even tried to blow gas fumes into the runs using a sprayer but all I did was ruin the seal on the nozzle. I read about the pepper wax in a recent issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 23, No. 3) and was about to order that when I remembered that some 35 years ago rats moved under our granary and we used ammonia to drive them out. So I purchased a bottle of household ammonia, poured about half into a hand sprayer, and emptied it into a fresh run, sealing it up afterwards.

There has been no sign of activity since. (**Milek Plucar, 1822 S. Midland Blvd., Nampa, Idaho 83686**)

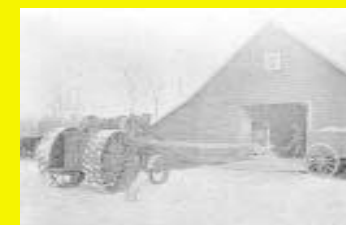
Here's a slick way to clean off tangled-up reels on swathers or combines. I just

ing holes exactly as needed.

One kit comes as a three-roller assembly for the new three-strand feeder chain, and the other two kits come as two-roller assemblies for the two-strand feeder chains. The kits are available at most Case-IH dealers or you can contact us directly. (**Dennis Swanke, Terog Mfg., 387 Atlantic Ave., Stephen, Minn. 56757 ph 800 423-3918**)

carry an old hand saw with me on the machine and when crop material gets wrapped around the reel, I cut through the balled-up material with the saw and it falls right off. The saw doesn't have to be sharp. After you use it for a while it won't be sharp anyway. I've been using this method for years and it works great. (**Sam Alexander, 100 Hwy. 114, Powell, Wyo. 82435**)

I thought your readers might be interested in these pictures of me running a



Townsend tractor in 1925 when I was 23 years old. The photos show it driving a Hill City thresher with a 24-in. separator and also running a feed mill at the barn. It was a good tractor. (**Roy Madden, P.O. Box 108, Bloomington, MN 55437**)

This home-built pouring stand makes it easy to handle "mini-tote" chemical containers. It was built by Ted Van Netten,



an Ontario hog producer. He entered it in our annual Environmental Farm Plan invention contest and won a \$1,000 prize.

He simply used 30 ft. of used, 1/2-in. dia. water pipe. He stands it up next to

Continued on next page