

Reader Letters



In the last issue, FARM SHOW featured a log splitter with two 4-in. dia. cylinders. The inventor stated that the two 4-in. cylinders have the same power as an 8-in. cylinder. This is not true. The power of a hydraulic cylinder is a function of the area of the piston. The bigger the area in square inches, the more power. One 8-in. cylinder has twice as much area on the face of the piston as two four inchers, and would thus be twice as powerful, although it would perhaps be slower.

By the way, I really love FARM SHOW. I bought my 12-year-old son his own subscription for his birthday. Now I don't have to share mine! **(Jack Griffith, Arlington, Texas)**

A couple issues ago, you had a story about a guy that put a snowblower on a Deere combine. I thought I'd send you a photo of what I call my "Snowbine". We put it together in about a month's time.



The "tractor" that powers it started life as an IH 815 gas-powered combine. We built the snowblower ourselves from some new metal and parts off a old Versatile combine. The great thing about using a "combine tractor", versus a tractor 3-pt. hitch, is that you have such great visibility. Also, the hydrostatic transmission lets you go very slow or fast. It walks right through any snow, whether it's 6 in. deep or piled up by a dozer blade. **(Don & Ron Edmunds, Box 2160, Tisdale, Sask. S0E 1T0 Canada ph 306 873-5632)**

I made an extension-mount for my rear tractor blade so I could clean out wet ditches without getting stuck. I used three heavy metal bars to move the blade back about 3 ft. There are two holes in the top link bar that let me angle the blade back in toward the tractor for

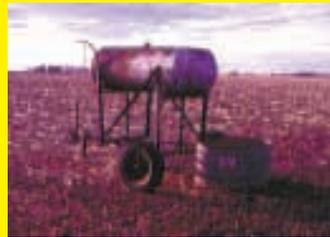


cleaning out along ditch banks. They let you drop the blade into a deep ditch but do not let you lift the blade as high. You can easily switch back. **(Harold Hershey, 225 Laidig Rd., Harrisonville, Penn. 17228)**

I'm looking for information on where to get old alfalfa seed which would have been grown from the 1800's until about 1950. It had enormous roots 3 to 4 in. dia. that went very deep. It would get as tall as the rear tires on a tractor if you let it go and would last for years. I remember seeing fields 40 to 50 years old that were still productive. **(Hal Crawford, RR2, 2106 Hwy 148, Campbell's Bay, QC J9X 1K0 Canada)**

To keep deer from rubbing or eating young trees or shrubs, put four or five mothballs in a cotton rag and hang it about 2 ft. up from the ground, next to the main stem. Moth balls vaporize so it's necessary to replace them but deer will not touch the trees while they are there. Deer are particularly hard on trees when "polishing" their new antlers. **(Tom J. Scalese, Ranch box 23, Galota, Mont. 59444)**

An old fuel barrel mounted on a trailer makes it easy to haul water out to



livestock. There's a faucet on one end of the tank that is used to run water out into stock tanks. **(Gene Johnson, 603 So. Center St., Zearing, Iowa 50278 ph 641 487-7393)**

My neighbor, Leonard Marquart, is 86 years old and a very loyal subscriber to FARM SHOW. He recently did a very good job designing and installing a snowplow on the front of his tractor. He made the plow-mounting hardware from



scrap pieces of iron and steel. He was given an old Myers plow blade and cut, drilled, and bolted all the hardware onto it himself. No cutting torches, no welding. I was amazed at how he designed it first and then just bolted it all together. He told me he planned it in his sleep and then built it during the day.

It's mounted rock solid to the front of the Oliver 88 and works great. Raises and lowers hydraulically by a single cylinder. **(Fred Edison, 11754 Haggerman Rd., South Rockwood, Mich. 48179)**



FARM SHOW first featured my double rake hitch several years ago (Vol. 17, No. 1). I wanted to let your readers know that I'm still building them for sale and that I've made a couple improvements to it that allow you to make it adjustable for different size mower swaths. What makes the rake unique is that it features a steering axle that "walks" the rear rake back and forth behind the tractor.

The double rake hitch sells for \$1,500. **(Clifford Belsly, 1665 Lourdes Rd., Rt 2, Metamora, Ill 61548 ph 309 383-4847 or 367-6040)**

Thanks for the write-up on my new outside wood-burning furnace (Vol. 25, No. 6). Since it was published I've had more than 1,000 calls and letters from all across the U.S. and Canada. Many people have asked me when they'll be able to buy the furnace. The answer is, right now. I found a manufacturer and now have a hot air model on the market. It sells for \$5,000. I also plan to offer a hot water model for sale next summer.

The furnace is designed to burn less wood than conventional furnaces and is virtually smoke-free. It also leaves hardly any ashes. The key component is a flow box for the smoke that extends up through the unit to the flue on top. It burns with a clean blue flame. Temperatures in part of the tortuous flow box can reach up to 1,500 degrees, which breaks down the smoke molecules to eliminate soot. Gas coming out of the wood gets the



proper amount of oxygen, which is why the wood burns clean. **(Elmer Laitinen, 8731 East Monroe Road, Wheeler, Mich. 48662 ph 989 842-1257)**



I added a hydraulic cylinder to the top link on my tractor-mounted bale fork. Gives me a lot more flexibility when handling bales. You have to have an end to go between the cylinder and the top link. **(Doug Phillips, 13438 710th Ave., Zearing, Iowa 50278 ph 641 487-7436)**

Adding hydraulics to a mechanically-adjusted ditching plow makes it a lot easier to set and change on the go. I mounted a 3 1/2-ft. vertical mast to the



frame of the plow to act as an anchor for one end of a hydraulic cylinder. The other end of the cylinder goes to the mechanical adjustment point. The mast itself is anchored by a diagonal brace. Now it's easy to change the angle of the plow just using the hydraulic lever. **(Leon Frohn, 388 Trestle Ave., Pocahtontas, Ill. Ph 618 669-2179)**

We were pouring a floor for a 14-ft. dia. grain bin I bought used. I didn't have any rebar on hand so I decided to use old



sicklebars, of which I had plenty. We crisscrossed several bars, staggering them so they didn't cross all at one place, making the concrete too thin. We placed small bricks under the sickles to hold them up and bent the ends of the sickles down into the footings along the outside.

The pour went successfully and the floor seems to be holding up well. I think they'll work even better than rebar. **(Barry & Brian Leverett, Henry & Daniel Butts, Middletown, Mo.)**

I wanted to use my 1999 Deere riding mower to grade my driveway, so I made a steel blade to mount it on front. The blade, formed out of 3/16-in. thick steel



plate, measures 31 in. wide by 6 in. high. I had a local machine shop bend the blade into a curved shape and used a pair of metal brackets to attach it to the mower frame. The blade pivots up or down on a horizontal steel pin, and its side-to-side angle can be adjusted by changing the position of a pin that goes through a half-circle steel plate that's welded onto the back side of the blade. The plate has a series of holes along its perimeter.

A heavy-duty spring allows either side of the blade to trip in case the blade accidentally hits a solid object. A pair of steel skid shoes - one on each side - keep the blade from digging too deep into the ground. A lever located in front of the mower's steering column is used to raise or lower the blade. **(Levi Larson, 3651 Co. Rd. 145, International Falls, Minn. 56649 ph 218 377-4334)**

I made my own tractor mostly from junk parts. It isn't fancy but it works great. The



frame is made from 6-in. channel iron, and the front axle is off a Ford pickup that had twin I-beam suspension. A raised pivot point at the center allows the front wheels to move freely up or down. The steering system also came off the Ford pickup.

The 4-cyl. gas engine and 4-speed manual transmission are off a Toyota car. The transmission is coupled to a GM 4-