

Reader Letters



After traveling all over the state of Nebraska to look at prices on 12-row, 30-in. planters, we decided to build our own. We took our old six-row planter and purchased another one at an estate auction.



After we attached the two planters together, we had to devise a hitch that would pull both of them. An offset hitch allowed us to save more money by using only one marker, but the other planter needed 500 lbs. added to balance out the weight. So far our IHC 1466 has had no problem pulling it and we are very pleased with the results. **(Wayne Wesley & Tim Wesley Dressen, Dressen Farms, 1597 Co. Rd. P25, Kennard, Neb. 68034 ph 402 427-7183)**

Along with being a dairy and beef farmer, I also work at the local steel factory. I bought some slightly defective "J" iron



rails used for suspensions on semi trucks. These 16-ft. lengths of rail can be easily formed together to make large corrals. I drive shorter pieces of rail 3 1/2 ft. into the ground about 8 ft. apart. I use four rails per section, which allows the fence to be 5 1/2 ft. high. Because of the holes in the "J" iron, it is easy to mount gates and other equipment. The best part is that it is all salvaged material and cost me cents on the dollar. **(Jim Horn, 379 Gentry Rd., Seymour, Mo. 65746)**

I enjoy your magazine very much. I started showing it to my nine-year-old grandson who was having trouble getting interested in reading. He loved his Grandpa's "tractor magazine." We told him that once he could read an entire article to us on his own, we would give him his own subscription. He did and so now our daughter uses FARM SHOW as a teaching tool when she home schools him. It is a great help for a young inquisitive mind. Thank you for publishing such a worthwhile piece of literature. **(Hubert Brothers, 7841 St. Rt. 945, Melber, Ky. 42069)**

I feel I have to speak up because for the second time FARM SHOW has written an article about a device that is essentially a perpetual motion machine; that is they claim to violate the rules of physics. In order for the Lutec 1000 electric generator (Vol. 27, No. 3) and the Hydro PowerPak (Vol. 27, No. 4) to work as advertised, they would have to violate the second law of thermodynamics. The electric generator supposedly uses electric power to turn a generator that produces more power than is input. Physics tells us that the total energy output can not exceed the input. In fact, it is impossible to attain even 100 percent efficiency.

The phenomenon of people claiming to have invented a perpetual motion machine has been around for centuries. Many hundreds of such devices have been sold to the public only for people to eventually discover that there is no such thing as a free lunch. I hope your publi-

cation will no longer promote devices which might end up being a rip-off to your subscribers, even if unintended by the "inventor." **(Dean Cook, email: dcook@socket.net)**

Thanks for the report in the Best & Worst Buys section of your last issue on MSE (multiple stabilized enzymes) for livestock. Unfortunately the phone number listed was incorrect. The correct phone number for Natur's Way is 800 615-0299. I use the product on my own ranch and really like it. Anyone who wants can call me at my home at 402 655-2222. **(Jim Dinklage, 51054 874 Rd., Orchard, Neb. 68764)**

I used the aluminum from old screen doors and square aluminum tubing from lawn chairs to build these pickup loading ramps. Each ramp measures 9 ft. long by 18 in. wide.



These ramps are lightweight and strong. I can't believe how well they work. Everything is bolted together, with no welding at all. **(Bob Unger, 417 Polk 62, Mena, Ark. 71953 ph 501 394-5879)**

I use rocks to make unique "rock animals" that look like geese, ducks, or turtles. I



use a diamond bit to drill holes in the rocks and then glue in lengths of rebar for the legs and neck. They make great garden ornaments and sell for \$35 apiece (Canadian). **(Eldon Conguergood, Box 225, Irvine, Alberta, Canada T0J 1V0 ph 403 834-2042)**

My homemade, 3-pt. mounted "lifter" lets me use my 1951 Ferguson 30 hp tractor to drag big logs out of the woods. It con-



sists of a pair of 4-in. dia., thick-walled pipes welded together and reinforced at the top. A horizontal pin is welded onto the bottom of each pipe and on top there's a bracket that hooks up to the tractor's 3-pt. top link. I welded on four hooks where the pipes come together and hook chains onto them.

To drag a log, I back up as close as possible until the lifter is centered above the log, then let the 3-pt. down and hook a chain as short as possible around the log. Then I raise the 3-pt. and go. I can drag as many as three logs at once. **(Craig Froman, 3412 Magnolia, English, Ind. 47118 ph 812 338-2159)**

At a recent antique tractor show, I mounted an old rocking horse on a well pump jack that's belt-driven by a McCormick Deering 1 1/2 hp throttled governor engine. I put a 'buddy doll' on the horse as a rider. People really got a kick out of seeing the horse and rider bob up and down. I removed the springs from the horse and used bondo to fill in the holes. A plastic pipe mounts on top of the



jack cylinder and fits into a wooden plate inside the horse. The whole effect is like that of a horse going up and down on a merry-go-round. **(Lloyd Mardikian, 25012 Trails End Road, Spooner, Wis. 54801 ph 715 468-2384)**

I restore and rebuild everything from cars to antique tractors as a sideline and needed a truck to transport machinery. So I restored a 1948 Ford 1 1/2-ton cab-over truck and built a beavertail bed for it. The truck had a grain box which I removed. The beavertail end of the truck bed angles toward the ground at about a 30 degree slope so I don't need a hoist, just two short ramps. On the back end of the bed, the U faces up, providing a lip for steel ramps to drop in. The ramps are made from sections of truck frame and



store in a box under the beavertail.

I converted a 1979 International 78-passenger school bus into a "multi-task" machine. I can get my wagon and four horses in it and still have room to haul seven people with me. And it's great for delivering the cars I restore.

I bought the bus for \$1,000. I cut off the back door and replaced it with a heavy-duty ramp made with green treated 2 by 6's set on edge. A steel plate attached to the ramp covers the gap between ramp and floor when the ramp is down and slides forward over the floor when the ramp is raised. The ramp/door



is raised and lowered with an electric winch that runs off the bus's 12-volt electrical system.

I mounted the original back windows and a door in a plywood wall that separates the cargo area from the passenger section. **(Loren Smith, RR 1, Box 105, Spring Valley, Minn. 55975 ph 507 352-4106)**

We got the idea to build a four-seat Ferris wheel from an old one that a neighbor had. It starts about 10 ft. 6 in. high and

turns at the center on sealed bearings. When riding you balance people of equal weight across from each other, and as each person gets to the bottom they give a push off the ground to keep it spinning. Although the original one was made as playground equipment for children, we beamed it up so adults can take their turn going around, too. It has been a lot of



fun for our four children, but could be dangerous if not used with caution and adult supervision. **(Jared Jamison, 2330 Co. Rd. 76, Quinter, Kansas 67742 ph 785 754-2157)**



I came up with this self-propelled "slat replacer" that's designed to replace the big 2,200-lb. precast concrete slats used in confinement buildings. It allows producers to replace all the hog slats in a 400-ft. building in less than five days. The ingenious machine folds up and rolls into the building through a standard 30-in. door. Then its support arms are extended into a circular shape to distribute its weight evenly over the floor. Special attachments are then used to lift out each floor section. It rotates 90 degrees up onto its side so it can be pulled out of the building through the door.

(Ken Doeden, Doeden Slat Replacer, Inc., 617 160th Ave., Slayton, Minn. 56172 (ph 507 836-6640; website: www.doeden-concrete-slat-replacer.com)

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