

# Reader Letters



I would like to thank you and all the readers of FARM SHOW for the great calls and letters I received from all over the U.S. and Canada about the problem I was having with my Deere 720 2-cyl. tractor, which I had changed over to electronic ignition. I received a number of interesting ideas and got to visit with many fine people. **(Donald Woehl, Morrison, Ill.)**



Before



After

Some of your Southern readers may be interested in the self-propelled 24-row crop sprayer I built from a cotton stripper. We tore down the old harvester and rebuilt it as shown in photos. The finished product looks factory-built and works great. **(Bill Pigg, P.O. Box 480, Qultauque, Texas 79255 ph 806 455-1473)**

I enjoy the many ideas in FARM SHOW and have contributed my own ideas in the past.

Rural people need to take care of their bodies, like anyone else, and one of the best sources of information I've found is the website [www.hacres.com](http://www.hacres.com). It's run by the Reverend George H. Malkmus who "preaches" healthy eating to avoid poor health. There's a lot of information at the website and a free newsletter. It's amazing what a difference it can make to have the proper information about foods and health. **(Dan Krenznel, Cullman, Alabama)**

I bought a tractor with a cab and a 5-ft. snowblower. I didn't want to have to get out of the cab to turn the spout so I installed a Buick window motor on the



blower that I can control from the cab. I installed a battery from my boat on the blower and also installed a flood light on back of the tractor so I can work at night. Both additions work great. **(Carl Henniller, Columbus Grove, Ohio)**

I am looking for anyone with a prosthetic left arm who would like to exchange

gloves. I have a prosthetic right arm so I have extra right hand gloves. My size is extra large. **(Bud Mortvedt, C3842 Maryel Drive, Stratford, Wis. 54484 ph 715 687-4743)**

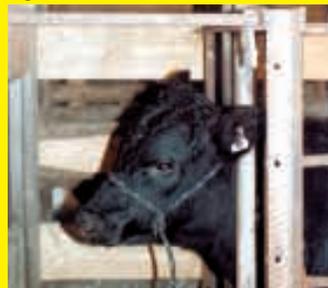


We thought your readers might be interested in our new "Cat Claw" three dimensional grab fork. It's ideal for handling large bales, silage, brush, snow or even cow manure.

Response to this new product has been tremendous from field tests all over the U.S. People who've used it say their neighbors often want one, too.

The quick-tach grapple simply attaches to Westendorf buckets. It's powered by dual hydraulic cylinders that operate in unison off one hydraulic lever. Dual action pivot points allow the claw to reach out beyond the bucket like no other grab fork on the market. It actually packs loose material into the bucket, greatly boosting capacity. The dual pivot also allows the claw to open wider, freeing up the bucket for working up close against walls or the sides of bunks. **(Julie Ellingson, Westendorf Manufacturing Co. Inc., P.O. Box 29, Onawa, Iowa 51040 ph 712 423-2762; www.loaders.com)**

Our 4-H club was touring barns recently to view beef projects and I came across a home-built headgate that I thought was a great idea.



The George Sim family uses salvaged combine rub bars to make the frame of a headgate. The strength of this good quality, heavy iron, and the fact that a cheap or free supply of it is readily available to farmers, makes it a great raw material to work with.

A rope runs from the headgate through a pulley, to the back of where the animal stands, and allows the operator to catch livestock from a distance. This way, one person can usually work alone to capture even rambunctious cows. **(Janis Schole, R.R.#1, Pickardville, Alberta, Canada T0G 1W0 ph 780 349-3538, email: jschole@west-teq.net)**

We made a pair of portable buildings for our own use. They worked so well we started building them for sale.

They're mounted on oak or pressure-treated skids so they can be towed by a tractor to relocate them. We use rough native lumber from a local sawmill to make the sheds.

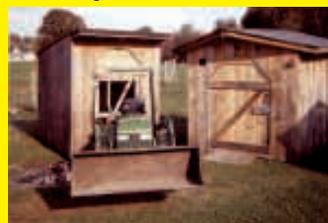
We made one 12 by 16-ft. unit that's being used as a small pig shed with a "sundeck" out front. Manure drops



I recently traveled to a remote part of Turkey and spotted this "human-powered baler" that I thought might interest your readers.

It's simply a square wood box standing on end. Hay is loaded into it and a man stands inside, stomping it down.

through the slatted wooden floor and onto the ground. When it starts to build up, the building is moved.



Other people use the buildings for chickens, turkeys, calves, tools, firewood, hunting shelters and even as a play-house.

We sell a two-pitch 8 by 8-ft. shed for \$1,700. **(Steven L. McCartney, P.O. Box 712, Brooklyn, Conn. 06234 ph 860 774-6135)**



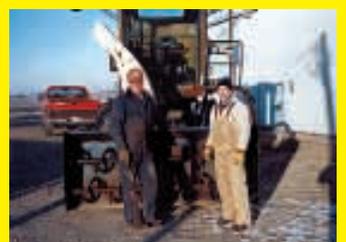
I didn't want to spend the money for a new 3-pt., 5-ft. wide blade for my garden tractor so I made my own. I used 1/8-in. thick sheet metal to make the blade, which pivots on a pair of bearings on a shaft at the center part of the blade. The blade can be angled from side to side by changing the position of a pin. It works nice for moving dirt and doing leveling work. **(Patrick G. Prom, 12661 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55347 ph 952 944-9266; email: p\_prom@msn.com)**



My neighbor, Ray Marquette, Jr., came up with the idea of making a large grain ring out of plywood and reinforcing it with livestock penning panels. He says his 32-ft. diameter ring cost little and worked great for temporary grain storage.

He used 23 sheets of 1/4-in. plywood, overlapping each by a couple of feet, and joined them with two nails at every second joint, leaving the panels free to expand a bit.

Wires or twine are laid into the box beforehand so the bale can be easily tied once it is formed. I thought it made pretty good bales but the process was unbelievably labor intensive. **(Doron Yoffe, Israel; email: mshop@ry.org.il)**



My son Todd and I mounted an 8-ft. front-mount snowblower in place of the header on a stripped-down 1972 Gleaner K combine, which we bought for \$560. We removed the grain-cleaning components and mounted a right angle gearbox in place of the threshing cylinder. Then we installed a Cat. II quick hitch on the feederhouse. The chain-driven snowblower is controlled by the clutch that originally operated the header.

"We chose the Gleaner model because its front wheels are the same width as the snowblower. We added 720 lbs. of weight in front of the combine's rear steering axle to counterbalance the added weight of the snowblower. It throws snow up to 40 ft. The only limitation is that the combine's Chevy 6-cyl. engine is underpowered. We plan to repower it with the diesel engine off a Gleaner F. During the summer we replace the snowblower with a round bale fork. The photo shows my son Todd and machinist Maurice Miller. **(Don McKee, 805 Ware Rd., W. Alexandria, Ohio 45381 ph 937 839-4703)**

I turned a damaged pickup frame into a bridge that lets me cross a creek in my back yard with a riding mower. I got the frame at a salvage yard. I turned it upside **(continued on next page)**