

# Reader Letters



(Continued from previous page)

paddle wheels. I generally run the teeth so they comb through the grass and flip the nuts into the hopper.

A swinging hitch allows the machine to follow off to the side of the towing tractor. **(Roger Foster, Rt. 1, Box 108, Tower Hill, Ill. 62571 ph 217 567-3417)**

To come up with a cheap salt block holder, I use an old car wheel with the tire still on it. Turn the wheel over and it will hold the salt block. My cows can't push it around, and water can't gather in the bottom to melt the block. **(Bill Adams, 2470 Belotes Ferry Road, Lebanon, Tenn. 37087 ph 615 444-9070)**



We recently introduced a new sidehill leveling system for Deere STS combines. The 2970S system is engineered as a bolt-on system that allows it to be installed on both new and used Deere STS combines. The 18 percent leveling capability is fully automated and delivers smooth, powerful leveling performance. An innovative undercarriage design keeps the tread face of the tire flat on the ground during leveling and can accommodate either single or dual drive tires.

Instead of cumbersome cable and spring header controls, the 2970S is equipped with a hydraulic header control that can be integrated with the combine's Contour Master electronics to deliver fully automated height and lateral tilt control, essential on today's larger headers. The unit's extended feeder chain system eliminates the need for a paddle beater while improving feeding and greatly reducing maintenance.

A typical Deere STS combine can be equipped with a 2970S sidehill leveling system for about \$28,500. **(Lenny Hill, Hillco Technologies, Inc., P.O. Box 399, 107 1st Ave., Nezperce, Idaho 83543 ph 800 937-2461; email: hillco@hillcotecnologies.com; website: www.hillcotecnologies.com)**

We made our own 3-pt. mounted wire roller using parts of a 4-row cultivator, a wheel off an old pull-type grain elevator,



and a pto shaft. It works great with high tensile wire used for portable fencing and has saved us many hours of work.

An 8-in. cultivator gauge wheel is welded onto the pto shaft and drives a 14-in. wheel mounted horizontally on top of the cultivator frame. A wire spool bolts to the 14-in. wheel and turns with it. To roll up wire, I tie one end of the wire to the reel and drive alongside the fence. To unroll the wire, I lift up on a handle connected to a bearing at the far end of the shaft, which lowers the shaft and disengages the two wheels. The spool holds about two miles of wire. It takes only

about three minutes to roll up 1/4 mile with the tractor engine at idle. I use a rope around the handle and cultivator frame to adjust the pressure on the two wheels. If the wire ever gets caught on something, the two wheels will slip.

There's a compartment in front of the spool for fiberglass posts and tools. **(Lester H. Martin, 16957 Buttercup Rd., Barnett, Mo. 65011 ph 573 378-4169)**

Smearing gun grease on stop sign posts has proved a good way to slow down vandals who like to pull up posts, according to various Illinois township officials. Keeping signs in place is essential in prevention of accidents, and thus

lawsuits, officials say. The photo shows Justin Chappelle of Hillsboro Township, Hillsboro, Ill., demonstrating the technique. Advocates recommend using a high quality grease that will remain in place even in the hot sun.

It's said that once into the grease, a vandal never forgets the experience and tends to talk to others about it because it's hard to wash out of clothes. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**



This swing was made from a park bench with the legs cut off and angle iron added. It works great and is popular with our friends and family - so popular that I seldom get a chance to use it. **(Murray H. Wells, 2411 Nicolas Dr., Fullerton, Calif. 92833 ph 714 879-1278)**

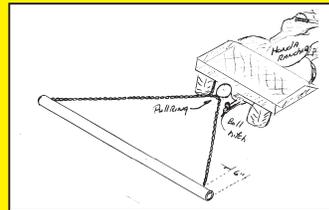


Here's a new twist on tractor power. I worked as a mechanic on heavy equipment for most of my life. After retirement, I pursued my interest in old cars and tractors. Looking for something different, and having ridden motorcycles in my younger years, I decided a tractor with a motorcycle engine would be an interesting combination.

I got the front axle and rear end off a Cub tractor and a wrecked 3-cylinder 750 Yamaha. The motor was frozen, all the wiring was gone, and the cycle had been sitting in the weather with no plugs. After weeks of work I was finally able to get it running.

Next, I built a frame to fit the engine. The side frame straps were made from 2 1/2 by 1-in. flat stock which I connected to the front axle and rear end. I lengthened the frame from the front of the trac-

tor to the transmission by 10 in. and made my own hood. The grill is off a 200 Farmall. A 1950's Mercedes hood ornament was added to give it class. This one-of-a-kind tractor has 15 forward gears and five reverse. By using a lot of odds and ends from my junk pile I was able to keep my total cost down to \$75. **(Joe Durham, 36395 Liberty Rd., Murrieta, Calif. 92362)**



I came up with a manure spreader and ant hill "destructor" that I pull behind my Honda 4-wheeler. It consists of a 7-ft. length of 4 1/2-in. dia. drill pipe or 4-in. schedule 80 line pipe. Both ends of the pipe are welded to a 3/8-in. chain that attaches to a pull ring on back of the ATV. There's about 5 to 6 ft. of chain on each diagonal line leading from the pull ring. It works great for spreading or leveling "cow pies" and keeps flies from laying eggs in them. The pipe doesn't hang up on anything and does a good job of following up and down levees, hills, and ditches.

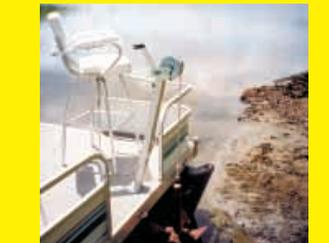
Here in Louisiana we find that fire ants love to build their hills on top of cow pies, so it helps control them, too. **(Pat McGee, 3213 Bayou Mallet Rd., Eunice, La. 70535 ph 337 457-4901)**

I made this giant coat hook out of a 10-in. long, 3/8-in. dia. pole barn nail. It's a man's coat hook if there ever was one. First I cut one inch off the sharp pointed end of the nail. Then I used a 20-ton hydraulic press to bend it into sort of a "U" shape. The next step was to drill a pair of holes 1 1/2 in. apart through the nail and then screw it to a wooden board. Then I painted the nails black and varnished the board to make everything look really nice.

It's something you can look at and right away tell it's a nail, but it has a rustic appearance and looks great inside a house. The head of the nail is what catches your eye. If you want, you can put four or five hooks on a single board and mount it on a wall.

So far I've built two coat hooks - one for adults and the other for kids. I'm willing to make more for \$5 plus S&H.

Anchoring my pontoon boat has always been a pain because of the large anchors that are needed. To solve the problem I came up with a pontoon-mounted bracket



and winch system that easily raises and lowers the anchor. The unit comes with 40 ft. of rope, a mounting bracket, and winch. I'm willing to manufacture the unit for \$68 plus S&H (anchor not included).

By cleaning up an old fuel oil tank and elevating it 8 ft. I have my own gas tank



right on my own property. The tank is gravity fed and doesn't need a pump. It comes with a locking valve, fuel filter, 10-ft. hose, swivel nozzle, gauge and storage platform. The entire unit can be moved on a snowmobile trailer. I'm willing to build units for \$575. **(Dan Jacobson, 8913 Weaver Lake Dr., Pequot Lakes, Minn. 56472 ph 218 543-6623)**



Several years ago I built these pedal-powered, fiberglass body monster trucks, which are designed to be driven by kids from 12 to 16 years old. All of them are chain-driven and have 2-speed transmissions. I built a total of 16 different pedal-powered monster trucks and also built pedal-powered, fiberglass body tractors for kids from ages 4 through 12.

My wife and I traveled to fairgrounds all over the western states, hauling up to 40 different rigs - including go-carts and pulling sleds as well as my home-built pedal-powered machines - in a truck and trailer. We had tractors to fit all age brackets and weight classes. Kids could drive the trucks around obstacle courses and try to balance the rigs on a teeter totter. They drove the tractors in tractor-pulling contests. They really had a lot of fun with these rigs.

The bodies for both the trucks and tractors were factory made in Tempe, Arizona. I built everything else. To make the monster trucks I used the differential from a Datsun 210 car and cut it down. The cab is off a Ford model T. I sold all the machines to different people quite a few years ago, but many of them are still operating in several different countries. I also sold blueprints for the rigs. **(Harry Benjamin, Triangle Pipeline Co., L.L.C., 205 S. Devon Rd., Shelby, Montana 59474 ph 406 432-2196 or 406 460-2196)**