# Reader Letters

(Continued from previous page)

My 1995 SkiDoo snowmobile doesn't have a reverse gear, so if I park it inside I have to drag it around by hand. To make it easier to move I made a "lazy susan" ramp. It tips up or down at either end and also pivots in the middle, allowing me to drive the snowmobile up onto the ramp and then rotate it 180 degrees. Lets me drive out of the building without having to drag the snowmobile around by hand.

The pivot consists of a horizontal pipe for the hinge and a vertical telescoping pipe mounted on a 2 by 4-ft. metal base. ***(David Miller, W11215 Zoar Rd., Pickett, Wis. 54964 ph 920 589-6936)***

Being involved in the buffalo industry for more than 15 years, I discovered the spiritual significance and interest many people had with buffalo skulls. I've sold many skulls from the butcher bulls that I've raised to people from many walks of life. This inspired me to build a replica of a buffalo skull out of iron. I now make buffalo skulls for sale.

I started with a real skull in my shop and built the replica to scale, making the curved horns out of pipe. Then I framed the skull and covered it with sheet metal to make it three dimensional. A shield and four metal feathers gives the skull a life-like resemblance to the real thing. These pieces of art can be used inside or outside, and can be painted or left to corrode in a natural rustic state which seems to bring out an age-old sense of mystery and intrigue. The skulls sell for about $1,200 apiece (Canadian). ***(Joe Fitzgerald, Site 504, Box 6, RR 5, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7K 3J8 ph 306 931-7382)***

A few years ago I repowered my 1982 Gleaner N6 combine by replacing the original Allis engine - which was underpowered - with a 200 cu. in. Cat diesel engine. The Cat engine has more cubic inches and also more continuous horsepower. Now the combine runs like it's supposed to.

I was able to use the original motor mounts and the same radiator but had to use the fan off a Peterbilt semi truck. I modified the driveshaft and flex plate that fits on the spline pattern. The only change I'd make if I could do it over again would be to use a turbocharged engine. I use the combine on dry and irrigated wheat, safflowers, and corn. ***(Ron King, 5470 West 13600 N., Garland, Utah 84312 ph 435 279-3577 or 257-7771)***

My wife and I built this antebellum house entirely from scratch. It measures 83 ft. square and has 28 columns and a porch all the way around. There's a little more than 10,000 sq. ft. of living space. The first floor has a big workshop and a garage. The living area is on the second floor and has 3,136 sq. ft. It took us 8 1/2 years to build. We made our own molding and did almost all of the work, including all of the plumbing and electricity. I taught myself computer aided design and drew my own plans for the house.

We built it because we wanted something unique. About half the house was our own design, and the rest we got by looking at books. The house is designed around three squares. The columns form the outer square, the exterior walls form the middle square, and there's a square den in the center of the house.

The second floor is supported by a series of 10-in. steel I-beams. The bottom 8 ft. of the house is made from stuccoed-over cinder block, while the top 12 ft. is made from kiln-dried, treated wood. The columns measure 18 in. sq. and are made from 1 1/2-in. thick wood. The columns weighed 100 lbs. per side so we used a block and tackle to lift each side onto the porch, where we put the columns together. ***(Steve May, 41464 Ratcliff Dr., Prairieville, La. 70769 ph 225 622-2246)***

Loose hay isn't as popular as it once was, but I still use it in my cow-calf operation with the help of a trailer-feeder that I built out of a smaller commercial model. It measures 22 ft. long, 20 ft. wide, and 9 ft. high and rides on four wheels. When I bought the unit, it had two wheels on back and runners on front. It had no floor and was only 7 ft. wide. I wanted more capacity and greater mobility.

I make Farmhand 10-ton loose hay stacks and use a front-end loader to load the trailer-feeder with about half of a stack. I move the unit out to pasture during the spring for our cows and also during the fall for calves. It also serves as a windbreak.

The front end of the trailer has an automatic steering system borrowed from an old manure spreader. To make the floor, my son welded in some crossover braces. Then we laid a series of cables about 1 ft. apart from front to back. The cables slide lightly along the ground as the unit is pulled. ***(Gilbert Lang, 5323 38th Ave. S.E., Tappen, N. Dak. 58487 ph 701 754-2695)***

I made this 3-pt. mechanical "log tote" that allows me to grab logs and release them without ever getting off the tractor. The log tongs hang by a chain from the end of a 6-ft. long steel arm that mounts on the 3-pt. hitch. I welded steel ears onto both sides of the tongs and connected a length of cable to both ears. Both cables run through a loop located above the tongs. From there a single cable runs to a bracket that I mounted on one of the tractor's fenders. I simply reach over and pull on the cable to open the tongs, then let the 3-pt. hitch down to lower the tongs over the log. When I let go of the cable, the tongs grab the log. Then I raise the 3-pt. to pick the log up off the ground and drag it out of the woods. The procedure is reversed to release the log.

My 16 hp Iseki tractor will handle logs up to 6 in. in diameter. ***(Larry Zenz, HC 60, Box 154, Parks, Ark. 72950 ph 479 577-2677)***

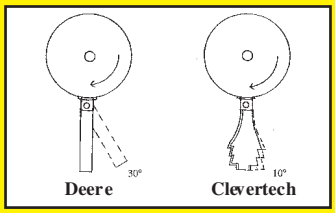
I built my own vertical log splitter that's equipped with only a small 3 1/2 by 24-in. cylinder, but still has no problems splitting even knotty elm. The upper end of the cylinder is attached to an L-shaped bracket by two finger-tightened, 3/4-in. dia. bolts. The bracket can be adjusted to different positions, so I can split wood anywhere from 26 to 44 in. long. I made a splitting wedge with an edge that always stays as sharp as a knife. In fact, I haven't had to sharpen it in 22 years. To build it I took two pieces of curved 3/16 steel and laid them down so the edges are almost even, then used hard surfacing rod.

I also made this splitter so that I can lift it up at an angle for transport. As a result, I can fit it under a 7-ft. high garage door and also travel easily through the woods. ***(Charles Hoyt, 7124 Spencer Lake Rd., Medina, Ohio 44256 ph 330 722-2213)***

I built a hydraulic-operated winch that mounts on front of my Honda ATV. The boom is made from 2-in. sq. tubing and mounts inside a receiver hitch that I welded onto the front part of the ATV. Power is provided by an electric solenoid that mounts inside a toolbox on back of the ATV. A handheld, remote-control unit is used to operate the winch. The remote control unit plugs into a plug-in at the back of the ATV.

I came up with the idea while doing work for the state water resources department. I was doing conduit inspections and had to lower an 80-lb. video camera by hand down into manholes. The hydraulic-operated winch makes the job a lot easier. ***(Cecil Bearden, 4414 Ash St. N.E., Piedmont, Okla. 73078 ph 405 373-1929 or 405 641-8547; email: cbear81438@aol.com)***

In the "best and worst buy" section of our last issue there was a report on R.E.A.M. spark plug adaptors that let you use ordinary automotive spark plugs in older engines. Unfortunately the phone no. was wrong due to an area code change. The correct address and phone no. is: **R.E.A.M. Corp., Box 311, New Lothrop, Mich. 48460 ph 989 743-9148.**




We're still hearing from FARM SHOW readers who read your story last spring about our new straw chopper knives for Deere combines. We wanted to let you know the add-on knives are now heat-treated for longer life.

The problem is that the knives on Deere choppers aren't heavy enough to handle heavy straw or wet, green bean stalks. New varieties of beans often produce dry beans on green stalks. Deere knives pivot back about 30° so this material often passes through uncut. Our knives are heavier, with serrated edges, and they only pivot back about 10° so everything gets chopped.

The knives sell for $7.78 to $8.78 apiece, depending on model. ***(Robert Rottinghaus, Clever Tech, Inc., 4121 S. Canfield Road, Jesup, Iowa 50648 ph 319 827-1311; fax 319 827-2425)***

With dry conditions across much of the Midwest, ear loss off the end of the cornhead is going to be a tremendous problem this fall. FARM SHOW first featured my "Crop Shields" 8 years ago (Vol. 19,

No. 6). The triangular-shaped attachments bolt to each side of the header and deflect ears back onto the snouts, saving 3 to 5 bu. per acre even under normal conditions.

GVL of Litchfield, Minn. makes the poly shields (ph 888-485-8411 or 320 693-8411). They sell for $199 to $219, depending on model. ***(Harold Barton, Silver Lake, Minn.)***