

# Reader Letters



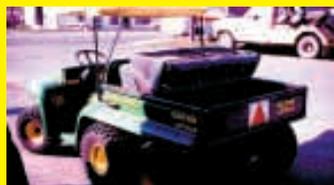
Thanks for the article in your last issue on our all-wool mattresses and other products. We've heard from many of your readers. They're especially interested in the tremendous health benefits of these revolutionary mattresses. Unfortunately, there was a problem with the phone number in the article. The best number to reach us is at 507 886-2864. (**Lloyd Peterson, High Pointe Coverings, Inc., 235 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NW, Box 476, Harmony, Minn. 55939; website: www.natureswool.com**)



Just a note to let you know that I'm still getting orders from the original 1998 article you did on our exhaust conversions for Deere articulating 4-WD tractors. We've done nearly 400 conversions for customers in the U.S. and Canada. We move the exhaust over to the side of the tractor to improve visibility. We exhibit at the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky., each year. (**Ramey Pottinger, Rio Vista Farms, 135 Howardstown Rd., New Haven, Ky. 40051 ph 502 549-3628; www.sidelinesystems.com**)

I made a hoe out of a pie-shaped piece cut out of a broken disc. I welded a short piece of pipe to the disc and then fitted it with a wooden handle. Works great and is built to last. (**Art Schmidt, 6721 E. Dutch Ave., Walton, Kan. 67151 ph 620 837-5607**)

**Editor's Note:** There was a lot of interest in our story on brewing giant batches of "compost tea" (Vol. 27, No. 2). Unfortunately, we had an error on the name of the fellow working on the idea. Troy Grimes says readers can contact him for more information at: **Watts Brothers Fertilizer, Inc., 350 Highway 221, Paterson, Wash. 99435 (ph 509 875-2022; email: tgrimes@wattsbro.com)**.



We mount a van seat in the back of our Deere Gator for cookouts and pleasure rides. It's a fun way to get around the farm with a group. (**Rick Good, 116 W. Main, Zeoring, Iowa 50278**)

Here's an idea you'll appreciate every time you have a fire in a wood stove or fireplace. Instead of crawling around on your knees to pump a fireplace bellows

trying to get a fire going, just cut a piece of curved copper pipe 4 to 5 ft. long and bend it into a "J" shape at the bottom. You can stand up next to the fire and blow into the pipe to get air into the embers. Works great and is easy to do. (**Greg Drummond, Longwood, Fla.**)



Thanks for your article in the last issue of FARM SHOW on our Automatic Tailgate Control for pickups that puts the tailgate down when you reach a certain speed, or when you're backing up to a gooseneck trailer. One interesting bit of information omitted from the article is that the tailgate only opens a little less than half way, to a "spoiler position" on the highway. We have found this to be the best aerodynamic position. (**James Casey, JSC Engineering, Inc., 26500 W. Agoura Rd., Suite 102-503, Calabasas, Calif. 91302 ph 877 707-8245 or 818 878-0578; www.droptail.com**)

I've discovered a new way to protect my new fruit trees that I plant in my orchard from girdling by field mice in the winter and careless mowing in the summer. I cut off 1-ft. lengths of 4-in. dia. flexible field tile and make a cut up one side. I slip the tile around the base of the trees. In winter, I drop a couple mothballs down each tube and this discourages field mice.

I've used this idea for 7 years with no more damage by mice in winter. (**Joseph deNatale, M.D., Pittsfield, Maine**)

We keep two rocks about 1 ft. square by 1 1/2-in. thick on our stove heater so if my wife's feet get cold while she is working on the computer, she removes one rock from the heater, wraps a towel around it and puts it under her desk to place her feet on. Wrapped in a towel, the rock stays warm for several hours. If she works all day she just exchanges rocks. (**Daniel V. Owen, Hendersonville, N.C.**)

I use a child's plastic snowsled to move a heavy sweep auger across soft grain. Makes it a lot easier to get the motor over to hook up to the sweep. (**James L. Akers, 2560 E. County Rd., 1450 N., Newman, Ill. 61942**)

This trailer is a combination of the tongue off a Deere 7000 row crop planter and a dump box off an old truck that had a



blown engine. The rear end, box, and dump hoist were in good shape. The long planter tongue gives the dump trailer plenty of maneuvering room behind a tractor. (**Dean Nixon, 10544 Piasa Rd., Medora, Ill. 62023 ph 618 729-3865**)

After a recent surgery, I was required to



A friend and I have come up with what we call the Pack Rat. It's an electric-powered wagon that's really generating a lot of interest. It rolls on four pneumatic 12-in. turf tires and has an angle iron frame. It has removable sides and measures 2 by 4 ft. Recommended weight capacity is 500 lbs. Power is provided by an electronic-controlled transaxle equipped with a 24-volt smart charger (included). The 12-volt gel cell batteries are wired in series. The unit will charge overnight.

We designed the drive system and control devices ourselves. The drive system is very sophisticated and permits the Pack Rat to start smoothly, ramp up to

wear compression stockings to keep blood pressure up. But it was very difficult to bend over and pull them on. Until I found this nifty "aligator jaw" gadget.



It consists of a plastic "scoop" on the end of a rope. You pull the stocking onto the angled end of the scoop, then drop it to the floor and pull it onto your foot. The serrated edge of the scoop holds the



stocking in place as you pull up on the rope. Works great. Available from Homecraft Compression Stocking Aid, Germantown, Wis. (ph 262 251-7840). (**C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.**)

Your readers might be interested in our new portable backhoe that makes digging faster, easier and cheaper. It can be towed to a job site and then quickly unhooked and put to work. It's powered by a standard 9 hp. Briggs industrial



motor and rides on balloon tires that are highway-rated. Support legs provide an 8-ft. wide base. Boom arms are laser cut from heavy plate steel. Bucket has replaceable teeth. You can use the bucket to move the unit along when in use.

Four models are available, each priced at under \$5,000. Two of the models can be attached to tractor 3-pts. Booms with



walking speed, and then come to a controlled stop.

To make the wagon go forward or backward the operator simply presses a button and holds it down. The wagon stops automatically when the button is released. The wagon's small width and high capacity make it perfect for use in gardens and along pathways and narrow alleys. Stable owners like the Pack Rat because it's whisper quiet. Three different models are available, selling from \$895 to \$1,250. (**Tom Nichol, Neodesha, Kansas ph 620 325-2309 or 620 325-3173; website: www.hedgeapplefarms.com**)

9 or 12 ft. reach are available with 8 or 12-in. wide buckets. (**Bill Johnson, President, Collins Machinery Engineering, 8600 N.E. Underground Dr., Pillar 104E, Kansas City, Mo. 64161 ph 816 455-5035; website: www.portablebackhoe.com**)



I don't know if this will be of help to anyone else but it sure helps me. I have a Deere 400 lawn tractor with a front-end loader. The problem was that I couldn't put any other front-mount equipment on



it when the bucket was on. To solve the problem, I made up a set of extension brackets that moves the mounting point for any front-mount equipment out about 6 in. so the loader can stay in place. All I had to do after the brackets were in place was to make up new hydraulic hoses to reach the couplers. Otherwise, it's easy to hook up the snow blade or snowblower. I just raise the bucket up out of the way, or take the bucket off the lower arms for better visibility. (**Arnie Amrhein, 13717 Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka, Minn. 55345 ph 952 938-8682; email: mnjndnut@aol.com**)

I've found a way to give pills or small boluses to small calves. It's easy and saves your fingers. Make a 1/2 to 3/4-in. slot in the small end of a used milker inflation. The resulting two flaps hold the pill fairly firmly. You push it into the calf's mouth and then use a small dowel for a plunger to push the pill out when it's over the hump of the tongue. (**James L. Welch, DVM, Clinton, Wis.**)

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