

Reader Letters



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simply hooks over the ATV's front guard. Now it's easy to back these implements into small spaces. Once the implements are in place, I just slip the bracket back off the ATV. **(Ted Cole, P.O. Box 871, Fort Bragg, Calif. 95437)**

I thought your readers would like to see the 1978 El Camino that I converted into a prize-winning "pulling car." This rear



wheel drive car is equipped with a 327 cu. in., 8-cyl. engine that I souped up to about 500 hp, and it has a 3-speed manual transmission. I installed new exhaust headers, a new dual carburetor, and a new rear end. It has won several local awards in the "doodlebug" class at local contests, and took second place last year in the 5,000-lb. pulling class and also in the 5,500-lb. pulling class where it pulls a weight transfer sled weighing 17,000 lbs. **(Russell Adams, 1956 Five Mile Square Rd., Island Pond, Vt. 05846 ph 802 723-4790)**

When you swath canola it's often a good idea to roll it at the same time in order to keep the wind from blowing it away. You



can buy commercial swath rollers that push the canola down into the stubble, but I didn't want to spend the money for one so I bought an old roller cone cheap at an auction and adapted it to my Deere 580 24-ft. pull-type swather. I welded a



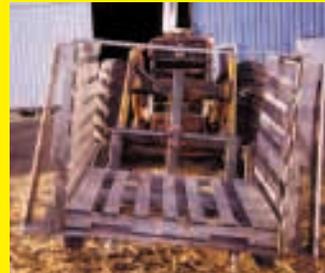
pair of homemade steel brackets about 4 ft. apart on back of the swather frame. The roller hangs from the brackets via two chains, one at each end of the roller. I adjust the chains to control the height of the roller. I used 1 1/2-in. sq. steel to make the uprights for the bracket, and 1-in. sq. steel for the rest of it.

My total cost was less than \$100. I've also used it on flax and mustard. It works great.

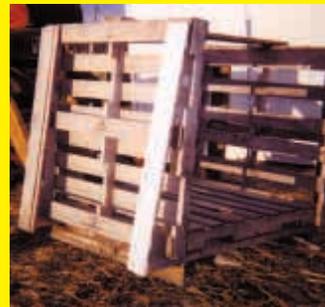
My father-in-law Bill Carss used a variation of this idea on his CCIL self-propelled 18-ft. swather. But instead of using a cone-type device, he just used

a 4 by 8-ft. sheet of plywood. He bent the plywood into a curve, then bolted one length of angle iron near the back end of the plywood and another toward the front. Chains suspend the plywood from the swather frame.

If he wants he can add weight on top of the plywood to push the crop down farther. It was a cheap fix. **(John W. Birch, P.O. Box 295, Gainsborough, Sask., Canada S0C 0Z0 ph 306 685-2286)**



I use old pallets to make wood racks to haul firewood. Each rack measure 5 ft. square and is made from three pallets. They stand about 1 ft. above ground so I can slip a pair of bale prongs under them using my IH 560 tractor. Some of



the boards on the bottom pallet extend about 1 ft. out, allowing me to brace the sides. Sometimes I run another board across the top to keep the pallets from twisting on rough ground. I stack firewood behind my shed and use the loader to transport the loaded pallets to my house, where I set the pallet down and toss the wood piece by piece into our basement.

I've used this idea for 10 years and it works great. Each pallet holds about 1,000 lbs. of wood. When the pallets get old I rebuild them or put new sides on. **(Ken Litterer, 27744 35th St., Maquoketa, Iowa 52060 ph 563 652-2093)**

Thanks for the story in your last issue on the new shop tools I designed and built for doing auto body work. I offer plans that give you the satisfaction of building your own tools at a fraction of the original cost. Here's my address and phone number. **(Wayne Hagen, Hagen Mfg. Ltd., P.O. Box 215, Lake Alma, Sask., Canada S0C 1M0 ph 306 447-4721)**

I built this dump trailer out of an old 1,000-gal. fuel tank, which rests on top of a truck axle turned upside down for additional height. I use it to fill in gullies that formed on my land after it was strip mined. The front end of the tank is raised and lowered by a 4-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder equipped with a pulley at the top that doubles the lift height. The back end is open. Rubber belting at the bottom of the tank allows material to slide off in a

I grow "tub tomatoes" in a toy wagon. It's an easy way to make sure my tomatoes always get just the right amount of sunlight and water.

I plant up to four tomato plants in a 3-ft. long black plastic tub that just fits inside the wagon. The tub has about 1 ft. of soil in it.

If I think the tomatoes are getting too much sun or not enough, or if it's too windy, I just move the wagon to a more favorable location. Or if a frost is in the forecast, I'll move the wagon inside a shed. I stake the tomatoes up as they get taller. I've even put up wire cages around the wagon to keep varmints from eating the fruit. **(Rex Gogerty, 33475 K. Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 ph 641 487-7617).**



nice, even layer without piling up too much. It also comes in handy for hauling brush and even manure.

The tank mounts on an angle iron frame that's welded to the truck axle. I used the frame off an old house trailer to build the tongue. The tank pivots up and down at the point where the truck's tie rods were connected to the truck axle. I removed the tie rods and welded the spindles solid. Then I bolted a steel plate into the tie rod holes. Heavy angle irons support the tank's sides. **(John C. King, 209 Zion Church Rd., Butler, Pa. 16025 ph 724 445-3509; email: kingjc.1@juno.com)**

Thanks for your article in the 2005 Best of FARM SHOW on our patented pipe clamp system that makes it easy to put up everything from building frames to heavy-duty shelving. We're worked with farmers and ranchers across North America on all kinds of projects. Our clamps are more economical than anything else on the market and they work better. Give us a call if you have something to build and we'll help you anyway we can.



We're also been doing good business making roadside signs using pipe and our clamping system. To show you what we can do, we made up a sign for FARM SHOW with your web address and phone number on it. The signs are built strong and heavy to stand up over time. The sign panel swings in the wind to minimize stress on the stand.

People like these signs because they're so well-built and it's easy to change the message on them since the letters are magnetic. Great for roadside produce stands and other businesses. Our pipe clamp system can also be used to make free-standing fence posts. **(Mills Tourtellotte, Fabricators, Inc., P.O. Box 242, Rosenberg, Texas 77471 ph 281-232-6547)**



My wife and I like to attend tractor and gas engine shows but since we can't walk very far any more, we needed something to ride on.

My neighbor had this old 1968 Wheel Horse Tractor he wasn't using so he brought it over. It was in bad condition until I tore it apart and cleaned it up.

To make something "different" I turned the motor around and used a jack shaft to belt-drive the transmission. It now has

three forward speeds and reverse.

So how do I get two people to ride a tractor? By adding a seat on the other end.

I extended the driver's seat over the front wheels and bought a tractor seat and put it over the back wheels.

We sure get a lot of looks while riding around at shows. **(Paul Wolfe, 6716 County Rd. 191, Bellevue, Ohio 44811 ph 419 483-3894)**