

Reader Letters



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mapping of fields during harvest, linking yield information directly to soil info. Mounting the toolbar under the feederhouse, the weight of the combine assures the coulters are kept down to their proper depth which is not always true on tillage equipment. Mike can be reached by phone 574 223-5081. (C.F. Marley, Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075)

Thank you for the report on our ClampTite tool in the last issue. It lets you make clamps of almost any size to mend hoses, tool handles, pipe, and so on. The phone number listed - 800 878-4129 - was in-



complete. After dialing the number provided in the story, you need to wait for a recorded message and then dial in a pin number - 3262. Or you can call our non toll-free number at 304 754-5479. (ClampTite, 88 Getaway Rd., Hedgesville, W. Va. 25427).

Editor's Note: ClampTite can also be purchased from Cody Mercantile Country Lifestyle Products (ph 800 443-4934; www.codymercantile.com)

We bolted a 10 by 8-in. mirror onto our Deere 336 small square baler that allows us to see the knot as it's being made. We can tell if the knot isn't tied properly



or if the string comes out of the needles, before the bale exits the bale case. It has saved us a lot of broken bales.



The mirror is glued onto a bracket made from 1/16-in. thick sheet metal. The bracket can be easily bent to provide the proper angle. (Raymond Huffman, 7820 Lila Drive, Roanoke, Va. 24019 ph 540 366-7350)

I had an old upright freezer that didn't work any more. Instead of throwing it away, I decided to lay it flat on a couple of treated 4 by 4 wooden posts inside our barn. My wife uses the freezer to store cattle and deer feed. The seal around the door keeps out rodents and insects.

I converted an old golf cart canopy into a canopy that mounts on the rollover pro-



tection bar on my Kubota tractor. The canopy is bolted to a frame made out of 1-in. sq. tubing that bolts to the rollover



protection bar. I even mounted a 12-volt fan under the canopy in the back for ventilation during hot weather. I painted the canopy Kubota blue. It keeps both the sun and rain off me. (Terry and Debbie Benoit, 1077 Bobcat Road, Orange, Texas 77632)

We recently introduced authentic looking original tractor seats that are fitted on 1950's-style barstool bases. The cushioned seats are available in two styles of bases called the Classic series and Century series. The Classic series comes with a vintage Farmall-style seat, or a John Deere seat with a 2000 Deere logo. It's available with or without a backrest and comes with a chrome-plated, double



base for stability. It's 30 in. high.

The Century series is available with a Farmall red and white or silver seat, an IH 3-piece black and white seat, or a Deere design. Comes with an elegant all-welded chrome-plated pillar base. It's available in 24 and 30-in. heights. The IH 3-piece and Deere models come with backrests. Both series of tractor stools offer more comfort than traditional stools and come with mar-resistant glides for easy moving and to prevent scratching. All hardware for assembly is included.

Suggested retail price is \$129 to \$269 depending on the model. UPS shippable. (K & M Manufacturing Co., Box 409, Renville, Minn. 56284 ph 800 328-1752; E-mail: sales@tractorstools.com; Website: www.tractorstools.com)

After spending years using a pitchfork to empty out my pull-type lawn vacuum, I decided to shop for a model that would self-unload. I found one that was the right size for me but it cost more than \$3,000. That's when I decided to build my own.



A 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven blower sucks leaves up and blows them into the box. The top of the box is made from perforated metal which serves as an outlet vent. All the grass clippings and leaves empty out when the unit is fully raised.

I used 1/8-in. thick aluminum sheets to form the box around a frame made from steel tubing. The hatch door on back of the box mounts on a stainless steel hinge and is raised or lowered by a pair of gas-charged struts. The door's release lever is operated from the tractor seat by pulling on a rope. It rides on 4-ply golf cart tires.

My total cost was about \$1,200. It's built much heavier than the commercial units on the market. (Alec Lukasko, 1835 Albright McKay N.E., Brookfield, Ohio 44403 ph 330 448-2227)

I like to make decorative items out of scrap steel and old equipment. I made these patio planters out of old 2 1/2-ft. dia. hoppers off an old grain grinder, which I painted flat black. The hoppers



mount on bases made from steel wheels. There's a hole in the bottom for drainage.

My homemade planter cart uses a pair of big wrenches for handles and a pair of old pulleys for wheels. The wooden box



Thank you for the story on my gooseneck-mounted mower deck (Vol. 26, No. 3). It consists of a 60-in. mower deck that I mounted on front of my 1981 Cub Lo Boy tractor. Works great for mowing fence corners and ditches and also eliminates a lot of hand trimming around trees and buildings. The front of the deck is equipped with a home-built gooseneck ball hitch that allows the mower to swivel 360 degrees when turning or backing up.

I'm sending better photos of the unit. Note how the deck's four caster wheels swivel when turning, and how the deck can mow in ditches. If the ditch is too



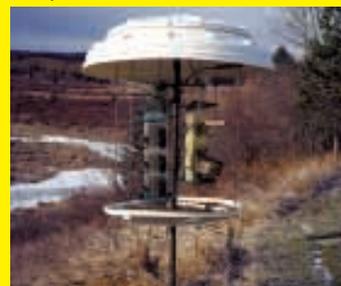
on it can be used to support planters, etc.

I restored an old hand pressure cistern pump and then mounted it on the stand off an old cream separator. It makes a nice yard ornament. The pump's brass cylinder is original.

I welded a pair of old cast iron tractor seats onto lengths of pipe, with steel discs serving as bases. The metal table



between the seats is supported by a length of auger flighting, which I welded to an old cast iron pulley that serves as a base. (Pete Peters, Box 166, Osler, Sask., Canada S0K 3A0 ph 306 239-2045)



My pole-mounted, homemade bird feeder is equipped with a 42-in. dia. top that serves as a roof. A 32-in. dia. bottom tray catches any scratched-out seed and keeps it from falling to the ground. It also



steep to drive into, I can shove the mower into the ditch for a ways and then back out. As I back out the mower will make a 180-degree turn.

The gooseneck hitch attaches to the tractor with a 1-in. dia. pin that extends horizontally through steel plates bolted to both sides of the tractor. It allows the hitch to pivot up or down with the terrain. The gooseneck pipe spins freely on the ball hitch, so whenever I make a turn or back up the mower deck is free to swivel left or right. (Ken Reynolds, 15826 Shermanville Rd., Linesville, Penn. 16424 ph 814 683-4890)

