

Reader Letters



As a firefighter by trade, I was upset to see a dangerous piece of misinformation in your last issue. In the story on the sandblaster made from an old fuel tank, the man involved said he first filled the tank with car exhaust fumes because it's not combustible.

This is not true! Carbon monoxide is flammable. There could also be fuel vapors in there. The only reason it didn't blow up when he started cutting into it was that the fuel and air gas mixture was wrong. He could just as well have had a huge explosion.

The best way to cut into an old fuel tank is to put a block of dry ice in the tank with a bit of water. After it fills up with fumes – wait till they start coming out the top – you can safely cut. Carbon dioxide generated by the dry ice is not combustible. **(Bill Morris, Newberg, Ore.)**

More than 2,000 sets of my Corn Shields have been sold in 15 states and Canada since I first came up with the idea in 1991 after we had a severe corn borer infestation. The Shields mount on the ends of corn heads and save virtually 100 per-



cent of the corn that would normally be lost from the outer rows. Farmers who have them say they would never harvest corn any other way. We still have sets for sale but we wanted to tell your readers that we're now selling our patent (no. 5,444,968). All the major manufacturers have expressed interest in the patent but I'd like to make a deal with an individual or company that would make them available to fit all corn heads. **(Harold Barton, 19052 Kale Ave., Silver Lake, Minn. 55381 ph 320-327-2217)**

Here's an idea that may help other people. I use a keyhole saw to remove weeds and plug-ups from combines, balers, and other crop harvesting machines. Works great. **(Ray Snodgrass, 2006 SW 19th, Perryton, Texas 79070)**

I needed a heavy-duty, 20-ft. length of stove pipe for a new wood stove in my shop. I spotted a worn-out 40-ft. grain elevator in my old equipment pile. I removed everything from the chute including the chain, transport wheels, etc., and then cut the chute in half. I flipped one half over the other and fastened the edges with, of all things, stove bolts. Then I cut a hole in the top of the stove and in the roof. The chimney puts out almost as much heat as the stove. I was so happy with it I built a similar one for a stove at the other end of the building. **(Allen Ahlbrecht, Hector, Minn.)**

I've been making do-it-yourself tile plows since 1983 and have built roughly 800 plows for satisfied customers. I'm writing because I thought your readers might be interested in the way we've recycled hundreds of tires and rims off Massey 410 and 510 combines. I buy them out of Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. The tires we buy are used on pull-type plow dollies and walking beam models. So far we've "recycled" a total of 738 tires and rims. Nowadays, though, it's getting more and more difficult to find



these tires. **(Don Wurdinger, Farm Drainage Plows, 909 4th St. NW, Waverly, Iowa 50677 ph 319 352-3911; www.tileplow.com)**



I didn't want to use my big tractors to pull small wagons and trailers around the yard so I made a hitch for my riding mower by bending a small 90 degree "L" out of steel and welding it to the back of the mower. Then I just put a ball hitch on it. It works really well. **(Ken Allison, Mansfield, Ark.)**

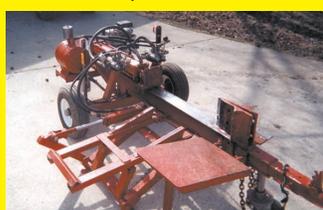
I replaced a mini cargo door on my Knapheid endgate because the original



one didn't let the grain flow out fast enough. The new door lets grain flow 1 1/2 times faster. I also put the door latch low so anyone can open it. If I wanted to, I could cut a slide in it to insert an auger. **(Clair Wilson, Winchester, Ill.)**



I hate it when pheasants, quail and other animals get caught in my hay mower. That's why I took a length of iron rod, bolted it to my tractor with a cloth or plastic sack on the other end. It's not all the way down in the hay but close enough that it gets the animals moving. This isn't a cure all but it helps. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**



I use a wood burning stove to heat my home all winter long and recently decided



I want to share with other readers the enjoyment I get from driving past a beautiful rural yard in my area.

There is a place just west of Morinville, Alta., that's just lovely. The owners obviously have an artistic flair for yard décor. Every so often, they add or change something, making the trip for passing motorists a pleasant and interesting experience.

The latest thing they've done is to paint a life-like horse right on the door of their

barn, making it appear as though the animal is looking out over a "half-door." The barn is quite close to the highway, and it looks very real as you drive by. There are many other "country-style" yard decorations that add to the "farm-loving atmosphere" at this place, and I so appreciate the nice feeling it gives me after those few seconds it takes to drive past. **(Janis Schole, R.R.#1, Pickardville, Alta., Canada T0G 1W0 ph 780 349-3538; jschole@west-teq.net)**

to build my own log splitter. It's equipped with a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine that operates a two-stage hydraulic pump. The pump powers the splitting wedge and also the hydraulic lift that's used to bring the log up onto the splitting table.

I spent less than \$500 to build it. The nice thing is that I never have to reach down to lift the log up onto the splitter. Most of the time I pull the splitter behind an ATV-pulled trailer with a ball on back of it. I mounted a dolly wheel on the tongue so I can easily roll the machine out of the way inside my shop. I built the wedge by welding two steel plates together. **(Willis Roberson, 7990 Grammer Rd., Sesser, Ill. 62884 ph 618 724-9638)**

I use disc blades for the bases, although some models have feet and toes made out of rerod. Sometimes I cut an old garden rake in half for wings.

I also make lady bugs out of old drinking cups found in dairy stanchion barns. I turn the cups upside down and put eyes on them where the bolt holes used to be. I also add a little tail. The legs and feet are made from cultivator teeth. Every year I have a yard sale where I sell the birds for \$25 apiece. **(Cleo L. Brown, 11861 Carlisle Hwy., Nashville, Mich. 49073 ph 517 852-0738)**

This photo was taken during the late summer of 1905 in Toronto. The man shown



is my great grandfather, Richard Brackenridge, who at the time was 80 years old. The bike is shaft-driven. In the last issue of Farm Show there was an article about a shaft-driven bike which implied that such a bike was something new. I think the reason shaft-driven bikes were discontinued is that it's much easier to direct-drive with a chain as opposed to using two right angle changes in power. **(Don J. Agar, Rt. 5, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2G6)**

When exhibiting at antique power shows, I like to display photos of some of the things I've built over the years. I have a photo album that mounts on the shift quadrant and steering column out of a 1951 Deere B tractor. Makes an eye-catching display. **(Pat Prom, 12661 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55347 ph 952 944-9266)**



I strip down old bicycles to make "bird" lawn ornaments, using bicycle forks for the legs and a shovel or chisel plow



shank for the body. The beaks are formed from sickle guards and the eyes are made from big washers.



I love reading about the simple ideas in Farm Show that can save money. I have one of my own. We use a 700-gal. water tank in our cow-calf operation. I was having problems with thick algae forming on top of the water. There was so much algae that I had to use a fishing net to skim the algae off the water at least once a week.

To solve the problem, I pour a cupful or so of Clorox bleach into the water about once a month. The Clorox kills the algae, and after only about an hour or so the scum will be completely gone and the water will be clear again. As soon as I pour the Clorox in I can see it go down and spread out along the bottom of the tank. I also use Clorox in our house well to keep the pipes clean that lead to the

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