Reader Letters

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Do you check out the “worst buys” published in FARM SHOW? In the last issue, one fellow said he had a brush cutter that would cut down 6-in. trees. That sounds pretty far fetched. Another reader claimed he had to replace the fenders on his 2002 Chevy Silverado after 15,000 miles. He said it cost $4,400 to replace them, but if he had the facts right they should have been covered under warranty. He also claimed he spent $5,500 to replace the dented pickup bed. First of all, that’s what bed liners are for. Secondly, he could have put in a stainless steel floor for about $1,000. This “worst buy” did not make sense. (Tony Thiel, Boston, New York)

Here’s a photo of Douglas Fisk, Mondovi, Wis., with his granddaughter, Laura Fisk, sitting on his lap, “helping” read his FARM SHOW. Grandpa thoroughly enjoys your magazine and it looks like little Laura likes it too. (Gary Fisk, Mondovi, Wis.)

I’d like help from your readers with an invention. My cats do a good job catching mice and small rodents but they “mark” their territory in inappropriate places, even though they are neutered. I’ve read that urinating on an electric fence has unpleasant consequences so I wondered if something could be scaled down to cat size. Maybe an 18 by 24-in. grid fastened to small stakes and powered by a battery. I’m not an electronic wizard so I don’t know how to set it up. It should be moveable and give a shock that’s uncomfortable enough that they won’t go to the same place again. If someone could help me set it up, I’d be very grateful. (Bonnie Staas, 11294 N. Henderson Rd., Orangeville, Ill. 61060 ph 815 235-3041; 51940@aeroinc.net)

We keep the feet on our small herd of 10 or so beef cows by having a local tree outfit dump a couple loads of wood chips on our pasture. Then we put our square bale feeder on top of the chips. Works great. (Danny Sainovich, Industry, Pa.)

I bought a 20-ft. section of rollup awning that had been on the side of a motor home. I used 12 ft. on my deck, fastening it under the eaves so it stays clean. It still needed help up. I pull it out as far as needed to provide shade over the deck table and chairs. I used the other 8 ft. on my camper. (Norm Foellini, 10929 Co B, Sparta, Wis. 54656 ph 608 269-3028)

Maybe your readers will be interested in my “lazy man’s way” to do yard care. Last spring, I hooked a steel bed frame and springs to my ATV and dragged it across my 3-acre yard, which still had all the leaves on it. The bed frame ground them up. Then I rolled the yard with my 12-ft. cuttoploader to smooth it out after winter. (Patrick Q. Cuzaack, Muir, Mich.)

One hour later, I was all done with my spring work and back in my rocking chair. At 85 years of age, I figured it was time to find a better way. (Patrick Q. Cuzaack, Muir, Mich.)

A while back, I started looking for a heavy-built wood splitter but every one I looked at cost $2,000 or more and was built too light. I finally decided the only solution was to build one myself. I’m a semi-retired welder, having operated my own one-man shop for over 35 years, so I already had all the tools I would need to do the job. Former customers and friends donated some of the parts I needed. One customer gave me a control valve and another had an unused axle with springs and tires removed from a camper trailer. A friend who worked at a forklift company had a cylinder and pump that I could use. And I had an old Cub Cadet lawn mower with a good 12 hp Kohler engine and starter, generator, and a battery.

In my shop, I had all the scraps of steel needed for a beam, platform, fenders, wedge and push-plate. I used a chain drive to the pump to slow down the pump so it wouldn’t stop the engine when the cylinder comes to the end. It took me four days to put it all together and $50 for the engine. The result is a splitter I’m proud of and that really does the job. (Bob Duncan, 14252 Thirteen Mile Road, R.R. 4, Inverness, Ontario, Canada N0M 1P0 ph 519 666-1708; email: bdjuncan@sympatico.ca)

Because I have a bad back, I use big tires to grow vegetables so I don’t have to bend over too far. (“Old Tomatoe Joe” Joseph Q. Leiglieber, 1815 Bardwell West, Williamsburg, Ohio 45176 ph 937 444-4835; email: JosephQ12@aol.com)

My three kids and I like to hunt raccoons, but there was never enough room inside our two-door pickup to hold everyone. So we put an old Jeep Wagoneer and a Chevy pickup together to make a four-door extended cab pickup. Now we have more room, and we don’t have to worry about tearing up a newer vehicle when we’re out in the sticks.

We started with a 1979 Jeep Wagoneer. We cut off the back part of the roof behind the rear doors, then

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