

Reader Letters



Here's a nifty hedge-trimming tool I spotted one day in my travels. I don't know who made it since I just saw it along the side of the road. But it looks to me like it would work pretty well.

It's simply a metal pole riding on four caster wheels with two adjustable crossbars - one at about 4 ft. off the ground and the other at about 6 ft. It looks like you just push it along the hedge as you trim to keep a consistent height. Not much to it but I bet it works well. **(Dennis Lash, Eagan, Minn.)**

While driving thousands and thousands of miles around the Midwest for many years, I've seen a lot of barns go down. I've always noticed that no two barns go



down exactly the same way. This old barn, west of Shelbyville, Ill., seems to be particularly tough. I've been watching it deteriorate for years and it's still hanging in there. But I just know that one day soon a heavy wind or heavy snow will win the battle. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

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 cleaner 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 when 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 Foellmi, 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. cultipacker to smooth it out after winter.



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. Cusack, Muir, Mich.)**



Thanks for your article in the last issue about the tractor-themed quilts that I sew. I've had phone calls from all over the country. My machine won't get much rest for awhile. I thought you'd like a picture of me at work. **(Vernon W. Harra, 17220 W 207th St., Spring Hill, Kansas 66083 ph 913 709-2003; email: witan4@netzero.net)**



Thanks for your coverage in FARM SHOW of Lucky Buck minerals. We've had tremendous response from your readers who want to feed our minerals to deer on their farms in order to obtain larger racks. Last year, two new Michigan state records were set by hunters who had been feeding our minerals, including this buck shot by Dustin Hotchkin on Thanksgiving Day, 2004. At 204 1/8 B&C, it's the new Michigan state muzzle loader record. Dustin bought 10 buckets of Lucky Buck from me in April, 2004, and he shot this buck near where he fed out the minerals.

This year we are introducing a new seed blend for deer food plots that we think will be just as unique and helpful in creating record-breaking bucks. August and September are the perfect time to plant them. Called Perfect Perennial, the product comes in a 2-gal. bucket and plants 1 to 2 acres. This blend of clover and alfalfa were selected for high sugar content, low fiber levels, and time of maturity. It provides just what bucks need when antlers are growing.

Retails for \$99 and we'll provide free shipping to FARM SHOW readers. **(Dave Wheeler, Mar-Vo Mineral Co. Inc., P.O. Box 86, Osseo, Mich. 49266 (ph 888 816-2786 or 517 523-2669; www.luckybuck.info)**



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, Denfield, Ontario, Canada N0M 1P0 ph 519 666-1709; email: bjduncan@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 Leighgeber, 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 **(Continued on next page)**