

# Reader Letters



I want to thank Mary Streed and FARM SHOW for the Bundt pan idea in the last issue of FARM SHOW for cutting corn off the cob for freezing. A week after I read about the idea, I was at an estate sale and bought a cast aluminum Bundt cake pan for \$1.00. I was delighted at the ease of cutting off the corn and at how little mess I made. Thanks again for the idea. **(Daniel Hilterbrand, West Liberty, Ohio)**

Thanks for your article on my home-built motorcycles (Vol. 30, No. 3) that are replicas of cycles built back in the early 1900's. I've had tremendous interest from readers looking for more information. I wanted to let your readers know that we set up a website with more information and detailed photos. Just go to [www.homebuiltmotorcycles.com](http://www.homebuiltmotorcycles.com). **(Don Huebert, 1102 Rd. B, Henderson, Neb. 68371 ph 402 723-4407)**

Here's a photo of a gauge I made for my circular sawmill. The original gauge and "set works" was hard to read and you



looked at it at an angle. You can now look at it straight without bending over.

The parts needed are the bottom of a 5-gal. pail, two pillowblock bearings, two bicycle sprockets with a 2 to 1 ratio, a bicycle chain, a shaft, a small V-pulley, a collar on the sawmill shaft, and a set screw for fine tuning. Works great. **(Loren Lindsay, 52621 Valley View Circle N., Mankato, Minn. 56003)**

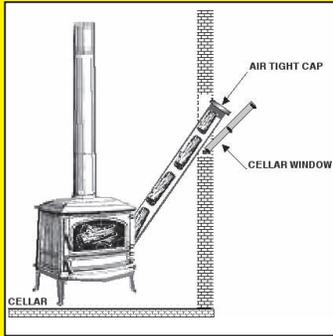
I was interested in some recent articles you had on dowsers. I have used four different people who claimed to be able to find potable water by using either wires or wood. I have a 40-acre farm where it's extremely difficult to locate a good well. I've had five dry holes drilled, four of which were locations the dowsers chose. No luck and a lot of money wasted in the ground. If any of your readers are up to the challenge of finding water for me, I'd be glad to hear from them. **(Charlie "Dry Hole Charlie" Hemker, 327 Arbogast Rd., Bronson, Mich. 49028 ph 517 278-5820)**

I made some cheap sow feeders by splitting an old rear tractor tire in two and bolting them to pieces of plywood. They're nearly indestructible and you can put them anywhere. **(Darrell Powers, Findlay, Ill. ph 217 738-2657)**



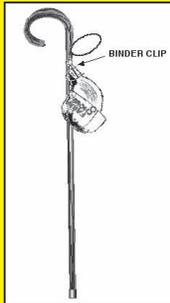
A trail of smoke from a burning bale in a central Iowa field recently attracted a lot of passing motorists, including myself. I drove by later but no other bales were burning and the fire department wasn't needed. The bale never did break into flames. It just smoldered for about 36 hrs. and was reduced to a pile of ashes.

Speculation was that the alfalfa was baled with excessive moisture, resulting in spontaneous combustion. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**



I'd like to build a self-feeding wood stove something like what's shown in this drawing. I'm wondering if any readers have built a stove like this. Any help I could get would be appreciated. **(Jack Burns, 1632 Stump Rd., Marcellus, N.Y. 13108 ph 315 673-1844)**

I modified my walking cane to make it more useful. I attached a binder clip to the side of it to hold a cap, and I also tied a small loop of cord to it to make it easier to hang onto or for hanging it up. **(Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.)**



I haul 4 by 5-ft. 800-lb. round bales and unroll them on the ground with a 450 Honda. I just lower the arms down on either side of a bale and stick the spikes into the center of the bale. Then I use a

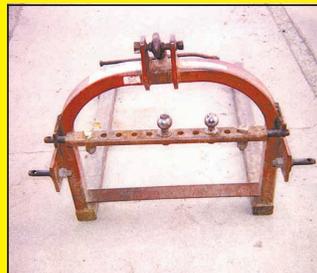


1,000-lb. come-along or an electric winch to raise it up. It mounts on a simple 2-wheel axle. It works well and is more economical than my tractor. I can make detailed drawings available if there's interest. **(Raymond Smith, 59158 Wilcox Rd., Barnesville, Ohio 43713 ph 740 425-1728)**



A couple years ago snow sliding off our metal roof completely blocked the back door. I designed 5 small portable lean-to's with 2 by 4 frames and metal tops that can be snugged up under the back roof of the house. Snow comes off the roof, onto the lean-to's and down to the ground. We actually put some heated

buckets underneath to catch snow and melt it for our ducks, geese and chickens. Completely portable, we can pull them away from the house in summer. My neighbors, Jim and Cory Sheeley, built them for me. **(C. "Beagle" Mullen, 1686 State Rd. 69, Parish, N.Y. 13131 ph 315 625-4660)**

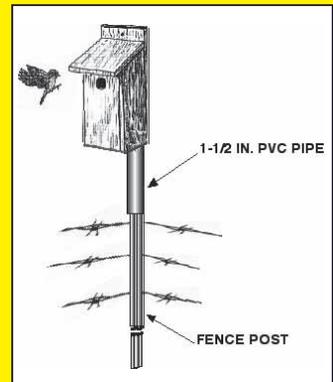


You can make a good fly trap with a plastic gallon jug. Take off the cap and put in a chunk of meat and a bunch of fly bait poison and set it outside where flies accumulate. When meat starts to smell, flies will enter and go to the bait, which will poison them. Works well. **(J.E. Cornish, Mannville, Alberta, Canada)**

I welded hooks onto the back of my 3-pt. mounted pallet forks to hold my drawbar while I'm using using the forks. Makes it handy to switch back as needed. **(Joe Riccobriano, Pittsburg, Calif. 94565)**

As an experienced chemist, I have some concerns about the biodiesel process described in the last issue (Vol. 30, No. 4) by Dan McAmoil in Kansas.

He mixes gasoline with grain oils to "cut the glycerine". Gasoline fumes above the grain oil mixture probably reach explosive limits. It would be much safer to use the other chemicals, such as lye, which McAmoil is seeking to avoid. Also, putting gasoline in the mix could cause "dieseling" or premature burning because the speed and power of burning is too sharp. In common language, gasoline will blow up a diesel engine. **(Aubrey McIntosh, Ph.D., amcintosh@grandecom.net)**



I attach a piece of 1 1/2-in. pvc pipe to the backs of bluebird houses. This makes it easy to slip them over T-posts on fence rows in the spring, and bring them back inside each fall. Works great. **(Tommy Scoggins, Rock Hill, S.C.)**

*(Continued on next page)*



I don't know what to call this machine but I made it from an old combine. It's very maneuverable and easy to operate and can do the work of a tractor. I made it from an old combine, removing all the threshing components and leaving just the frame. I remounted the engine lengthwise, added an angle gear drive

connected to the existing planetary drives, and changed some hydraulics. Since I'm retired, I would welcome any inquiries if anyone would be interested in buying it at a reasonable price. **(John Philipation, P.O. Box 329, Onanole, Manitoba, R0J 1N0 Canada ph 204 848-2501)**