

Reader Letters



To make it easy bag up leaves or cuttings from shrubs, I break up a cardboard box and cut off the flaps so I have a big flat piece of cardboard. Then I roll it up into a cylinder about 1 ft. in dia. and slip it into a large contractor plastic bag. Then I let it expand to stretch out the bag and it turns into an instant trash can. Set it upright to fill and pack. Once it's full, you can just slip out the cardboard and tie the bag.

One cardboard insert is good for about 40 fillings. **(Daniel Krenz, Cullman, Ala.)**

We have a new product that we're selling over here in England that's become



very popular for farmers. We developed it for use on our own farm and it worked so well we put it on the market. It consists of a leather holster with a vacuum clamp that sticks to cab windows to hold a cell phone and a pen or pencil. It's easy to attach by just pulling down a lever to create a powerful vacuum hold. Keeps the phone handy and can be quickly moved between machines. *It also lets you "see" the phone ring when you have a call.* **(Sally Martyn Smith, AgriAid Limited, High Clows Farm, Clows Top, Kidderminster, Worcester DY14 9PB United Kingdom (ph 011 44 1299 832184; agriaid@btinternet.com; www.agriaid.btinternet.co.uk).**

Who says all deer stands have to be uncomfortable perches 15 ft. above ground? My son, Joe Marley, made a



comfortable "executive" portable deer stand that he can roll around his acreage as needed. He lives in a densely wooded area by a highly traveled highway. There are a lot of deer. Using a steel-wheeled wagon gear, some salvaged plywood, and old aluminum windows, he made a heated stand with comfortable seating inside. He put the large windows on all four sides (he enters through one of them) and put a shingle roof on top. He puts curtains over the lower half of the windows so deer can't

see him moving about inside. **(C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075)**

I call this home-built rig an APV - All Purpose Vehicle. I built it out of whatever I



could find laying around my farm, including a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine and a 4-speed truck transmission from around 1940 with a chain drive to the axle. I built a combo gearbox chain drive for the steering.

I've got a lift on back that's raised and lowered by a 1/2-in. cordless drill driving a worm gearbox that turns a little drum I made for a small cable. The photo shows it fitted with a weed killer for the garden with 41 spikes on it to make weeds wish they had stayed away. I also plan to make a mower for the front of it this winter. **(Ken Voigt, 9208 Pasture Lane, Wausau, Wis. 54403 ph 715 842-8471)**

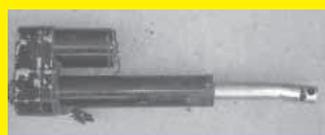
After having snow blow back into my face every time I use my walk-behind snowblower, I started wearing a full face snowmobile helmet while snowblowing. It looks kind of silly but it's very warm and keeps me dry. **(John Orpen, Battle Lake, Minn.)**

Some time ago, I purchased a storage building. I found that the key I was given would not lock the large sliding double



door. Rather than replace the lock, I decided to make my own lock. I simply installed a large hook and eye with a pivoting piece of wood above it that holds the hook in place. No one can shake it loose by rattling the door, and I can release the hook easily by pivoting the wood to the side. **(Allen Beiler, New Holland, Penn.)**

We had an article in FARM SHOW earlier this year (Vol. 30, No. 1) on an im-



proved replacement part that my husband, Mark Petty, makes for Deere combines. We wanted to let your readers know that we now have a website - www.pettymachine.ca - that describes our concave adjustment actuator rod and why it's better than the original part. **(Linda Petty, 2850 Church St., Blackstock, Ontario L0B 1B0 Canada ph 905 986-1521)**



I was given a Cub Cadet 70 garden tractor if I would drag it out of a barn where it had been a target for pigeons. The 7 hp Kohler motor was stuck so I replaced it with an 11 1/2 hp Kawasaki pull-start. The original Cub generator/starter still worked so I mounted it on the main output shaft, removed the recoil, and machined a pulley to stick out 2 1/2 in. I had to drill only

We split a lot of firewood. That's one reason I built this tractor from scratch that



pulls a self-powered splitter. I call it the Thunderbolt.

It's powered by an engine from a 12A Deere combine. The engine had a factory pto with clutch which I used to power the tractor with double sprockets and #60 roller chain connected to a shaft on a 4-speed truck transmission. The rear axle came from a Dodge pickup and the front axle came off an Oliver combine. The steering wheel came from a 92 Massey Harris combine. With split exhausts, the tractor sounds great and works quite well.

The log splitter has the same engine as the tractor. It mounts on a pickup axle with leaf springs so it rides smooth. The splitter consists of a railroad rail fitted with a 1 1/2 in. dia. by 28-in. two-way cylinder. The splitter has a 2-stage hydraulic pump which delivers extreme splitting power at a safe speed. I've used this splitter to split approximately 1,000 cords of wood. **(Dale Rivinius, 305 East 4th Ave., Lemmon, S. Dak. 57638 ph 605 374-5857)**



I found this 1954 self-propelled Case crane in the weeds and bought it for not too much. The engine was shot so I replaced it with a Ford V-8 engine and transmission. It was a tight fit but ended up working great. The engine was a 302 Ford out of a 1978 pickup. It's been a very handy machine around our place - useful for a lot of jobs. **(Charles Klein, Columbia, Ill.)**

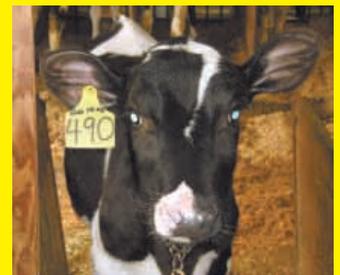
This is not a new way to make a mouse-trap but it's a good one. You need a 5-

two extra motor mount holes on the flat frame. I used the original wiring harness to charge the battery and equipped it with new 10-in. rims, new tires, and paint. She's a showpiece now and fun to drive. I made a small trailer to pull around. **(Scott Werling, 302 W. 400 N., Decatur, Ind. 46733 ph 260 724-4190)**



gal. pail, plastic water bottle, a metal rod, peanut butter, water and five minutes of time. Heat the metal rod to melt holes near the top of the plastic bottle. Slip the bottle onto the rod and through the holes in the pail. Put dabs of peanut butter on the bottle and about 2 in. of water in the pail. Place next to a wall or anywhere mice can climb to reach the top of the pail. When they go for the peanut butter, they'll fall into the water. To empty, just dump the dead mice out. In cold weather, add anti-freeze to the water. **(Erv Boehm, Minneapolis, Minn.)**

After reading about the farmer in your last issue who's running a tractor on propane, I wanted to tell you that I had a couple of Ferguson tractors 50 years ago that were powered by propane through a Garretson regulator. Back then, I could buy propane for 9 cents a gal. when gasoline was selling for 16 cents. It worked great. **(Verne Lewis, Schubert, Neb.)**



I'm sending a picture of an 8-month-old calf that was born with the number "7" on her forehead. She is a 4-H calf that got a lot of attention when I took her to the fair. Everyone that comes to the farm loves her because of the 7. Some think it's fake but it's real and is growing in size as she grows. We plan to keep her in our dairy. **(April Dyck; twit_lol@hotmail.com)**

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