

Reader Letters



A simple "stone boat" is an easy way to haul large rocks and other heavy loads around the farm. Just run a chain back to a piece of plate steel and tow it behind a garden tractor. It tows easily and you don't have to do any lifting. You can just roll loads onto it. **(Maurice Leighton, Citrus Heights, Calif.)**

Regarding the article in your last issue, "Russian Combines Are Coming", I'd like to ask the importer if they're planning on setting up a fund with enough money to cover 4 to 5 crop years to reimburse the buyers of these combines when they stop working. My advice to buyers: If you can't justify the cost of a new Deere, Case IH, or New Holland combine, then buy a used one. You'll be better off. **(J. Robert Morrison, 4500 Oglesby Bridge Road, McDonough, Ga. 30252)**

A young veterinarian showed us how to take blood samples from cattle without getting them upset, as they do with nose tongs and head wrestling. It's easy to find a vein with one person holding the animal's tail up tight over its back. The vein is right up under the fold of skin on the side. Holding the tail tightly over the back also prevents kicking. **(Fred Bernet, 51364 Dike Rd., Scappoose, Oregon 97056)**

When you're going somewhere that you need directions to, write them along the bottom edge of your windshield with an erasable marker so you can see them while driving. It even works at night since the headlight glare on the road will back-light them. I drive trucks for a living and have used this trick of the trade many times. **(Tom Christensen, Blackfoot, Idaho)**



One of our evergreen shrubs died last fall and I couldn't get it replaced right away. I decided to wait until spring, so I got the idea of spray painting it green until I could get a replacement. One can of paint that cost about a dollar did a pretty good job. We like not having to look at a dead shrub all winter. In several months, not one visitor has noticed the difference between the live shrubs and the painted one. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

My granddaughter, Katy Gogerty, got engaged during last fall's corn harvest near Remsen, Iowa. When Katy brought lunch to the field, my future grandson-in-law, Michael Niehus, got down from the combine and on his knees to ask for her



hand in marriage. Katy accepted and the couple is planning a September wedding. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

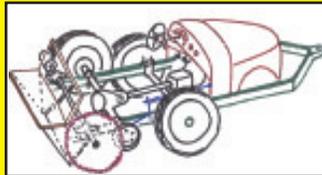
Here's a way to make cheap firewood boxes out of wood pallets. I get the pallets free and use drywall screws to screw



them together. They're easy to move around with forks. You fill them in the woods and bring them back for storage. When you need wood, you can set them down close to the house. **(Dirk Rogers, P.O. Box 5321, Helena, Montana 59604)**

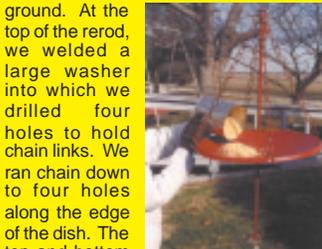
Here's a buzz saw rig I made years ago using an old car. It worked great for 20 years and then I scrapped it because I got older and stopped cutting wood. However, the idea is still valid today.

I put a hitch on front to tow it with a tractor or pickup. The transmission drives

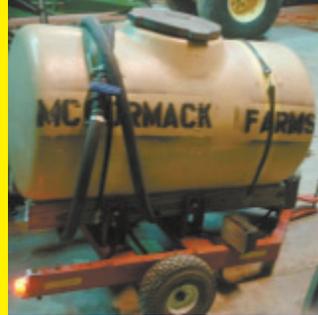


the rear end. There's a wheel on one end, elevated off the ground, that friction drives a shaft that runs to the buzz saw blade. The emergency brake is used to keep the hub at the other end of the rear end from turning. The great thing about it was that there were no belts to worry about. I could adjust the friction of the tire by adjusting air pressure in the tire. To control speed, I just adjusted the idle on the carb. **(Ted Slaght, 2247 Kum Hattin Rd., Putney, Vt. 05346)**

When we upgraded our TV satellite dish, we decided to turn the old dish into a bird feeder. We drilled a hole in the center of the dish large enough for a piece of rod, which sticks down into a pipe in the ground. At the top of the rod, we welded a large washer into which we drilled four holes to hold chain links. We ran chain down to four holes along the edge of the dish. The top and bottom links of the chain were cut open and then bend out to fit into the holes. The height can be adjusted by moving the clamp. **(C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 ph 217 563-2588)**



I am 13 years old. My brother and I made a small water wagon using the hitch off an old grain dryer. We used to have to carry water to all the plants in 5-gal. buckets but the water would spill all over and



the buckets were heavy. Then one day we spotted the front hitch off an old grain dryer. We cut some things off and painted the frame. Then we added wheels with a steel rod and cotter pins. The tank is supported by treated 2 by 4's. The tank is held in place with tarp straps and waterproof adhesive. Lights were added - two red in the back on a switch and a work light with its own switch. All are powered by a small lawn mower battery. Everything is waterproof and secure. We put about 20 hours into this project and about \$30. **(Nathan McCormack, twofarmkids@aol.com)**

In regard to your article in the last issue about Deere's Revolutionary Electric Tractor, it seems that all that was old is new again. Henry Ford had a flywheel magneto in his Model T's starting in 1909. The permanent magnets on the flywheel generated AC voltage commensurate with engine rpm's and also dispersed engine oil from the transmission sump up to the main and connecting rod bearings. This system remained in production through 1927, with production of more than 15 million units. **(P.J. Meehan, Victoria, B.C., Meehan@shaw.ca)**

The story in your last issue on our new plastic "grass protection" mats should have mentioned that our company, Eads Fence Co., is the only nationwide stock-



ing distributor for the product. Also, the staples used to pin the mesh down are not supplied with the product. **(Mike Hunter, Eads Fence Co., 131 Broadway St., Loveland, Ohio 45140 ph 513 707-1813; mike@eadsfence.com)**

I built this "road tracker" last summer in my garage. I started with a 4-cyl. Continental engine and a lock-in-and-out bell



housing from an industrial asphalt trailer. A friend gave me a 3/4-ton rear end and 4-speed transmission out of a 1973 Ford pickup, so I made a steel frame and went to work. The clutch is dual belt-driven and the starter is also belt-driven by a 12-volt motor. The machine has rear hydraulic brakes.

The rig's radiator and gas tank are also off the pickup. We enjoy driving our "road tracker" along trails whenever we stay at our cabin in northern Minnesota. Our grandkids like to ride with us and also have a lot of fun. **(Gerald Krob, 4649 Bald Eagle Ave., Saint Paul, Minn. 55110 ph 651 429-3439)**

I needed a small 3-pt. mounted chisel plow to use in my 40 by 100-ft. garden. A moldboard plow wouldn't plow deep enough or enter the ground fast enough. I already had a small 3-pt. mounted box scraper equipped with 16-in. long ripper teeth so I unbolted the teeth and made a toolbar to fit them. I use it to deep till my garden and also to rip out tree roots. A



Ford 9N tractor pulls it. The ripper teeth go 13 inches deep and also do a great job of digging up tree roots along my fence line. It works even better than I expected. **(Jerry Brandt, 900 N. 5th St., LaGrange, Mo. 63448 ph 573 655-2260; jbrandt000@centurytel.net)**

I got tired of dragging wheeled garbage cans to the end of my long driveway, so I rigged up a metal bracket for my van's bumper. Four metal prongs stick up to hold the handle of the garbage container.

To make the bracket, I decided to cut



up some 1/2-in. dia. reinforcing rod and welded it together into a rectangular shape. The bracket bolts onto a 6-in. sq. metal plate that bolts onto the bumper. The handle fits inside the bracket and is held in place by sliding a pair of pins forward and inserting cotter pins. When not needed, the bracket can be removed from the plate by removing two other pins. **(Ken Voigt, 9208 Pasture Lane, Wausau, Wis. 54403 ph 715 842-8471)**

Soak a terry cloth towel in Clorox, then rub the towel over your vehicle's tires to keep them from slipping on black ice. This idea works on short distances (a maximum of 10 miles). **(Al Hyko, 23219 E. Elder Rd., Rockford, Wash. 99030)**

In your last issue I enjoyed reading about the calf born with no hair. Back in 1960 my father birthed a naked calf. It was born from registered Holsteins so it should have had black and white hair. The tail was very short without any swish at the end of it, and the animal's skin was very sensitive to the sun. The skin was very dry and leathery and cracked easily. We put Vaseline on it to keep it soft and hopefully heal it. The calf never did very well and didn't run and play like other calves do. He sold it after a few months. **(Harold and Shirley Fry, Muncie, Penn. 17756)**

Here's an easy way to make fire starters. Use old egg cartons. Fill the egg holders with clothes dryer lint and pour melted wax from old candles over the top. It's easy to cut the egg carton apart once the wax cools and they burn hot to start even stubborn fires. **(Rose Finsant, Heriot Bay, British Columbia)**