

Reader Letters



My brother had a problem with squirrels eating his bird seed, even crawling up a steel post to get to the feeder. He found a Slinky toy the right size to fit loosely over the steel post and fastened it at the top only. Now, when squirrels crawl up and grab the slinky, they find themselves on the ground scratching their heads. It really works. **(Elwood Homan, Pennsylvania Furnace, Penn.)**

To mow around my farm pond with a sicklebar mounted on my 1954 Farmall Cub, I use a 12-volt electric winch to raise and lower the sickle. Without the winch, I'd have to raise the bar by hand. Works great. **(B.R. Mitcham, Madisonville, La.)**

I had trouble with cheap ballpoint pens because they write so poorly and don't last. But expensive pens often don't have the rubber grip I like and they're too costly to use daily in the field. So I now buy good Paper Mate pen refills and install them in the cheap pens. They write well and last a long time.

I keep an aerosol boat horn just inside each door in my house to blast bears and raccoons. It "re-educates" the animals and is much safer than a gun. **(Jon Bell, Lyons, Colo.)**

This is just an idea, but couldn't farmers who irrigate with pumps run water over water mills first to create electricity? Once the water's gone through the water generators, it can be dumped into irrigation. **(Billy Harrison, Harrison_sandra@att.net)**

In regard to the article in the last issue about a fellow who was cutting up railroad ties with a large hydraulic shears, I sure hope you aren't cutting and burning creosoted ties. I have friends who had a house fire due to creosote buildup. **(John Stava, Bloomington, Ind.)**

Down here in the South, we have little blood-sucking bugs called chiggers. They're practically invisible, hungry and vicious. I am proud to say I've found a way to kill them.

I just put a short extension pipe on a gas-powered leaf blower, get upwind of an area to be treated on a dewy morning, cut a small hole in top of a 10 percent Sevin bag, and slowly pour dust into the air stream. With a little practice, you can fog an area up to the treetops over several acres without a lot of effort. The dew on the leaves and grass will hold the dust and kill the pests. Works well to treat fruit trees, too. **(John Gammill, Malvera, Ark.)**

We had a 12 by 20-ft. concrete patio next to our house that was deteriorated with cracks and weed growth. We cleaned the surface, filled any small potholes with concrete, and then covered the surface with inexpensive 16 by 16-in. concrete pads from a home store. To stabilize the pads, we put some fine sand on the surface and broomed it into the cracks between pads. The pads were positioned with zero spacing between them and no mortar was used. The original 4-in. concrete patio provides a stable base and we saved a bundle over completely redoing the whole thing. **(Robert Kucera, Marion, Iowa)**

Recently I spotted a "hitching rock" at an old cemetery. They were used to tie up horses and had an I-bolt sunk into the top. There were probably quite a few hitching rocks in a typical 50-acre cemetery, but they're hard to find now.

The rock I found had fallen over and was partially sunk into the ground.

I thought it would be neat to have one at my place, so I found a 2-ft. high granite rock and used a hammer drill and masonry bit to drill a 1-in. dia. hole into it. Then I inserted a 3/8-in. dia. I-bolt in the hole and poured a mixture of concrete and sand around it. I dug a shallow hole and used a loader bucket to set the rock in it. **(Leonard Seltzer, 16040 W. Elmwood, Manhattan, Ill. 60442 ph 815 478-3578)**

When you put a new liner into a trash can, it's hard to get the bag to the bottom of the can. The problem is that air gets trapped between the liner and the can.

To solve the problem I drilled a small 3/8-in. dia. hole 3 in. below the rim of the can. The hole lets the air escape and allows the bottom of the liner to settle down into the can. It's not exactly a million dollar idea but it works. **(David Hopkins, 1605 N. Tyler St., Little Rock, Ark. 72207 ph 501 666-5071; dhopkins@landmarkeng-sur.com)**

I built a 'chicken tractor' and didn't want to put shingles on the roof due to the added weight. My solution was to cover the roof with aluminized Mylar, which is waterproof and reflects heat. It has held up well for several months, but time will tell how long it can hold up in the Florida sun. The chickens seem to enjoy the cool escape.

I wanted to line the nest boxes in the coop with something I could easily clean and reuse, so I cut strips of aluminum-lined bubble insulation for each box. The material is easy to remove and hose off, and forms a soft surface for the hens to lay eggs. **(Harry R. Mulhearn, 1516 Cardinal Lane, Monticello, Florida 32344 harrymulhearn@yahoo.com)**



I thought your readers might get a kick out of this photo taken at the recent Regina Farm & Antique Show near Regina, Sask. My home-built, miniature Cat and scraper fit under a Deere 4440 high clearance tractor. The tractor is owned by Dean Stockman of Beechy, Sask., who imported it from the sugar cane fields of Louisiana. **(Jim Golley, Rt. 1, Tees, Alberta, Canada TOC 2N0 ph 403 783-2163 or 403 704-9389)**

Our Rhode Island Red chicken has to be one of the strangest chickens around. This mixed-up mother hen lives in a



doghouse just outside our porch. When our cat moved into her "coop" to have kittens, the mother hen adopted the



I made a tool rack out of chrome-plated square tubing. The rack has two pieces of square tubing cut at a 45 degree angle and they stick out to hold the tool. The rack mounts to a 2-wheeled, 4-ft. long commercial trailer with four bolts. It works great when I fill up dog and

gopher holes and plant trees. I can put dirt in the trailer and put a shovel on the rack. I also use the rack to haul a weed trimmer. **(Steve Litchy, 23250 30th St. S.E., Blomkest, Minn. 56216 ph 320 995-6583)**

litter. She covered them with her wings from day one. The cat seems happy with the feathered daycare, spending her time hunting and relaxing, returning to the hen/dog house to nurse her young. Talk about strange bedfellows. **(Jerry and Ann Johnson, 14126 680th Ave., McCallsburg, Iowa 50154 ph 641 487-7278)**

A friend of mine has a portable sawmill and had been using his pickup to move it. He also has an Allis Chalmers tractor with which he sets logs on the sawmill.



He wanted an easier way to move the sawmill, so I came up with a ball mount that lets him use the 3-pt. mounted bale forks on his tractor to do the job.

I welded two pieces of channel iron together to form a short length of sq. tubing that slips over the bale fork, and added a piece of flat iron with a hole in it to mount a ball hitch. A threaded bolt keeps the tubing tight against the bale fork. The operator can see the ball hitch at all times so he doesn't need a helper like he would with a pickup. It's not fancy but it works. **(Richard Nikrant, 879 I Adams St., Nashville, Ill. 62263 ph 618 327-3530)**

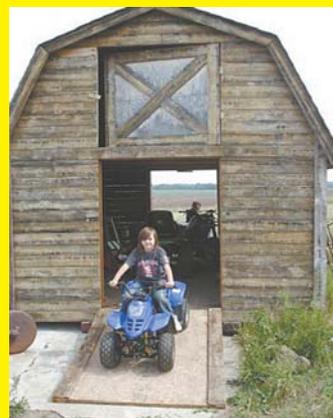
Here's a photo of a "bulldozer" I made from a riding mower. I use it to drag



manure out of livestock stalls. Or, I load the manure into the bed on back and haul it out onto a pasture where I use the blade to spread it around. The bed also comes in handy for hauling tools whenever I perform maintenance jobs around the farm. **(Wayne Burks, Ravenel, S. C. ph 843 729-6633; wayneburks@bellsouth.net)**

Weed sprays for lawns sometimes call for mixing two chemicals together. I write the 'recipe' on a large sheet of paper along with when to apply. Then I put the paper into a large Ziploc bag

and pin it to the wall where I keep the chemicals. **(Evelyn Kennell, 1852 Co. Rd. 1400 E., Roanoke, Ill. 61561 autem2@hotmail.com)**



Friends of mine, Kim and Andre Belanger of Legal, Alberta, took an old, dilapidated barn in their yard, knocked it down with their tractor, and recycled the lumber to build a nice looking and very handy "drive-through storage shed" that they use a lot.

Their new shed has big doors that drop down, acting like ramps, which allows them to drive in one end and out the other. They use the easily accessible storage building for their riding lawn mower and quads, but it's especially nice for snowmobiles, since they don't have a reverse gear. There's also a spacious loft for storage of lesser-used items. **(Janis Schole, Pickardville, Alberta, Canada)**

As the maker of Lucky Buck Mineral for growing trophy bucks, I would like to respond to Bill Burrell Jr.'s report in the "best & worst buys" section in the last issue. I have run into situations before that I believe may explain Bill's problem. Many trophy hunting operations, especially in Texas, feed grain or pellets. Typically these mixes contain between 1 to 2 percent salt. Deer eating these diets are getting all the salt they need. Lucky Buck Mineral is designed for wild free range deer not being supplemented. I use salt as part of the attraction to get the deer to eat it, but even more importantly to keep them from over eating it. I know with great accuracy the amount of salt a deer will consume and put aggressive levels of other minerals in at the right ratio. Because deer are already getting salt from a feed, the fact that they're not eating the mineral - even with the great flavoring - just proves it is working correctly. **(Dave Wheeler, ph 888-816-2786; www.luckybuck.info)**