

Reader Letters



My wife is the primary driver on our manually-operated Honda 300 ATV. Because of arthritis in her foot, she was unable to engage the shift pedal. I made a hand-operated lever by cutting a slit in the bottom of a 2 by 1-in. piece of oak. I used a hose clamp inserted through the slit to fasten it to the shift pedal. At the top of the oak piece, I drilled a hole to insert a dowel for a handle. (*Bernard Paumier, 10335 Heimberger Rd., Baltimore, Ohio 43105 ph 740 862-8262*)

To get rid of carpenter bees, I take the guard off my battery-powered weedeater and use it as if I were hunting geese with a rake. It really works. (*Butch Mullen, Taylorsville, N.C.*)

A friend asked me if I had anything to pull 4-in. fiberglass posts because he needed to move a fence. I loaned him what I call



my "sure grip chain". It works to pull any size post. It consists of a length of chain, 2 hooks and a 1 1/4-in. pipe coupling. The hook that wraps around the post hooks to the short piece of pipe so it slides down the chain to tighten around anything. Works great and doesn't slip. (*Larry Zenz, Parks, Ark.*)

In regard to the piece in your last issue, the ethanol bashers can't argue with success. I have used 10 percent ethanol in all my small engines, 4-cycle and 2-cycle, since it was first available, with absolutely no problems. Mowers, motorcycles, transfer pumps, boat motors, and even my Rotax 582 Powered Parachute. I'm hoping the percentages go up. Let's support the American farmer and not the terrorists! (*Steve Rosenboom; rsnboom@lowatelecom.net.*)



I keep an oil-filled Dietz lantern around the farm for emergency heat. For example, a lantern will keep my small insulated pump house warm for up to 30 hours on one fill. As a bonus, you can use the lantern for light any time of the year that the power goes out. I bought the lantern shown here on the internet for about \$40. (*C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.*)



Your story in the last issue about the new Deutz 8-wheel drive tractor from Europe made me think about Big Roy, a Versatile 8-wheel tractor that's still on display at a museum in Austin, Manitoba. It's different than the Deutz but was much before its time. It had 8-WD, articulated steering, rear engine drive, was 32 ft. long and weighed 55,000 lbs. The 650 hp tractor was built in the early 1970's. No market developed for Big Roy so he ended up on display for everyone. (*Richard Borowicz, 1237 Skillman Ave. E., Maplewood, Minn. 55109 (ph 651 484-8784)*)

My friend Scott Nelson and I have built several one-of-a-kind 3-wheelers that are a lot of fun to ride. They're designed so all three wheels lean into turns for safety and speed. There's a 20-in. rear wheel and two 16-in. steering wheels on front.



The rider sits facing forward with feet on the pedals up front, which chain-drive the rear wheel. The handlebars are used to lean the vehicle left or right. To shift gears, the rider uses twist grips on the upper ends of the handlebars.

The vehicle and rider lean about 35 degrees left or right for steering, much like a motorcycle. As a result it turns short - you can do a figure 8 across a two-lane road. The danger of falling is much less than from an upright bicycle, and it's only 27 in. wide so it'll fit through most doorways. It also has a low center of gravity.

All the vehicle's wheels have disk brakes. The front brakes work together; the rear one is controlled separately.

I've got six models for sale and am building more. Prices start at \$2,500. The price includes a storage stand and a safety flag. (*Larry Rathsack, 6265 Douglas Drive N., Brooklyn Park, Minn. 55429 ph 763 535-4734; larryjr24@yahoo.com; See photos and videos at www.myspace.com. and Enter "tilting tadpole" in the search bar, using My Space dropdown.)*



Several years ago FARM SHOW published a story on Ernie Newman's big bale cutter for chainsaws. It's a replacement chain for existing chainsaws that fits all saws with 3/8 pitch drive sprockets.

Its purpose is to cut bales or dry hay into smaller chunks to make it easier to feed in confined areas.

Ernie recently passed away, I'm his brother and I plan to continue the business. (*Karl Newman, Big Bale Cutter, 73 Reservoir Road, Candor, N.Y. 13743 ph 607 659-7448; www.Bigbalecutter.com*)

Several years ago FARM SHOW published a story on my "Double Decker Wagon" which I made to take my boys to shows (Vol. 25, No. 6). At that time I took my four kids in it - all under six years old - to farm shows. All the kids rode in the



bottom half of the wagon while supplies were stored in the top half.

Well, the boys have grown up. This winter I decided they needed to help with snow removal, so I made several shovels out of scrap wood. The boys lined up with the shovels like combines line up to harvest a wheat field, and can clear our driveway in no time at all. They're thrilled to do the work! Not really, but the driveway is cleared whenever I get home from work. (*Troy Fredrickson, 1415 N. Gladstone Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. 46201 ph 317 359-7962*)

I came up with a simple way to seed clover and other small-seeded crops onto small patches of ground. I drilled a small hole at the front of a push mower and inserted a short stub of 1/2-in. dia. plastic pipe, on top of which I attached an inverted 1-gal. plastic jug filled with seed. I drilled a small hole in the bottom of the inverted jug for a rod to go through.



There's a washer at the lower end of the rod inside the jug which serves as a shut-off. Then I cut a larger hole in the top of the jug to fill it with seed.

I mounted the mower on a platform at the front of my ATV. Then I start the mower up and pull up on the rod as needed to let seed drop down through the hole. The stream of air from the mower blades blows the seed out evenly over the ground to be seeded. The blades don't hit the seed. You have to experiment a bit to get the right amount of seed to drop. And, of course, you have to mount the mower very securely on the ATV platform. Once I'm done seeding, the mower can be used normally for mowing. (*Al Schroeder, 2055 Highway 47, Olgive, Minn. 56358*)



My home-built log splitter has a lift arm attached to the top. A 2-point grab hook lifts wood up to be split. The hook releases as the wood drops onto the splitter. The splitter can handle wood pieces that weigh up to 300 lbs. and measure 24 in. in diameter. (*Larry Zenz, HC 60, Box 154, Parks, Ark. 72950; ph 479 577-2677; zie7@ipa.net*)



Back in 1991 FARM SHOW published a story on my front-mount 4-WD articulated tractor, which positions the operator right up front for perfect visibility. I still have the tractor, which is powered by a Ford 140 cu. in. 4-cyl. water-cooled gas engine, with both driver and engine protected by a wire brush cage. The 58 hp tractor is equipped with front or rear pto, front and rear 3-pt. hitch, foot-controlled hydrostatic 4-WD, center articulation and oscillation, and four 11.2 by 24 ag tread tires.

I've put more than 4,500 hours on it and I'm not afraid to go anywhere with it. The tractor's real strength is the ideal weight distribution for front or back attachments. As a result, there's no need for calcium in the tires, no need for wheel weights,

and no need for removable weights either front or back.

I recently built a larger model that's powered by a 90 hp Deere diesel engine and rides on big 14.9 by 24 tires. Otherwise, it has all the features of the original model and works fine. However, I've found that the 90 hp model is too big to maneuver easily in the woods. I'm still partial to the original one because of its size, versatility, and maneuverability. I'd like to build more of the original models. They would be powered by a diesel engine and sell for \$60,000 to \$70,000. (*Maury Collins, Nelson Tractor Ltd., 521 Old Stoddard Road, Nelson, N.H. 03457 ph 603 847-3321; collinswork-all@yahoo.com; www.workall.com*)