

# Reader Letters



A reader in your last issue stated that Ford pickups rank third in sales behind GM and Dodge. This is not true. Actual sales of full-size pickups in 2008 were led by GM with a total of 673,334 (including Chevy and GMC), Ford F-Series in second with 515,513 sold, and Dodge Ram in third with 245,840 sold. **(James Morrison, McDonough, Ga.)**

When using a live trap, sometimes you catch a skunk. To kill the skunk without raising a stink, I cover the trap with a tarp at midday when the skunk is sleeping. Then I run a steel pipe from the exhaust on a lawn mower under the tarp and run it. Usually the skunk just goes to sleep peacefully. **(Paul Gorrell, Burlington, Iowa)**



I made this boom for my MF forklift. It simply slips over the two tines on the fork. I used it to raise heavy beams and rafters to great heights. Very handy. **(Dave Hadley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

When I recently received my new FARM SHOW in the mail, I wanted to share it



with my week-old son, Dawson. I thought I should get him started right, reading FARM SHOW early in life! We finished the magazine in one sitting and he stayed awake the whole time. **(Aaron Miller, Hagerstown, Md.)**

Here's a pretty good way to get rid of fire ants. Take a long handled shovel and mix two nests of ants together. Being territorial, the ants will fight and then move both their nests. It's an easy way to get them to move along. This is not a new idea, but it works. **(Murray Stroupe, Luray, Tenn.)**

We put a metal hood over the intake on our dryer fan. It really helps keep out



leaves, trash and moisture. Cuts down on maintenance and keeps the fan running at peak efficiency. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

I enjoyed the article in your last issue about an innovative way to insulate a church using vermiculite. Years ago we had an old farmhouse and had a contractor pump foam insulation into the ex-

terior walls. It was a waste of time because as we found out later when remodeling that the foam missed spots and there was about 15 percent shrinkage of the foam.

We decided to take another crack at insulating. Using a worm-drive circular saw with a carbide blade set at 5/8-in. deep, I cut through the lathe and plaster with the saw's baseplate up against the ceiling, cutting right to left on the interior walls and then flipping the saw over and cutting left to right. That gave me a 1 3/4-in. slit about 1 1/4 in. down from the ceiling. I poured vermiculite insulation into the walls and stuffed fiberglass insulation into the upper cavity.

I then nailed a 1 by 6 board over the slit, up against the ceiling, and caulked all the edges. When painted it makes a nice-looking border board. We could notice the difference right away in the house and our heat bills dropped. **(Bob Moty, 3816 Crockett Ct., Crystal Lake, Ill. 60014 ph 815-455-3203)**

Thank you for running the article about PolyAll 2000 in your Vol. 33, No. 1 issue, "Epoxy Penetrates, Strengthens Wood". Response has been tremendous and I have spoken to many people across Canada and the US. One buyer used it to repair insect damage to his log home. He just poured PolyAll down the insect holes and brushed it on the outside of the logs. A quick, inexpensive lasting fix.

Many purchases were to repair body work on vehicles and farm equipment. One person made some molds and cast some knobs for the dash controls on a vintage truck. Home repairs are also common uses.

Again, thanks for helping us get the word out on this unique product. **(Henry Mengay, PolyAll Fast Set International Inc., P.O. Box 1150, Bradford, Ontario L3Z 2B5 Canada ph 905 778-9010; www.polyall.com)**



Here's an easy way to make use of "wasted" roadside areas. Just put up some electric fence between the road and permanent fence to surround the grass growing in the ditch. It provides temporary grazing and calving space. **(Rex Gogerty, 33475 K Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 ph 641 487-7617)**



Here's a photo of a high-lift mini loader that I built for my garden tractor using plans from Larry Walton (Vol. 32, No. 3). I beefed up the frame with bigger tubing and made the bucket out of a used barbecue grill.

I love your magazine - my wife and I fight over who reads it first. However, once she reads it I try to hide because she finds more projects for me to build

than I'll ever be able to handle. Keep up the good work. **(Michael Eldred, 124 Sims - Thornhill Rd., Tylertow, Miss. 39667)**

We use old, leaky cattle water tanks to grow garden vegetables, including onions, strawberries, lettuce, beets, and cucumbers. Rusted-out holes at the bottom of the tank allow excess water to



drain out. Some of the tanks we already have, and the rest we get free from neighbors. The tanks measure 3 ft. wide by 5 ft. long and about 28 in. high, so we don't have to bend over very far.

Each tank sets on a thick plastic sheet along the south side of our house. The plastic sheet keeps any tree roots from coming up through the tank. We fill the tanks with soil and peat moss and occasionally add kitchen scraps to add organic matter. The cucumbers are trained to climb up cattle panels fastened to fence posts inside the tubs.

To grow strawberries we mount a layer of chicken wire above the tank to keep cats and birds out. **(Charolette Dietrich, 2053 Hwy. 2, Graceville, Florida 32440 ph 850 263-4339)**

Here's a photo of a unique clothesline that I made using old insulators from a local power company. When the power



company came through to redo our road, my father-in-law asked for a few of the insulators. They gave him more than he needed so I decided to make use of them.

I came up with the idea when my wife said she'd like a clothesline. I had a couple of Cedar posts lying around and made a notch in each post where I bolted a redwood plank. Then I attached the insulators to the top of the planks. The clotheslines are wrapped around the insulators. **(Tony Garvey, N2307 Lawn Rd., Pulaski, Wis. 54162)**

About 35 years ago I built this snowblower out of a forage blower that a neighbor gave me. I built the housing and



augers for the machine and used the gearbox from a Minneapolis Moline corn sheller to drive the augers.

At one time I used the snowblower on township roads and for our local grain elevator. One of the first years I used it we had a snowstorm with 70 mph winds. Some neighbors with single stage snow blowers couldn't do anything, but I had no trouble and was able to clear 21 of my neighbors' yards.

Another time a neighbor asked me to clear a path beside his house and back to his cistern so he could haul water to it. He showed me just where I should drive. However, when I got about half way to the cistern the machine started making an unfamiliar noise, so I backed up. It turned out I had blown away about half of a wooden picnic table, which he forgot was there. Even though the machine is now 35 years old, it still works good. **(Wesley Lindstrom, 2743 171st St., Currie, Minn. 56123)**



For years we've been selling the MTE Pinestraw mini round baler, mainly for use on pinestraw. However, we think this 3-pt. mounted baler also has a lot of potential in hay.

The baler is operated by a pto-driven hydraulic pump and makes bales that are 15 in. in diameter by 24 in. long. However, bale length can be adjusted from 18 to 24 in. Hay bales weigh anywhere from 20 to 26 lbs. As far as capacity goes, you can expect to make at least 120 hay bales per hour. The baler sells for about \$11,500. **(Jim Meier, Madison Tractor and Equipment, Madison, Georgia 30650 ph 706 342-2442; www.mtepinestraw.com)**



This metal water wheel is 10 1/2 ft. tall and fitted with 18-in. wide wooden buckets. After a long day on the farm or at the office, you can sit back and enjoy a peaceful moment with the family, watching the wheel turn and listening to the falling water.

The wheel's arms are 1 1/2-in. wide, 1/8-in. thick angle iron. The wheel itself rotates on a trailer spindle that's fitted with a sprocket, which could be used to chain-drive an alternator in order to produce electricity. It doesn't take much to turn the wheel because it's well balanced. I've watched a 15 mph wind catch the buckets and turn the wheel like a windmill. I plan to offer these for sale along with smaller models. **(David Ramirez, P.O. Box 981, Winslow, Arizona 86047 ph 928 699-0435)**



I grow tomatoes in a small wheelbarrow. You can park it in the best sun. If frost is a threat, you just wheel it inside. **(Don Allen, Shipman, Ill.)**