

Reader Letters



In regard to the story in your last issue, "Crate Tractor Purchase Goes Sour", I also ordered a tractor from John and Linda Nelson at the Nelson Equipment Corporation, also known as the Tractor Connection.

I was interested in these "kit tractors" because they were half the price of any new tractor in our area. On May 30th, 2008, we sent half the money, about \$8,000. The company kept telling us everything was good and that our tractor would be on the way once they received the second half of the money, which we sent at the end of June.

After that, we kept calling and got very little response. When they did respond to us, they kept saying everything was fine. Almost a year later, Linda Nelson told us the company was shutting down and that we would not receive our tractor. In fact, they sent out a letter saying that they had taken deposits of \$242,044 as downpayment for 18 tractors, which would not be delivered.

I'd like to hear from anyone else who was burned by this company. We are working with the Oregon attorney general's office to investigate possible fraud by this company. **(Mike Pacheco, 945 Mud Lane, Ignacio, Colo. 81137 ph 970 749-8995)**

In regard to the wheel upgrade article in a recent issue (Vol. 33, No. 2), I've seen many pickup kits with larger wheels, often up to 20 to 30-in. dia. The problem is that most factory brakes are only rated for the weight and diameter of the specified vehicle. If you don't upgrade to larger brakes, you may be setting yourself up for a liability problem. Bigger wheels for a farm pickup is a good idea, but upgrade your brakes. **(Sean McMahon, Davenport, Iowa)**

Here's how I keep birds out of my garden. I paint a rough owl's head on an aluminum pie pan. I paint the head brown with big eyes that have white dots in them. I just attach them to stakes. Works great and takes just minutes to do. **(W.A. Gibbs, Elmwood, Tenn.)**

We made a nifty 2-piece poop scoop for our yard that eliminates the need to bend over. My grandson made the metal pan in shop class. The pan handle,

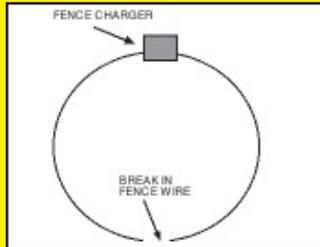


which extends below the floor of the pan, opens the lid when the scooper is in the lowered position - thanks to a small piece of angle iron attached to the pan handle. When you lift it back up, the bottom swings down so the doo-doo drops to the back of the pan. I duct taped a putty knife to a broom handle to push poop into the pan. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

I use duct tape to tape off the back teats on my sows so pigs get started on the better teats toward the front. Really works well. **(Gerold Neece, Wichita, Kan.)**

When I use my weedeater, I first slip a pair of plastic grocery bags over my shoes and pants, held in place with mask-

ing tape. When I'm done, my shoes and pant bottoms are nice and clean rather than stained with green. **(Donald Breyer, Burlington, Wis.)**



A useful fencing trick I came up with is to put a break in an electric fence halfway around. That way, if I get a short in the wire, I only have to check one side or the other for the problem. Cuts fence maintenance time in half. **(Donald Breyer, Burlington, Wis.)**



In order to pull wagons out of a field with our big 4-WD tractor, I needed a 1-in. dia. drawbar hole instead of the larger 1 1/2-in. hole in the 4-WD's drawbar. So I welded together an add-on hitch that slips over the drawbar and pins in place with a 1 1/2-in. pin. Then the wagons can be hitched to the smaller hole. Simple and it works. **(Jason Engel, Tiskilwa, Ill.)**



To keep cats and squirrels away from a wren house, I cut a slit in the side of a 5-gal. plastic bucket lid and slipped it onto the branch leading out to the birdhouse. It worked. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**



My father, Nat Ashby, made this garden cultivator during WW II when metal was hard to find. I still use this cultivator today. The hub is an old tractor piston - the wrist pin acts as the pivot point. Dad threaded the inside ends of the wrist pin to allow the bolts to support the handles. The rim of the wheel was cut from an old barrel. **(Robert Ashby, Dammeron Valley, Utah)**

Have you ever tried to drive fertilizer

spikes into the ground around trees? They often break up when you hit them with a hammer. I came up with a method that works good. I use a piece of 2-in. dia. plastic pipe and a broom handle. It lets you do the job from a standing position.



Just drop the spike down the pipe and drive it into the ground by pounding on the wood handle with a hammer. The spikes should be driven 2 in. below the surface, which is easy to do with this setup. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

I found that you can go to an overhead door company and get used door panels free. I use the heavy-insulated panels to stack wood on, and the lighter ones to cover it with. They are just the right width. **(Jim Harkness, 9541 Beard Rd., Laingsburg, Mich. 48848)**



I had trouble with mice getting into the baler twine left in my baler over the winter. So I found some old pan lids and put them over the rolls of twine. I tied the lids to a bar so that when the twine starts feeding out and the lid comes off, it will not get lost. Since I did this, no more mice. And no more having to restring the baler when the twine breaks. **(Harlin Thompson, Ravenswood, W.Va.)**

For more than 12 years my wife and I have been taking kids and grownups alike for rides on my home-built trains. I have two different trains that each pull three cars. The trains are made from race



car aluminum mounted on a metal frame-work. The single-axle cars ride on dual wheels and are made from 1-in. angle iron and race car aluminum. One of the trains can haul 24 kids at a time.

Both trains ride on rubber tires and are street legal so we can take them on the road if we want, or just drive them around the block. We often take the trains to festivals, shows, birthday parties, and so forth. Our three Boston terriers ride along in the locomotive and even have their own seat. The dogs are a big attraction wherever we go.

Each locomotive has a sound system and smokes, whistles and choo choos just like a real train. The whistle is an electronic sound system that goes through an amplifier so you can hear it for a long ways. An automatic injector delivers a homemade liquid solution onto the en-

gine manifold in order to make the smoke. I'd be willing to custom build the trains if people are interested. **(Willie Misemer, 11289 Law, 1180, Mt. Vernon, Mo. 65712 ph 417 466-7542; willjoe@centurytel.net)**

In the late 1960's Bolens designed a small farm tractor patterned after a Ford 8N. I was the design engineer assigned to that project. Three prototypes were built before the the company cancelled the project. The first two prototypes were scrapped, but I was able to buy the last prototype.



I redesigned the tractor to my liking and have used it around my farm for all these years. I also replaced the original 20 hp, 2-cyl. air-cooled engine with a 30 hp, 4-cyl. water-cooled model. I replaced the original hydrostatic transmission with a 3-speed transmission. I had to move the gas tank, originally located in front of the engine, behind the operator in order to make room for the radiator. The hood was then modified to make room for the radiator.

The tractor has a differential lock, hydraulic lift at the center and rear, electric pto clutch, front pto and 540 rpm rear pto, rear 3-pt. lift, 8-gal. gas tank, tilt steering column, alternator, front and rear lights, and front and rear auxiliary hydraulic outlets. **(Roger Mayhew, 623 Kohler Dr., West Bend, Wis. 53090)**



To hold hammer and ax heads in place I drill a small hole through the center of the head, then place a nail through the hole and cut it off about 1/8 in. on the opposite side. Then I place the nail head on a vise or anvil and use a ball peen hammer to flatten the end of the nail like a rivet. **(Leonard Seltzer, 16040 W. Elmwood, Manhattan, Ill. 60442 ph 815 478-3578)**



For decades I operated a crane to put up power lines and bridges. Now I'm 85 and I use a crane with a 90-ft. boom - and clam bucket fitted with ripper teeth - to take trees down. We had some giant maples that had to be cut. The crane makes it easy to lay them down exactly where I want them to go.

We use the clam bucket on one of my cranes to grab trees as high as 40 ft. off the ground, then cut a notch on back of the tree. Then I move the crane to break off the tree and lay it where I want, working all by myself. **(Wallace Doble, Eagle Creek, Ore.)**