

Reader Letters



Thanks for your article in the 2011 Best of FARM SHOW on our Laser Guide for chop saws, miter saws, skil saws, etc. Unfortunately, the phone number was wrong. The correct number to get in touch with us is toll-free 888-767-1262. (Bob Kelly, www.laserusinc.com; bob@laserusinc.com)



When painting metal roofs, professional painter Paul Williams, New Providence, Iowa, uses a high-pressure sprayer to remove rust before painting. He says water works a lot better on rust than most people think, and water is free. I snapped this picture when he was painting one of our buildings. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)

I disagree with the idea of friendlier "no trespassing" signs featured in your last issue. I've had 14 break-ins at my place. They didn't stop until I posted my property with the following notice:

*Trespasser!
The owner of these premises
Is well-armed,
Trained and
Will defend this property
With deadly force and
A vengeance.*

*You are advised to
Carefully consider your
Options before
Breaking and entering,
Stealing, or destroying
Property of this citizen.*

In my opinion, criminals don't understand "friendly". They understand plainly stated threats. (George, Suntrap Ranch, Pioneer, Calif.)

I didn't have a fruit cellar so I got 5 refrigerators and put canned tomatoes in one, beans in another, potatoes in another, and pears and apples in another. The refrigerators are in an unheated building so, to keep everything from freezing, I added a power strip hooked to a temperature switch and put a little night light in each one. Nothing has ever frozen in 3 years of doing this. (Jbrandt000@centurytel.net)



I had good luck last year planting watermelons in the cracks of an unused hog and cattle concrete feed yard. No weeding was needed and very little watering. We grew huge watermelons because the ground was already fertilized

from the animals that used to be raised on the lot. The biggest watermelon weighed 40 lbs. and the smallest 18 lbs. They were super good. (Larry Bower, N1616 Haddinger Rd., Monroe, Wis. 53566)

When my old plow truck died, I decided to mount the truck snowplow on my tractor. I had to make a 3-pt. mounting bracket



that would hold it at the right angle and also let me use the original 8-in. hydraulic cylinder. I also had a machine shop widen the blade 2 ft. on either side – from 7 ft. to 11 ft. – so the plow would move snow outside the wheels. Works like a charm. (Louie Waelti, Monroe, Wis.)



I made a "creep feeder" for kitties out of a live raccoon trap. I set the entrance gate at a height that kittens can fit under but not older cats. Works great to make sure young kittens get plenty to eat. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)



After reading a story in FARM SHOW on "sewing machine" tractors (Vol. 32, No. 2), I decided to make my own. It has a "motor" made from channel iron with chainsaw spark plugs; a radiator fashioned out of an old wood rasp; a chrome exhaust stack; and a seat made from a small electrical box. There's even a drawbar on back. The rear wheels are off a golf bag caddy, and the front wheels from a shopping cart.

I've made 7 or 8 different sewing machine tractors and sell them for \$200 apiece. (Ted Slaght, 2247 Kurn Hattin Rd., Putney, Vt. 05346 ph 802 722-4062)

I used an 8-ft. long salvaged bridge beam and a 4-in. hydraulic cylinder to build this heavy duty log splitter that's mounted on a 2-wheel trailer. I pull it behind my compact utility tractor or pickup.

Power is provided by a Kohler 16 hp engine that operates a 3,000 psi pump. The cylinder has a 2-ft. stroke so it'll handle the biggest logs. I haven't found



anything that it won't split. I used steel tubing to build the trailer's axles and bought new spindles and welded them in. It rides on 11.5 by 15 implement tires. A toolbox on back is used to store wedges. I already had the engine and most of the steel. The only items I bought were the pump and hydraulic hoses. I don't know exactly how much I spent to build it, but I know I saved a lot of money. (Larry Power, 16253 Snyder Rd., Petersburg, Ill. 61675 ph 217 632-3179)

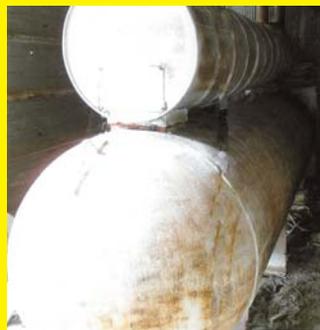


I had a lot of fun building this 1/2-scale Farmall Super M tractor. I started with a 1969 Cub Cadet 106 garden tractor equipped with a 12 hp Kohler engine and 3 flat tires and a rotted-out seat.

I took all the dimensions from a real 1952 Super M and scaled them down. There was a lot of thought, trial and error throughout the whole process. I worked about 6 weeks by myself and then a retired friend worked alongside me for another 2 1/2 months. We made the hood out of fiberglass, using a wooden mold. To make the fiberglass gas tank we made a Styrofoam mold.

The mini tractor isn't exactly 1/2-scale, but it's as close as we could get. (Bob Clark, 7242 Old Tarlton Pike, Circleville, Ohio 43113 ph 740 474-5442)

We burn slab wood in modified 1,000-gal. propane tanks to heat several greenhouses on our farm. We just fit the ends of the tank with stove doors. The tanks are long enough that we don't have



to cut the slabs up. Each furnace is fitted into one end of our furnace room, so we can load the furnace from outside.

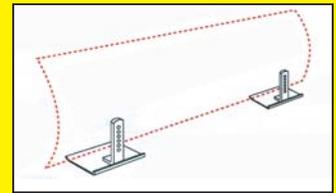
We came up with the idea after propane costs rose dramatically in recent years. We load the tanks by hand so this system is a lot of work, but it's relatively cheap and we get a lot of heat for the money. We burn the wood at night.

We still use propane furnaces to help stabilize temperatures. The thermostatically-controlled propane furnaces are used until we get the wood furnaces loaded for the night, and take over in the morning as the wood fire idles down. The wood furnaces provide 80 to 90 percent of the heat and are also thermostatically controlled.

There are some hazards with such

a large furnace. One time fire burned the framework around the furnace, so we refitted the furnace room with a steel frame to reduce the fire hazard. (John Shirk, 16500 Gracey Creek Rd., Barnett, Mo. 65011 ph 573 378-6675)

My new "blade runners" are designed to fit blades on Deere lawn and garden tractors to prevent gouging the lawn when plowing snow. It also protects the



blade edge. They mount in existing skid shoe holes on the back side of the blade and can be adjusted for height using holes in the mounting bracket.

Deere blades come with skid shoes, but they're only 1 1/2 in. wide which isn't wide enough to keep the blade's edge up off the ground. My blade runner is 5 in. wide, and the shoe extends an inch or so in front of the blade to keep the blade's edge off the ground. When you don't need to use the blade runners you can pull pins to remove them.

They sell for \$39 per pair plus S&H. (Eldon Oyen, 2387 Birchwood Dr., Dubuque, Iowa 52002 ph 563 583-3671)



Near Luling, Texas you'll find this one-of-a-kind oil well pump jack that's made to look like a giant, fluttering butterfly. The butterfly's wings move up and down as the pump jack works. (Harry Stracener, 514 Tanglewood Trail, Buda, Texas 78610 ph 512 312-2317)



The Hough Funeral Home in Raymond, Ill., owns a high quality, horse-drawn hearse for families willing to pay a bit more (\$1,600) to lay a loved one to rest. The hearse itself was built in 1894 in Sterling, Ill., and is a masterpiece of woodworking. People are intrigued by its detailed craftsmanship. (C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)

To stir 5-gal. buckets of paint I came up with the idea of bending an old car antenna into a U-shape and using an electric drill to power it. I made a small hole in the paint bucket's lid to insert the stirrer. (Trent Sexton, Anchorage, Alaska 99514 ph 907 748-4341)

