

You Asked For It

What's the name and address of the company that makes a swather-mounted rock picker? (Dale Bang, Kildeer, N. Dak.)

C.A. Ranger, Lloydminster, Sask., makes a rotary rock picker that's designed to fit any swather (Vol. 12, No. 3). It's fitted with an out-front hydraulic-powered reel that rakes both rocks and roots into a metal-fingered scoop bucket. The reel works 2 to 3 in. below the surface. When the rock scoop fills up, it lifts to dump into a rear-mounted hopper. "It's got much more maneuverability than any other rock picker because it mounts on a swather. You can turn on a dime and clean up an entire hillside in the time it takes a conventional, trailing rock picker to turn around to make a second pass. Handles rocks from 2 in. in dia. up to 40 in.," says Cliff Ranger, inventor and manufacturer. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, C.A. Ranger, 4916 41st., Box 1377, Lloydminster, Sask. S9V 0C9 Canada (ph 403 825-7911 or 875-8604).

Some time back FARM SHOW featured a do-it-yourself kit for repairing car, truck and tractor alternators. How can I get more information? (Harvey Mitchell, Council Bluffs, Iowa)

Georgia farmer Roger Bacon, who developed the alternator kit (Vol. 10, No. 6), says anyone who can handle a screwdriver can rebuild an alternator. "When you buy a factory rebuilt alternator, only those parts that are visibly worn have been replaced. Our kit, on the other hand, replaces every part found inside an alternator, except the rotor and stator which rarely fail," says Bacon. Each kit contains rectifier, diodes, voltage regulator and all hardware. Pickup and car kits sell for \$15 to \$20 while heavy-duty kits for trucks and tractors sell for \$20 to \$40. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Corey Inc., Rt. 1, Box 791, Doerun, Georgia 31744 (ph 912 776-7720).

Several years ago FARM SHOW carried a story about a portable rock crusher that crushes rocks in the field where they lay. What's the address for the manufacturer? (Jeff Logan, Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338)

Josef Willibald, a West German manufacturer, makes the on-the-go rock crusher that crushes all rocks in the top 3 in. of soil (Vol. 8, No. 4). The crusher is pto-powered and mounts on a tractor 3-pt. Stones up to 12 in. in dia. are crushed by high-speed rotating hammers. The 5-ft. wide machine covers 1 to 2 acres per hour. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Josef Willibald, Maschinenfabrik, D-7771, Frickingen-Altheim, West Germany.

I'd like more information on the car wheel pto that's used to drive grain augers. I misplaced that issue. (Kurtis Hiatt, Peetz, Colo.)

Spencer Frost, Monticello, Utah, uses an old Plymouth Belvedere, a Ford Bronco and a Chevrolet pickup to power his pto-powered grain augers thanks to his pto adapter plate that bolts to wheel rims (Vol. 12, No. 6). Frost simply jacks the wheel about an in. off the ground, removes the tires, bolts on the adapter plate and puts the vehicle in gear. "The more gears in the transmission, the greater your control of auger speed. The Bronco, for example, has six forward and two reverse speeds so I can really slow the auger down. By shifting to reverse, I can run the auger backward to clean it out when switching between crops or fertilizer. A 15-gal. tank of fuel will fill a 7,500 bu. bin. That's about as much fuel as a tractor would use," says Frost, who sells adapter plates for \$50. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Spencer Frost, Box 1123, Monticello, Utah 84535.

Could I please get more details about the fund-raising idea featured in a recent issue that involved running a pickup without oil? (John Kent Powers, Bluffs, Ill.)

The Knights of Columbus in Beresford, S. Dak., got the idea of selling chances at \$1 apiece on how long a junker pickup will run without oil or water before it "blows up" (Vol. 12, No. 6). In staging the blow-up, the engine is warmed up for 5 min., then shut off and the oil and water drained out. The engine is then restarted and run at 50 mph with the back end jacked up or the driveshaft disconnected. At a recent event, two entries guessed the exact time the engine would blow (4 min., 25 sec.) and shared the \$100 grand prize. "The longest a vehicle has gone before blowing is 8 min. We have a firetruck standing by just in case the engine should catch fire," says Bob Schumacher of the Knights of Columbus.

I'm looking for an easy-to-use walnut cracker. I harvest about 40 bu. of nuts each year and crack them in a vise and give them to rest homes or people in low-rent housing. The problem is that my arm gets quite tired so I need an easier way to handle them. (Ed Ahrens, Estherville, Iowa)

One of the best nutcrackers we've seen is built by Clarence Vetsch, La Crescent, Minn. (Vol. 10, No. 5). It's foot-powered and you can sit down in a chair while you use it. To crack, you simply step on a foot pedal which pulls down on a lever that cracks the nut against the head of a bolt. The bolt can be screwed up or down to accommodate different size nuts. Vetsch, who is retired, makes the nutcrackers in his garage and sells them for \$24 plus shipping. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clarence Vetsch, 722 Second St. N., La Crescent, Minn. 55947 (ph 507 895-4744).

I want to mount a Deere forage harvester pickup on a Deere combine to help pick up swathed grain. Does anyone make a mounting kit that'll make that possible? (Darell Reigel, Marshfield, Wis.)

Harley Nuehring, Kanawha, Iowa makes a kit to mount a Deere forage pickup on a Deere combine to pick up windrowed small grains (Vol. 4, No. 2). It lets you attach the hay header directly to the combine's feedhouse. Nuehring developed the kit because he figured it would be cheaper to use the forage pickup than to buy a separate combine pickup attachment since he only had a minimal number of acres of windrowed oats to harvest. The rest of his small grains are direct-cut by the combine. It also eliminates the need to remove the reel and automatic header height control from the combine table when switching between soybeans and oat harvests. Sells for \$495. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harley Nuehring, Box 101, Rt. 1, Kanawha, Iowa 50447 (ph 515 587-2296).

What's the address of the men who restore steering wheels on older tractors as featured in a recent issue of FARM SHOW? (F. E. Johnson, Jr.)

Murlyn Schnaser and Arvid Whiting strip off the old rubber, sand blast the wheels, and then place them inside a mold on a 390-ton press to recover them with new rubber under 350° heat (Vol. 13, No. 2). The two men got into the business because they both restore tractors and always had trouble finding replacements for tractor steering wheels with cracked, broken and flaking rubber. Cost to refurbish an old wheel is \$45. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Minn-Kota Repair, Rt. 1, Box 99, Milbank, S. Dak. 57252 (ph 605 432-4315).

Several years ago FARM SHOW ran a story about a new process for preserving small animals. Instead of stuffing the skin of the animals, the entire body of the animal is freeze-dried. We would like to get in touch with this company in order to preserve our pet dog, which died recently. (Ferdie J. Paul, Jr., Athens, Wis.)

"It's the next best thing to bringing a pet back to life," says Roger Saatzer, president of Preserv-A-Pet, Nisswa, Minn. (Vol. 10, No. 3). Pet owners from across the country send their four-legged loved ones to Saatzer to be preserved using the first-of-its-kind process. Freeze-drying extracts all water from the body without altering its shape or size. All decomposition is halted and the animal won't shrink or have an odor. Pet owners ship their pets frozen by overnight express along with a photo or two showing the pose they want their pet to be preserved in. The pet is then thawed, shaped into the desired pose, and freeze dried. Eyes are the only artificial body parts added. Cost for freeze-drying pets ranges from about \$600 for a house cat to \$2,000 for a large watchdog in the jumping or "attack" position. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Saatzer, North Star Freeze Dry, Inc., P.O. Box 409, Nisswa, Minn. 56468 (ph 800 551-3223).

Who makes a protective coating that I can spray on round bales to protect them from weather damage? (H. Johnson, Vermillion, S. Dak.)

Nutri-Shield is a powder that you mix with water to spray on bales. As it dries, the product forms a resilient, plastic-like coating that protects both round and square bales from moisture. Once Nutri-Shield has dried it sheds water like a plastic cover, according to the company. A "hoop" sprayer equipped with a 9-ft. dia. boom and 10 spray jets is used to apply the coating. It can be mounted on front of a pickup or on the front or back of a tractor. The sprayer will cover a 1,500 lb. round bale



in less than 5 sec. It comes with a 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, 7700 roller Hi-Pro pump, and a 55-gal. graduated tank made of heavy gauge, high-impact plastic. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nutri-Shield, Inc., 15416 Johnson Drive, Shawnee Mission, Kan. 66217 (ph 913 631-0500). A protective coating has also been developed by Dale Halford, Bingham, Ill. (Vol. 13, No. 2). Halford uses an edible soybean oil-based mixture that he calls "balebutter". The protective coating is sprayed evenly in a 1/4-in. thick layer over the top of bales. According to Halford, the soybean oil in the mixture repels rain and keeps the bale-butter from washing away. It also boosts the nutritional value of bales. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Halford, Box 30, Bingham, Ill. 62011 (ph 618 423-9048).

About a year ago I read a story in FARM SHOW about a farmer who built his own heavy-duty tailgate for a Ford pickup. I've lost the issue and would like more information on how he built it. (L.G. Murphy, Mocksville, N.C.)

In Vol. 12, No. 4, Pete Johnson said the problem with tailgates on Ford pickups built from 1973 to 1979 is that "if you drop a bale or other heavy object on the tailgate, it will be bent for life. To build my own tailgate, first I cut a piece of heavy 2-in. pipe the length of the tailgate. The pipe acts as the hinge for the tailgate so weight is not a factor. I welded the hinge sockets out of the old tailgate into each end of the pipe. Then I cut two 1 1/2-in. by 3/16 in. angle iron pieces for uprights and make a top piece from 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing. Four 2 by

1-in. channel iron pieces fit between the top and bottom pieces for strength. Next I cut a piece of 12 ga. tread plate to fit over the inside of the gate. I always weld the full length of the outer top edge of the tread plate because of the amount of abuse it takes. I mount the latches from the old tailgate on the new one and then use four clevises and 7/16-in. rod off the controls of an old IH "tumblebug" plow, along with a lever type handle, to open and close the tailgate latches.

"I've built three of these tailgates and they've been backed into posts, bulls have walked on them, and all kinds of equipment has been dropped on them with no problems." Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pete Johnson, Rt. 1, Ballantine, Mont. 59006 (ph 406 967-6204).

I'm looking for the company that reworks combine rasp bars by cutting out every other rib and then hard surfaces the remaining ribs using tungsten carbide rods. (Gale Mares, Schuyler, Neb.)

"Manufacturers design cylinder bars primarily for wheat. The bars aren't aggressive enough for corn or soybeans," says Clarence Trimpe, Seymour, Ind., who has been custom retooling rasp bars for years since he first tried it on a Gleaner "E" in 1966. Why haven't manufacturers followed suit? "They'd probably ruin their market for replacement bars. These reworked and hard-surfaced bars last at least three times as long as company bars," says Trimpe. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clarence Trimpe, Junction U.S. 31 and 50, Seymour, Ind. 47274 (ph 812 522-1398).

I'm interested in an article that appeared several years ago about a terrace or waterway digger that was made out of a moldboard plow. (Charles E. Hammonds, Rt. 1, Box 106A, Freeman, Mo. 64746)

Adrian Arnold, Tipton, Kan., built a "whirlwind" terrace plow out of a 5-bottom plow (Vol. 9, No. 3). He removed the first and fifth bottoms and spaced out the remaining three bottoms to make room for vertically-mounted augers that mount ahead of each bottom. The augers are belt-driven by a pto-powered gearbox. As the bottoms slice off a furrow of dirt, the augers throw it to the side. On the first pass Arnold runs the tractor slow so dirt rolls over in a hump. On the second pass, he runs faster so dirt is thrown on top of the first pass. Requires about a 120 hp. tractor. A motorcycle wheel fitted with an odometer keeps track of mileage when doing custom work. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Adrian's Mfg., Adrian Arnold, Box 127, Tipton, Kan. 67485 (ph 913 373-5685).

What's the address of the company that makes rubber lawn mower blades to fit any lawn mower? (David Haug, Preston, Minn.)

Saf-T-Blade, Inc., makes a rubber mower blade that they say "cuts grass as well or better than steel thanks to the nylon fibers that run through it." (Vol. 12, No. 6) The blade virtually eliminates danger to toes and fingers from spinning blades and reduces the danger from thrown rocks and other objects. One size replaces any 17 to 22 in. blade. You simply trim off the ends of the rubber blade. Company representative John Chung told FARM SHOW that after our initial report, the company had some delays bringing the product to market, so checks from readers were returned with a note that people would be contacted when the blade became available. The company just received its first shipment of blades. They sell for \$12.99 apiece plus \$3.00 shipping. Contact: FARMSHOW Followup, Saf-T-Blade, Inc., 1422 California St., San Francisco, Calif. 94109 (ph 415 776-5755).