

Reader Letters



I beg to differ with the article in your last issue that says Massey Ferguson's new HD Series 2600 tractor is the highest horsepower-to-weight tractor in its class. I'd like to point out that Mahindra's 60 Series is from 600 to 1,300 lbs. heavier than the MF 2600 for the corresponding horsepower, either 2-WD or 4-WD. You can confirm by checking the weight specifications at both companies' websites. **(Brandi Williams, Willis, Texas)**

Most people don't think Japanese beetles will do great damage to farm crops but this picture from last summer proves



otherwise. The beetles swarmed over cobs on the outer rows of this field, working their way down the silks. After several days, I skinned back the husks to see that only a couple kernels were left. The good thing is that the bugs seemed to be limited to the outer rows of the field. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

I wonder if anyone's ever heard of a machine that will crush up and sift garden soil. So often you are dealing with rock hard clay soil or large debris in your soil. If there's nothing out there like that, maybe one of my fellow readers could get busy and make one? **(Joseph Clifford, P.O. Box 28376, Green Bay, Wis. 54324)**

I've found a way to use Google Earth, which is a free program you can download at www.earth.google.com, to measure the acreage of fields.

After finding the field, you just click on the "measure" logo on the toolbar. Change "mile" to "feet". If the field has rounded edges, then change to path. Start going around the field with the cursor. Keep the line following the edge of the field. Go completely around the boundary. Take the figure and divide it by 4. Then take that number and multiply it by that same number. Then divide that number by 43,560.

For example, if the total number is 4,000 ft., divide that by 4 and the answer is 1,000. Then multiply 1,000 by 1,000 which equals 1,000,000. Divide that by 43,560, which equals 22.9 acres. It's very accurate. We were extending a terrace and measured first on the computer. When we got to the field we were only off by 2 ft. **(Glen Schweppe, Syracuse, Neb. 68446)**

When I first saw the advertising for FARM SHOW, I did not believe you could deliver on what you promised. That's why I asked to see a copy of the magazine before I subscribed. You made a believer out of me. I was glad to discover that there are still people in this country that live up to what they say. The info and knowledge that I found in just your "Great Shop Ideas" book alone is worth far more than the one-year subscription price. **(Larry Gay, Clancy, Mont.)**

Here's how to light a pellet or grain stove

without using fire starter gels. I keep a jar filled with pellets and a little diesel fuel. Fill the jar half full of wood pellets and splash an ounce or two of diesel in with them. Shake it up and the pellets will soak up the diesel while retaining their shape. A couple ounces of pellets will light a stove quite easily, but not explosively. **(Max Kaiser, Napanee, Ont., Canada)**

Thanks for your article in the last issue on our Hydro-Stackers – vertical grow pots for growing hydroponically – that we use in our "pick your own" business. Unfortunately, the phone number was wrong. The correct number to contact us is 815 557-4629. **(Dennis Knutson, Newark, Ill. www.knutsonsharvest.com)**

In Vol. 34, No. 2, Magna Matic states that they have the only mower blade sharpener on the market. Belsaw Machinery in Kansas City, Mo., has had a blade sharpener for more than 30 years. I bought one in 1980. I have sharpened hundreds of blades with no problems other than buying new grinding wheels. **(James Baker, Frostburg, Md.)**



In your Vol. 30, No. 3 issue you featured a plan to build a push cart. I finally found a reason to build one for the grandsons of the lady I'm seeing. I thought it would be fun to surprise them.

The only thing I had to purchase was the front axle. All the rest came off the scrap heap, including the wheels, which came off two pull-type golf carts. **(Mitch Vandiggelen, Algonquin, Ill.)**

My grandmother came up with a quick and easy remedy for a sore throat. It makes use of 1 egg, a teaspoon of salt, and a bath towel.

Roll the towel lengthwise on a table, then crack the egg and place the raw egg white on the center of the towel. Douse the egg white with a teaspoon of salt and let it set a couple minutes until the egg white starts to absorb into the towel. Then wrap the towel around your neck and pin it together so it'll stay in place. The next morning your sore throat will be gone. It works because the egg and salt mixture presses against your neck and cleans out the skin's pores. Your neck will be crusty with salt.

Grandma used this idea on me as a kid, and also on a friend who was prone to sore throats. **(Jodi Creeron, 5 Stoneleigh Knoll, Old Lyme, Conn. 06371 ph 860 434-8920)**

I make my living selling firewood and making chainsaw sculptures. Recently I carved this enormous 5-ft. tall, 5-ft. dia. pumpkin out of cottonwood. It's painted orange. The wood I used was wet and heavy so the pumpkin ended up weighing about 1,500 lbs. It was so heavy we had



to haul it on a wrecker to the buyer. To transport it, straps were tied around the pumpkin, which was then winched up onto the wrecker's platform.

I carve a few smaller pumpkins every year, including one that I recently made from sugar maple. It weighs about 400 lbs. People like the wood pumpkins because they look neat and last from year to year. **(Alec Alberti Jr., 4924 Rt. 23, Windham, N.Y. 12496 ph 518 734-4689; alecalbertijr@yahoo.com)**

The owner of this home-built tractor is Burt Gesner of Madison, Conn., who's now in his early 90's. He built the tractor back in 1954 to use at his summer home in rural Unity, N.H.

Gesner and his family told me about all the different years, makes and models of vehicle parts he used to build the tractor. It's a great example of one man's ingenuity, sensibility and even artistry in



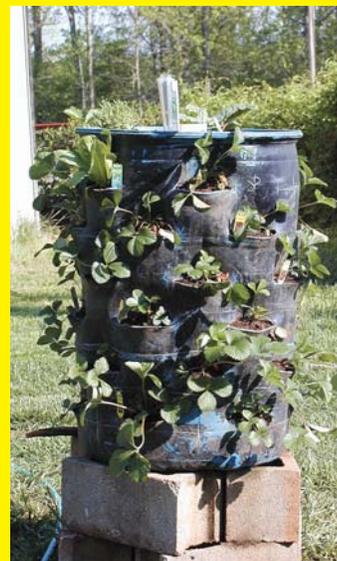
creating a working product that has lasted for many years.

The parts he used to build the tractor include an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, a Rockford clutch, the side rails off a Model T, the steering spindle off a 1930 Chevrolet, the steering column and the hood off a 1928 Chevrolet, the front wheel off a Crosley, the transmission off a 1936 Plymouth, the rear end off a 1932 Hudson, and the rear wheels off a 1934 Chevrolet 1 1/2-ton truck. The body was made from a 60-gal. oil dispenser. **(Arthur G. Bastian, 91 Spring Farm Road, Claremont, N.H. 03743 ph 603 542-2676)**

There was a report in the last issue of FARM SHOW about a reader who had trouble with his Empress Splendor Trees. His letter made it sound like we were responsible for his bad experience.

The problem is that the person listed never purchased a tree from us. We've gone back several years in our files and find no evidence of him as a customer. It's possible he purchased one of these trees from another seller in the past. But because we are now the exclusive suppliers for these amazing fast-growing trees, it sounds like we're at fault. We work very hard to serve our many FARM SHOW customers. We want everyone

to have a positive experience with these trees and we have hundreds of satisfied customers. **(Wendy S. Burton, World Tree Technologies, Inc., 9943 East Bell Road, Scottsdale, Ariz. 85260 ph 888 693-8733; www.worldtreetech.com)**



Thanks for the article in your last issue about gardening in a plastic barrel. I decided to try it myself. I cut holes in the side of the barrel and then used a piece of wood and some heat from a small torch to stretch out the holes enough to make room for plants. This picture shows the finished barrel garden with strawberries around the outside and rhubarb and lavender planted in the top. **(Gary Schmalz; yoohoogt@gmail.com)**



We cut down the sides of an old Robibec automatic self-propelled feed cart and made it into a large bale feeder for use in the barn. It works great. No lifting. We use a skid steer to load it and then drive it through the barn. We've used for 3 years. **(Francis Henderson, 11381 Henderson Road, Brinston, Ont., Canada K0E 1C0 ph 613 652-4652)**



I don't like to spend money if I don't have to. So, instead of spending money on a water sprinkler, I just punch about 12 slots in the bottom of a clean gallon milk jug with a pocket knife. Then I just dunk the jug in a barrel of water and use it to water my flowerbeds. **(Heather A. Sager, Tomsbrook, Va.)**