

Reader Letters



Here's a highway safety idea that can be used on any vehicle that has backup sensors embedded in the rear bumper. Just take one of the sensors out of the bumper and attach it to your side rear view mirror. That way when you're driving on the freeway and there's a car in your blind spot, the beeper will sound to alert you. **(Ron Stoen, Lowry, Minn.)**

My grandpa built me a dump trailer with a trailer hitch. He made it with a tub off a wheelbarrow. I can haul some big



stuff with it. I pick vegetables from my grandparents' garden and then haul them with my trailer and tractor. I also help my grandpa haul firewood with it. I can spread out a pile of dirt or gravel by back dragging it. All in all, it's very useful. I can't wait to see what my grandpa comes up with next! **(Michael Henderson, New Plymouth, Ohio)**

Neighbors and old customers cut and welded this sign to mark the location of a popular country gas station that no



longer exists. From the 1930's to the 1960's, Joe's Station was located on U.S. Highway 65 south of Iowa Falls, Iowa. It was a favorite watering hole for farmers, travelers, card players, story tellers and kids of all ages. Besides pumping gas and patching tires, Joe was famous for telling stories from his colorful past. He kept irregular hours and often slept on a cot in the station and washed out his socks in the pop cooler. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

I've noticed in recent issues of FARM SHOW that readers have had "worst buy" experiences with a company that sells used work clothes. I'd like to encourage those readers to try our company, Used Industrial Uniforms. We guarantee you'll be happy. Pants and shirts start at \$2. Coveralls start at \$10 and jackets \$25. My wife, Tootie, and I are in our 70's and we've been in this business for 18 years. **(Darrell Grover, Used Industrial Uniforms, 819 Mt. Hope, Crystal, Mich. 48818, ph 989 235-6566)**

Here's an inexpensive way to drive an icy driveway or road without having to use tire chains — just fasten orange plastic

synthetic twine around your car's tires. Insert the twine through a hole in the wheel rim, then reach around back, grab the twine and bring it around crosswise over the tire tread. Repeat the pattern until the entire tire has been crisscrossed with plastic twine. Then tie a square knot in the twine and cut off the excess.

I've used this idea many times and it works. The twine provides a little extra bite and is pretty rugged. I can drive 5 miles to town and back before the plastic will wear through. I've also used 3/8 and 1/2-in. dia. rope on trucks to get an even bigger bite. Works on motorcycle tires, too. **(James Briggs, 12649 6530 Road, Montrose, Colo. 81401, ph 970 249-9432)**

When the body became too badly rusted to use on my 1975 Chevy 1/2-ton pickup, I kept the frame and mounted a 1971



Chevy El Camino body on it. I painted the body silver, with a flat black hood and roof. The El Camino body is bolted onto eight, 4-in. sq. brackets that I welded onto the pickup frame. I added rubber cushions to each bracket to make the ride smoother. I replaced the pickup's original tires with 32-in. tall tires to keep the body from twisting on uneven ground.



I kept the pickup's original 350 cu. in. engine and 4-speed transmission.

The window frames were also rusted so I welded some small pieces of metal around them. I used Carhart jean pockets and hammer loops to make "pockets" on the insides of the doors to hold tools and parts. **(Shane Myrick, 17758 Vail Rd., Pleasanton, Kan. 66075, ph 913 757-3309; cell 913 671-9812)**

I've been retired for many years but stay active making ice cream for folks at shows the old fashioned way. I use a



1964 Deere 110 garden tractor to belt-drive three 1 1/2-gal. wooden ice cream making canisters, which I keep on an 8-ft. trailer that I pull behind my pickup. The canisters were originally designed to be hand cranked. They mount on a wooden platform that extends behind the trailer. The tractor faces backward on the trailer.

The tractor came equipped with a side-mounted pulley originally used to

belt-drive the mower deck. The pulley belt-drives a 30 to 1 reduction gearbox mounted on the platform. The gearbox is equipped with a double pulley that's used to belt-drive the canisters. I can make 1, 2 or 3 different batches of ice cream at a time.

I attend shows up to 100 miles away in any direction. I go to machinery auctions, open houses for co-op stores, arts and craft festivals and rodeos. There's no way I can keep up with the demand at these shows so I also keep a large freezer on front of the trailer. I'm 82 years old and am in my fifth year of my ice cream making business. My wife and I enjoy our business and our many customers. **(Charles Swanson, 703 Boligee St., Eutaw, Ala. 35462, ph 205 372-0954)**



Every year people on ATV's and snowmobiles get hurt when they accidentally run into chains, cables or wires strung across farm roads. You can prevent the problem by hanging plastic milk jugs from them. In the winter, you might paint a black stripe across the jugs to make them even more visible. **(Phillip W. Maher, P.O. Box 12012, Fresno, Calif. 93776, ph 559 477-6515)**

I read the story about the portable garden sink made by Ken Carpenter of Grangeville, Idaho (Vol. 35, No. 6)



and thought I'd send you a photo of my own version. It lets me wash vegetables outside before bringing them into our house. Both the water and dirt go right back into our garden.

I bought an old kitchen sink at a second hand store for a few dollars. I used 2 by 4's to build a 6-ft. long, 4-ft. wide wood frame in the shape of a long wheelbarrow and bolted an old steel door onto it, then bolted the sink on top of the door. The wheelbarrow rides on a pair of 8-in. wheels and has pipe handles that measure about 1 ft. long. I attached a female coupler to the bottom of the faucet so I can hook a garden hose up to it.

I added a long flexible drain hose to drain water away after washing the vegetables. At the end of the growing

season, I just disconnect the hose and roll the sink into our tool shed. **(Harold Gallaher, 1247 Hwy. 00, Farmington, Mo. 63640, ph 573 701-5633; hdgfarm@gmail.com)**

My wife Lois asked me to decorate the side of our house that faces the road, so I used 1-in. sq. tubing and 14-ga. metal to



build this 15-ft. tall, 6-ft. wide metal arch. She drew a photo of what she wanted the top of the arch to look like and said I could decorate the rest of the arch as I wished. I hired someone to sandblast and paint the arch black. It's decorated with flowers and cats, trees, a small picket fence and a cross in the middle. The color and detail work was added by Lois's uncle. **(Randy Kurtz, N6858 County Hwy. DE, Beaver Dam, Wis. 53916, ph 920 885-4709; Kurtz@ziemanproductions.com)**



I'm the pastor for a rural Indiana congregation, and a year and a half ago you ran a story on the "playground tractor" I built for kids that belong to the church. At the time the story was published the playground was not yet complete, and the photo showed just a big Deere tractor with steps on both sides and on back leading up to the operator's platform. The wheels are made from big wooden electrical spools.

We recently finished the project, adding a barn with a hay loft that has a slide coming out of it. We also added a play tunnel and hay wagon. **(Jack Suits, 7180 E. County Road 920 N., Butlerville, Ind. 47223 ph 812 591-2295)**



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