

# Reader Letters



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For a panoramic view behind my tractor, I position the cab's sun visors in the down position and then attach four auto supply clip-on mirrors to them side by side. Then I adjust the visors for the best view. Works great. **(Ed Dittmer, 1957 N. 1250<sup>th</sup> Ave., Liberty, Ill. 62347)**

Two years ago FARM SHOW featured an old idea called a "sapling strangler" with a short length of chain welded to a pipe. A reader, the late Mac Kroenlein, Nokomis, Ill., adapted the idea but made a nifty variation.

Mac cut a hole in the side of a piece of heavy pipe so that when you insert a chain through the length of the pipe, it comes out the other side and hooks into the hole, after running it behind the sapling or brush.

When you pull on the chain, the pipe digs into the tree, grabbing it in a vise-like action that will not let go no matter how small or slippery whatever you're pulling. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

An article in the last issue of FARM SHOW about Farm Manuals Fast has prompted me to offer a few comments and reservations. This is a small startup company run by a young man who scans and then emails service manuals for older farm equipment. I need to point out that he is breaking the law with some of what he's scanning and selling. For example, the picture showed a John Deere manual and others that I know the companies would not sanction. From my experience he is offering low quality electronic files with no safeguards against pirating. That means he is making it possible for the less than honorable ebay/internet types to copy his work and the work of others, which will put them all out of business in short order. I applaud this young man's entrepreneurship, but he needs to think through his business plan more carefully. **(Paul Jensen, Albert Lea, Minn.)**



Thanks for featuring our bolt-on rotor flights for IH and Case IH combines in the 2011 Best of FARM SHOW. We wanted to let your readers know we recently introduced flight replacements for Case IH AFX 88 Series impellers. They greatly improve rotor feeding performance and longevity, moving more crop with less wear and a reduction in fuel consumption. Heavy-duty replaceable wear plates are available in cast chrome or heat-treated steel. Best of all, they can be installed without removing the rotor from the combine.



I've discovered that a hand-operated propane torch will get a fireplace burning in just seconds. It works a lot faster than other lighting methods. It's a good way to start barbeque briquettes, too. **(C.F. Marley, 26288 Oconee Ave., Nokomis, Ill. 62075 ph 217 563-2588)**



Everyone who drives by Sherrill's Café, Tipton, Ind., gets a chuckle out of this catchy sign. Owner Debbie Neff has had the sign up for years, and it causes curious people to go out of their way and stop there. She sells greeting cards with the sign on it. **(C.F. Marley, 26288 Oconee Ave., Nokomis, Ill. 62075 ph 217 563-2588)**

When building electric fence I slip part of the inner tube from an old car tire over the wood anchor post to insulate it. Then I loop the wire around the post and use a small cable clamp to secure it. **(Albert Tremblay, P.O. Box 367, Radville, Sask., Canada S0C 2G0)**



I thought your subscribers might like to see the next generation of FARM

SHOW readers. My father-in-law, Dave Starowitz, is with my 3-month-old son Gunner who's reading the most recent issue of FARM SHOW. **(Kimberly Starowitz, 8156 Route 237, LeRoy, N.Y. 14482 ph 585 343-2603)**

I enjoyed the article in a recent issue describing how Mike Toppen of Burnips, Mich., uses drain tile to save garden plants from cutworms (Vol. 35, No. 4). Here's an even simpler idea. For the last 10 years I've simply placed a toothpick on each side of my plants, and I haven't lost a single plant to cutworms.

I purposely leave some plants "unprotected" to see if this method really works, and the unprotected plants always get cut down. Also, those drain tile plant protectors that Mike uses will always have to be stored during the winter, whereas I simply let my toothpicks turn into compost. **(James Adkins, fordsrule@btc-bci.com)**

With help from my friend Danny Cheshire, I made this full-size replica of a British "pillar box" mailbox. It can handle any



amount of mail as well as most large parcels. There's no need to worry about "holding" my mail while I'm on vacation, as the mailbox locks tight and is built tough - no one will ever hit the post with a bat because it would hurt their hands.

I got the idea after seeing a souvenir piggy bank made in the shape of the British mailbox. My mother is from Edinburgh, Scotland, so the idea appealed to me right away. **(Dean Earls, 955 Cedar St., Paris, Texas 75460; earls.dean@gmail.com)**

A few years ago I built a 3-pt. mounted, 3-sided carry-all out of treated lumber. I use it for a variety of hauling jobs. Then



two years ago I needed a better way to get newborn calves to my barn in bad weather. So I mounted a 6-ft. metal gate on back of the carry-all to enclose it.

The calf rides good, and the cow follows right behind as I drive because she can see her calf through the gate. I've used it to haul calves weighing up to 200 lbs. I just back up and get close to the fence, then open the gate to create a corral.

When I first built the carry-all I installed angle iron corners on back to keep the box rigid. That helped when I decided to add the gate, because I was able to cut the metal hinge pins off the gate and then weld them to one side of the carry-all. The other end of the gate is chained shut. The gate can be swung diagonally

inside the box and chained to a hook to further restrain the calf. **(Dennis Aldred, 552 Meadowlark Rd., Galax, Va. 24333)**

I got tired of replacing mailboxes that either got run down by cars or smashed by kids with ball-bats. So I decided to make a mailbox that can stand up to



any abuse using an IH single-bottom moldboard plow, a steel light pole, and a milk can.

The mailbox was made from a length of 12-in. dia., 1/4-in. thick steam pipe, with 1/4-in. thick steel plate used for the front and back ends. The door hinges on U-bolts and is held closed by refrigerator door magnets. Even the mailbox flag was made out of 1/4-in. thick steel. The box alone weighs 108 lbs.

The plow mounts on a 2-in. dia. steel pin, which extends down into an 8-ft. section of an old light pole that's set 5 ft. deep in the ground. A circle of lock bolts positioned around the pole can be adjusted to keep the plow's angle level with the ground. If the mailbox ever gets clipped by a car or blasted by snow from a snowplow, the entire unit will spin around on the pin. So far the mailbox has taken direct shots from an aluminum baseball bat and a high speed pumpkin, and it has twice been turned around by snowplows with no damage whatsoever. The local idiots appear to have given up on it. **(Tom Nelson, 4774 Wisner Hwy., Adrian, Mich. 49221 ph 517 282-2419)**

I noticed in your last issue that George Lindsey, Sr., of Greenville, Tenn., had a bad experience with Wait's Wholesale Clothing. I operate a company called Used Industrial Uniforms that has been selling quality used industrial uniforms for 17 years.

Some examples of our low prices: pants with waist sizes ranging from 28 to 62 sell for \$2 to \$20; shirts in M to 7X sizes sell for \$2 to \$12; jackets sized M to 6X sell for \$20 to \$35; and coveralls sized 38 to 60 sell for \$15 to \$35. We ship through the post office, and the clothes usually arrive within a couple of days. **(Darrell Grover, Used Industrial Uniforms, 819 Mt. Hope Rd., Crystal, Mich. 48818 ph 989 235-6566)**

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