

Reader Letters



My grandson, Murray Walker, who lives near Gibbons, B.C., took this photo. It shows a swarm of bees located about 30 ft. up in a tree. To get the photo, Murray suited up in a bee outfit with spurs to climb up the tree. A bee expert estimated the swarm was made up of 20,000 to 25,000 bees. (Jack Simpson, Surrey, B.C.)



A recent article in FARM SHOW about an Australian-built gas-powered post driver stated that it was the "world's first". We would like to point out that this is factually wrong. Skidril Industries began making gas drivers back in the 1990's. (Mark Salman, General Manager, Skidril Industries LLC, ph 800 843-3745; www.skidril.com)



I use an old horse-drawn grader to level my long gravel driveway. It's pulled from the 3-pt. hitch, which allows me to precisely control the grade. I made a new one for a friend that tilts and

swivels like this one, but has rubber tires. (Gerald Johnston, 5821 Crystal Rd., Vestaburg, Mich. 48891, ph 989 268-5650)

I'm 92 years old so I'm only subscribing for a year. I started farming in 1942 and placed an order in 1942 for a Deere Model A, which I didn't get until 1946 because of war shortages. Later, I got a Deere 3010 gas, which I didn't like too well – no power. After that, I bought a Deere 4010, which I really liked, before trading it in for 3 new Deere 4020's. The 4020 is still a great tractor. (Charles E. Burkle, Dyersville, Iowa)



Here's a solution to the problem of lost hitch pins that come out. This "hitchkeeper" welds to the top of the implement hitch. Just flip the locking device down over the hitch pin and it's locked. You'll never lose another pin. (Harold Fratzke, Cottonwood, Minn.)

Here's an idea that might make someone a million dollars: Change the color of salt so you can tell how much you use. Maybe color it red or blue. (Jim Lohman, Tillsboro, Ill.)

About 20 years ago I started to have trouble with my hearing so I went to get it tested. The tester said, "I'll bet you grew up with John Deere tractors because your left ear tested so much less responsive than your right ear."

"You're right," I said. "Mainly a 1929 Deere D – no muffler, always looking over your right shoulder to watch trailing machines." The tester said she'd seen it before – the right ear protected and the left ear exposed to more noise. (Glen E. Herrlinger, Cumberland, Wis.)

Here are a few things I've learned in my 88 years:

- Thompson's waterproofing makes an excellent treatment for leather goods. It's soft, water-resistant and still breathable.

- It seldom, if ever, pays to buy cheap tools.

- Minneapolis Moline made great tractors. I still use a 1950 MM ZAU regularly. Runs great, lots of power, and a hand clutch. Newer tractors need to be revved up to pull a load. This tractor takes off at an idle.

- Canadians know snow! I have had a Lucknow 3-pt. snowblower for 30 years and it still works great. (Alvin Vandenbrink, Fennville, Mich.)



I built my first bobsled in 1993 for my 2-year-old grandson, and made another one a few years later. They were modeled after an old horse-drawn bobsled we had years ago on the farm and measure 3 ft., 10 in. long and 18 in. wide. The runners are 18 in. long with countersunk screws securing 1/8-in metal runners. I made them out of pine. (Earl Tichenor, Bangor, Wis.)



We recently mounted an old H&S self-unloading, 18-ft. wagon box on a tandem axle truck for a local dairy farmer who uses it to haul hay and corn silage. He has fields scattered several miles apart, and with the truck, he can drive down the road faster between fields.

We added expanded metal sides on top to increase the wagon's capacity, attaching the expanded metal to square tubing that's welded to the wagon's top rail. The wagon's frame is bolted to a wooden subframe that helps cushion the load. The wagon unloads from either the side or back, and the truck's hydraulics are used to operate the wagon's pto. (Robert Adelmeyer, 2297 Hwy. K, Campbellsport, Wis. 53010, ph 920 269-4357)



We use an old ground-driven endgate seeder to broadcast seed onto the ground. We mounted a 40-bu. wagon box on an old car axle and a V-shaped metal frame. We also bolted a big sprocket to

one of the wagon's wheel rims to power the seeder. The seeder is attached to a wooden board that fits into slots on both sides of the wagon.

We use it to plant small patches of wheat that serve as buffer areas near seed corn fields. We broadcast the seed on top of the ground, then disk or harrow lightly to incorporate the seed into the ground. The seeder has 2 hoppers – one for small grains and the other for grass seed – so if we wanted we could broadcast small grains and grass seed at the same time. (Rex Gogerty, 33475 K. Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122, ph 641 487-7617; rexgogerty@netins.net)



The ball hitch I mounted on front of this Deere 425 garden tractor really comes in handy to move trailers around my yard. A hydraulic-operated cylinder raises and lowers the hitch. I've got a lot of old 2-wheeled planters and cultivators, and the ball hitch lets me move them around without getting off the tractor.

The hydraulic cylinder mounts on a flat steel plate that I bolted on front of the tractor. I pull one pin to remove the cylinder and another to remove the steel plate. The cylinder hooks up to a hydraulic outlet that I added on back of the tractor. (Loren Kalkwarf, 2020 225 St., Garner, Iowa 50438, ph 641 923-2708; alkalk@q.com)



I belong to a rural water district, and to read my water usage I always had to lift the lid off the water meter box. To make the task easier I mounted a handle on the lid by welding a 6-in. length of 1 1/2-in.

angle iron onto the center of the lid. To remove the lid I simply lift the angle iron. (Curtis Farrar, Pryor Creek, Okla. 74136, moses.calhoun@gmail.com)



My dad made this desk for me as a Christmas present this year. It's a tailgate from a 1967 Chevy pickup. He restored the tailgate and then designed a wood frame to hold it. The tailgate



pivots down for work, supported by two short pieces of steel cable. He attached a flat writing surface to the back side of the tailgate. This desk will probably last me forever and will end up in my garage some day when I'm old enough to have one. (Johnny Forcht, Pahrum, Nevada)



I used 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing to build this "Gator topper" for some friends in Texas. It's equipped with a "half moon" top made from a section of trampoline framing that's covered with canvas. My friends asked me to extend the frame upward so they could transport their 2 kayaks to a pond 1/4 mile from their house, so I did.

The entire unit rides in metal brackets that bolt onto the Gator's frame. (Larry Zenz, 5779 E. Hwy. 28, Parks, Ark. 72950, ph 479 577-2677; larryzenz@gmail.com)

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