

Reader Letters



I'm writing concerning an article you featured about a fellow in Wisconsin who raises Ball Pythons for sale (Vol. 36, No. 5). I've always been impressed with FARM SHOW until I read this story. I don't understand why you would promote the idea of raising constrictor snakes, which are far from harmless. If they should ever escape their cages, they could destroy a poultry, rabbit or other small farm animal operation overnight. A person who buys one could end up ruining a neighbor. These snakes are illegal unless caged, and few people really have the knowledge to raise them. I assure you that any non-native snake that wanders onto my property will be shot immediately and, if the owners can be identified, they will be served with a lawsuit. (David Greenway, Gonaire, Ga.)



decided to launch a company to make them. Mine are made out of hardwood ash and have heavy-gauge, tight-coil stainless springs. I have lots of pics and info at my website. (Herrick Kimball, Planet Whizbang, P.O. Box 1117, Moravia, N.Y. 13118; www.planetwhizbang.com)

My father, Buck Pettus, was a FARM SHOW subscriber for many years. He passed away unexpectedly recently. I thought you would be interested in the fact that when he first picked up a copy of FARM SHOW, he was illiterate. He looked at the pictures, though, and liked what he saw. I bought him a subscription and he taught himself to read with FARM SHOW, looking up words he didn't know and asking us to help. It was so amazing I wanted to tell you about it and say thanks from his family. (Amelia Pettus, Gonzales, Texas)



My wife and I like to travel around on our Harley. We used to take our little dogs with us, housed in carriers strapped to the



back of the bike. I finally decided to build a little trailer for them that matches the Harley. We love the wind that passes through the screened-in front. The top can be closed if weather is bad. (Darrell Inkster, Dauphin, Man., Canada)



Last year my neighbor told me that he had eaten some wild radishes he dug out in the fields and that he felt they had lowered his blood glucose. What he actually ate were the "tillage radishes" I had planted as a cover crop to loosen the soil. Taking his advice, I started eating those radishes 3 times a day and within days my blood glucose was low enough that I quit taking my diabetes medicine. My blood sugar level is now at 105 and my blood pressure is the lowest it's been in 30 years. Eating these radishes is the only change I made to my diet.



Tillage radishes contain high levels of antioxidants that stop carbs from turning to sugar. You can buy them at many seed suppliers or just search up "tillage radish" on the internet. (Charlie Wochley, 2244 Dressler Ridge Rd., Mt. Pleasant Mills, Penn. 17853 ph 717 694-3684)

We live in a semi-arid area of southern Colorado. Good quality well water is mostly unavailable. To meet our daily needs we designed a rainwater catchment system that works year-round – winter and summer. We couldn't use gutters because when we do get ice, it tears them off the roof.

So we set up Y-shaped "gutter walls" down below the edge of the roof that catch not only the rain but snow and ice



that comes off the roof. The gutter walls also serve as decorative backing for raised flower beds that run the length of the house.

We made the walls out of Rastra foam blocks that can be easily carved and shaped, and then covered in cement stucco.

Water flows down the gutter wall to two interconnected 1,200-gal. underground tanks that act as cisterns. Because we have a large home, there's about 5,000 sq. ft. of roof area, which means 1/2-in. of rain will fill our 2,400 gal. of storage. Of course, we filter and purify the water before it comes into our home. This system provides all the water we need, except in a drought. (Kim Krisco, Trinidad, Colo. trantech1@mindspring.com)

I'm 93 years young and optimistic about the future, so I recently subscribed to another year of FARM SHOW. I get a lot of pleasure out of reading your magazine. Every issue has practical ideas I can use.

I've installed diesel engines in 3 different cars and plan to do another one. I'm interested in any information on add-on hydrogen generators designed to help aspirated engines run cleaner. I've also followed the biodiesel fuel idea closely. (Bill Maxwell, 603 S. Washington, Nevada, Mo. 64772 ph 417 667-2673)

Every spring, water from melting snow would pool in front of my shed, and the doors would freeze solid in up to 2 in. of water. It wasn't cost effective to raise the shed or re-landscape to drain the water away. Instead, I dug a post hole in the ground about 4 ft. deep, installed some 8-in. dia. water main pipe, and placed a steel grate over the pipe flush with the soil. Now when the snow melts the water runs into the pipe and draws away into the soil below the frost line. Problem solved. (Mark Schwengel, N9562 Lake Rd., Bowler, Wis. 54416)

The report on my "worst buy" in your last issue contained a mistake. It should have said "Efco" chainsaw, not Echo. My chainsaw was made in Italy and was purchased at Menards. My problems were with the U.S. representatives for Efco, and not with Menards. (Thomas H. Zaremba, Camp Douglas, Wis.)



I raise a few whitetail deer and had trouble with crows eating from my feeders. I used to hang dead crows around the deer pens, but the crows soon decomposed. So last Halloween I bought a dozen plastic crows at a local Dollar store that are sold as Halloween decorations. I drilled a hole in the birds' tails and then tied on a string so I could hang the crows on the pens. It must be working, because now I hardly ever see any real crows. (Roland Girard, P.O. Box 2395, Cochrane, Ont., Canada P0L 1C0 ph 705 272-6191)

In a recent issue someone said they colored the salt in their salt shakers so it's easier to see. I'm 80 years old and my eyesight isn't what it used to be. But instead of coloring the salt, I just mix pepper with it. That way I know how much salt I'm using and I save time by not having to use the pepper shaker. (Ron Cole, P.O. Box 175, Clive, Alta., Canada T0C 0Y0 (ph 403 784-3495)



I recently listed my home-built, pto-powered wood splitter on Craigslist. One fellow made me an offer but said it would be more than a month before he could pick it up. That's what tipped me off that he was serving overseas.

Through a half dozen emails I learned his name was Joe and that he had been in Iraq and Afghanistan for almost 3 years. I could appreciate his desire to get home and spend some time in the woods with his dog, and told him I would hold the splitter for him.

Then I contacted his father and wife and told them I intended to transform the splitter into something special to show appreciation for his service. I recruited a couple guys from work, as well as my father and a friend who owns a sign shop. We set out to sandblast and paint the unit and added a new hitch, lights, diamond plate fenders, and rear bumper. We even added a box to hold a cooler and several decals that personalized the splitter for Joe.

He came to pick up the splitter on Labor Day weekend and got a real surprise when we pulled the unit around the corner! He really appreciated the effort, and all of us experienced a bond with a stranger who will be a friend for life. (Todd Carlson, 1217 Oak Street, Bloomer, Wis. 54724 ph 715 225-0222; tcarlson@ajdoor.com)

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