

# Reader Letters



I just tried to make the "Easy Cookies" recipe in the last issue of FARM SHOW and there must be something wrong because it just made watery chocolate milk. (H. Adam Steinberg, Lodi, Wis.)

**Editor's Note:** Sorry! We misprinted the recipe. Here's how it should read:

### Easy Cookies

2 cups milk chocolate chips  
1 tspb shortening  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/2 cup chopped slivered almonds  
In microwave, melt chocolate chips and shortening, stir until smooth. Stir in raisins and almonds. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper. Chill until ready to serve.



Garden bugs like beer but it kills them. Especially slugs that attack hostas and certain other broadleaf flowers. They crawl into a saucer or pie tin full of beer, drink up, and die. (Tim Gogerty, Madrid, Iowa)

I took the top off a junked golf cart and mounted it on my Hesston windrower. After years of sitting in the sun, it makes a lot of difference on those hot hay-cutting days. (Tom Wessman, Albert City, Iowa)

If you've ever tried to keep little boys away from tractors and other farm equipment, you know it's not easy to do. A quick way to protect them from sicklebar mower points is to pick up a couple "water noodles" in bright colors, slice them the long way and tape them over the sickle. Works on hay spears, too. Duct tape holds them in place. The noodles are cheap so when they get ragged you can just toss them. (Nathan Koch, Prentice, Wis.)



I took this picture at a local twice-a-month auction in Danville, Ohio. I was amused to notice that some sellers of Shetland sheep were using an article in FARM SHOW to drum up interest in their animals. (Bill Johnson, bill.johnson@prezence.com)

Rather than spend hundreds of dollars for a solar heater for our new backyard pool, I just threw an electric sump pump into the pool and laid out a couple hundred feet of rubber hose around the yard, with the end going back into the pool. The sun heats up water in the hose. It's simple and cheap. (Andy Fiehler, Lawrenceburg, Ky.)

I'm 19 years old and wanted to say thanks for a great magazine. I first saw a copy at a farm store but didn't pay much attention until my brother-in-law suggested I take a closer look. I now read it from front to back and have used a number of ideas out of it. It sometimes stumps my boss at work when I remember a tip from FARM SHOW and fix a tough problem. Keep it up! (Levi Bridge; mackrulestheroad@gmail.com)

I got a lot of response to the article in your last issue about tanning deer hides in a concrete mixer. Here's some more information that might be helpful.

I buy aluminum sulfate online for about \$10 for 5 lbs. The process I use is for deer hides only, not cows, buffalo or other animals. I use an inexpensive 3 1/2 cu. ft. concrete mixer. If I'm doing just one hide, one lb. of 98 percent pure lye (caustic soda) is plenty, plus 10 to 15 gal. of water. Cover the mixer opening so the lye can't splash out. I used a piece of left-over rubber roofing and an 18-in. dia. hose clamp. I also wear a face shield because lye can blind you. Tumble for 24 hrs. and it should be done, depending on the outside temperature - the colder it is, the longer it takes.

Thoroughly rinse the hide, changing the water rinse repeatedly until it no longer has a milky color to it. At this point you'll have the slimiest thing you've ever tried to pick up. I actually handle the hide by grabbing it with 2 pairs of vise grips.

Next, lay the hide flat on a solid surface (like a concrete driveway) and use a fan-shaped nozzle with a pressure washer to "peel" the fat and flesh from the hide. It takes me about 40 min. per hide to do this. Once the hide is "clean," return it to the mixer with 10 to 15 gal. of water, a pound of aluminum sulfate, and about 5 lbs. of "sea salt". I use water softener salt, as it's made from sea water. Also, add 5 gal. of old used golf balls to help "work" the hide as it tumbles. This "pickling" process ensures the hide will last a long time. Rinse the hide "clean" again.

Next, I run the hides in a solution of water (10 to 15 gal.) and Fiebings Neatsfoot Oil (about one pint) with the golf balls to further soften the hide. I bought the Neatsfoot Oil online from Dover Saddlery.

This final tumbling will vary depending on how soft you want the hide to be. The longer the tumbling, the softer the hide will be. I've also used walnut hulls to stain the hide black for some leather upholstery work I did. The hide will come out totally white if you don't add dye or some sort of color. (Gregory Korner, 6020 Lookout Rd., Brookville, Ind. 47012 ph 765 647-6314; lookoutmtrr@wildblue.net)

I made an ATV out of a 1979 John Deere 340 Trailfire snowmobile. The rear wheels, axle and spindles are off a garden tractor, and the front wheels and axle are off a riding mower.

I first unbolted the skis and track, then welded the axle and spindles on front. I fastened metal brackets to the rear axle and bolted it to the snowmobile frame. I



I built this wind-powered rocking "tin man" for a roadside display. The windmill, on the right, is made from plastic barrels cut in half and mounted on a vertical shaft. It drives a horizontal drive shaft that runs over to the tin man's rocking chair. He looks quite content sitting there. (Louie Waelti, N3337 Aebly Road, Monroe, Wis. 53566)

also welded on a sprocket at the center of both axles and ran a big chain down the middle to provide positive traction. I



didn't modify the 2-cycle, 340 cc engine, drive system, or controls at all.

The machine still sounds exactly like a snowmobile, and I don't have to give it much gas before it really gets going. It'll go up to 50 mph. I bolted fenders from the riding mower over the rear wheels. The back end of the machine was real light so I bolted a pair of heavy duty truck brake rotors on inside the rear wheels to gain an extra 15 lbs. (Dean Wirick, 7005 St. Rt. 68 N., West Liberty, Ohio 43357 937 699-0399)



I built this Badland Buggy using a bundle of pipes, machining my own spindles and hubs. The machine is powered by a 1980 Honda CB 740 engine, and I made a reverse gearbox so I can back it up.

I bent, notched and welded the frame and swing arms and put solid aluminum bars at each corner before bending the pipe for added strength. I made cardboard templates for the sheet metal hood and diamond plate sides and bottom, then used a plasma cutter to cut around the templates. Some motorcycling harness was extended in order to operate the signals and tail light. I bought the head lights, steering, seat, gas tank, shocks and tires.

Finally the entire machine was spray painted blue and magnetic decals applied. I've entered my Badlands Buggy in parades and also in a car show, where I won first place. (Larry Klavemann, Wilton, Iowa)

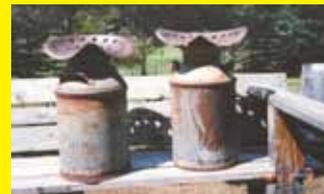


Last fall I restored a Flex-Tred H walk-behind garden crawler built in the early 1930's by Vaughan Manufacturing in Portland, Oregon. I got the tractor in August of 2014. It had been stored for many years.

The 5 hp, watercooled Vaughan engine wasn't seized but it had no spark, and the tracks were seized as they had been sitting on the ground for a long time. I spent hours unseizing them and used heat, a lot of WD-40, and some persuasion with a hammer. The tracks show hardly any wear.

The carburetor, which is made of white metal, was broken at the mounting so I had to replace it. The tractor still has the original wood plow handles, although I did have to replace a grip on one side.

The tractor has an open flywheel and the operator used a crank to start it. I'm more than 80 years old, so I made an electric starter out of a 12-volt battery and a car starter. Now it starts right up. I had fun bringing this tractor back to life and would like to sell it. (Elmer Neufeld, 19 Elden St., P.O. Box 40, Unit A3, Virgil, Ontario, Canada L0S 1T0 (ph 905 468-0162; eeneufeld@hotmail.com)



To make an attractive shop or bar stool, just mount an old metal tractor seat to the top of a milk can. (Harvey Malon, Rapid City, S. Dak.)

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