

# Reader Letters



We needed a fire door for the wood stove I built out of a big propane tank. I got the idea of using a car wheel because they're made well. It's hinged and sealed off with a welded sheet of steel plate. We open and shut it with a hinged rod that hooks into a latch on the side of the stove. We use the opening for stoking the fire and for cleanout. A fireproof chamber from which heated air is drawn into the home surrounds the stove. No smoke or ash ever gets inside. (Bob Brugger, 10890 N. 900 St., Effingham, Ill. 62401, ph 217 536-6516)

I made a "rumble seat" for anyone who wants to ride on the back of my IH 766



tractor for parades, tractorcades, or crop tours. It attaches to the tractor's 3-pt. hitch and has a sun shade, easy step, and an entry door with an air-ride seat. It's made from heavy-duty steel with white plywood trim to match the tractor. (Dennis Neubauer, 31491 Co. Hwy. S27, Garden City, Iowa 50102, ph 515 893-2320)



There seem to be a lot of fancy ways to mount forks on a loader bucket. We simply chain our 3-pt. forks into the bucket to give the rig a bigger bite for loading tree limbs and brush. Works great. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)



We needed turf tires for our tractor but could not justify them. So we bought some old, bald truck tires that were 1/2 size bigger than the tractor tires. We cut 2 to 2 1/2 in. off the inside of each tire sidewall and slid them onto the tractor tires, then reinfated. Works great and we no longer leave tracks from lugged tires when spraying weeds. (Andy, Delta, Colo.)

When reading FARM SHOW, the pages would often slip down and I'd have to straighten them before I could continue to read. So I found a solution. I even up all the pages on the table and open it to the middle. I put two square paper clamps on the top right hand side. Once I get halfway through the paper, I put them on the other side. Works for me. (Richard Faber, Tiffin, Ohio)

We've got a better idea for a clothesline. Instead of using cord or rope, we used small-link chain. That way you can hang clothes on hangers and the hangars won't slide or fall off. No ironing and you get the fresh outdoor smell. (Callahan, 157 N. Nichols St., Lowell, Ind. 46356)



I made this mailbox for a neighbor from scrap pieces of metal and old wheels. Makes a heavy-duty stand that really catches the eye. (Ron Ricken, 466 RD 111, Sidney, Neb. 69162)

The Georgia mechanical engineer who claims he's never seen an over-the-road semi with more than 400,000 miles without major engine repair should stay in Georgia. Here in central Pennsylvania, we regularly see semi tractors that get well over 500,000 miles without any major work. I myself drive an '06 with 514,000 miles that has had little work. In our fleet is a '99 model with more than 1 million miles with almost no work on the engine. Another local truck I know of has over 900,000 miles with no work. All of the above had Cat engines. I know of another one with an ISX Cummins that has over 850,000 miles and the most that has ever been done was to replace an EGR valve. (Marvin Eberly, P.O. Box 124, McEwensville, Penn. 17749)



I thought your readers might like this photo of our Nubian goat, decorated for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. My brother Samuel decorated her horns with strips of plastic, which he painted like a United States flag. (Daniel Williams, 133 Tallapoosa Way, Temple, Ga. 30179, ph 770 459-4827)

Fire ants are a real problem in the South and can get into just about anything. Here's a simple idea to keep them out of hummingbird feeders, using the lid off a small can. Punch a small hole in the middle of the lid, making the hole just big enough to slide a short length of coat hanger wire through it. Bend a hook at each end of the wire, then fasten the bottom hook onto the feeder and the top hook to a plant hanger so

the lid is positioned about 2 in. above the feeder. The ants will crawl down the wire, but they can't go through the lid and have to climb onto it. The ants can't bend and are too big to go around the curve of the lid so they fall to the ground. (Wayne A. Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy., Lincolnton, Ga. 30817, ph 706 359-1240)

We use a garden hose and an outdoor hydrant with a manifold to water our garden and fill our stock tank. It's easy to forget the water is on, and then the tank overfills and creates a big mess. To keep that from happening, we put a small orange highway department safety cone out in our driveway whenever the hydrant is on. That way we don't forget to turn the water off. (Paul C. Olson, 1278 Delta St., Ogallala, Minn. 56358, ph 612 390-0672; [redbird@genesiswireless.us](mailto:redbird@genesiswireless.us))

The story on half-scale wagons built by Elmridge Machine, LLC, in your last



issue (Vol. 35, No. 4) inspired me to show what I build – 1/3-scale wagons and trailers for parade and yard work. The wagons are made from salvaged parts from lawn and garden tractors, mainly the front axles and wheels. I make the other parts to resemble those found on real farm wagons.

The first wagon I built has a 1/3-scale bale catcher rack on it and 2 bench seats. When I displayed it at a recent tractor show, I got orders for several more. (Alvin Bulgrien, 1851 Sheldon Rd., Sandusky, Mich. 48471, ph 810 648-2681)

Here's a photo of the hunting stand my grandson Colby made out of a Porta-John portable toilet. He gutted the unit and put carpet and a chair inside and cut a slot



I really appreciated your article earlier this year about our company, which collects plastic bale twine for recycling. Since October, 2009, we've collected, packaged and shipped over 300,000 lbs. of twine. We're currently expanding the business into a nationwide network of collectors. There is so much waste twine all over the country that we're looking for like-minded individuals interested in getting into a business like this. In many areas of the country it's illegal to burn plastic. We supply our customers with large totes to store their twine, which keeps it clean and makes it easier for us to retrieve it. (Sara J. Bates, East Oregon Plastics; [eastoregonplastics@yahoo.com](mailto:eastoregonplastics@yahoo.com); ph 541 403-1522)

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in front to see out and shoot. He also spray-painted the toilet and wrapped a camouflage netting around it. The toilet hunting stand keeps him safe and out of the weather. (Sandra Jarman, 842 Harris Creek Rd., Jacksonville, N.C. 28540, ph 910 455-1480)

A friend of mine, Jerrel Good, came up with a slick way to get his mail without having to walk to the mailbox. He fastened the mailbox to a small cable that rides on a pair of pulleys – one at the road and one on his deck. He attached a used garage door opener to the cable. When he trips a switch, the mailbox rides down the cable to a docking station at the post. He uses a turnbuckle to tighten the cable. (Milan Hochstetler, 174 Vogel Rd., Cumberland, Va. 23040, ph 804 492-4295)



I only have to handle firewood once a year since I built a number of firewood pallets. I use my loader tractor to move them around. The pallets measure 3 1/2 by 8 ft. and wood is piled 6 ft. high. Each pallet holds about a cord of wood. I nailed together 2 by 6's and 4 by 4's to make the pallets. I made 8 pallets, which hold enough wood for one year.

I put 2 boards over the top, adding a metal cleat on the top board so it can't spring out sideways. I leave the loaded pallets out during the summer to expose the wood to the sun and wind, covering the top with canvas to keep the rain off. At the end of summer, I stack the pallets in my shed. Each pallet weighs about 2,000 lbs. when full. (Conrad Keddie, 14830 E. Beaverly Rd., Prince George, B.C., V2N 6H1 Canada, ph 250 964-9315; [conrad8@telus.net](mailto:conrad8@telus.net))



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