

# Reader Letters



I figured out how to mount a hay spear on my front-end loader without taking off the set of forks I normally have on there. The forks simply slip into brackets at the bottom of the rectangular frame and a metal rod brace at the top runs back to the loader frame. Works great handling round bales. You just have to have a tractor with enough weight to balance out the bale. **(Albert V. Dalton, 103 Dalton Circle, Ridgeway, Va. 24148)**

A friend of mine, Josh McWain, is responsible for all snow removal at a manufactured homes community in Greenfield, N.Y. He had a \$1,000 8-hp.



Tecumseh snowblower to use but found that his faithful old 3-speed Montgomery Wards lawn tractor does just as well with a home-built plow attachment on front. He made it by simply fastening an old metal cabinet door to the front-end hitch attachment on the tractor, bolting it to angled braces that tilt the plow slightly to push snow to the side. It works faster than the snowblower to clear large areas and he still has the snowblower for everything else. **(Jack Danahy, Greenfield, N.Y.)**

In regard to the story in your last issue about digging out stumps with a backhoe, what we do around here is to use a backhoe to dig out the stump, then we set the stump aside, dig the hole deeper still and then just bury the stump back in the hole. The dirt removed from the hole is then used to backfill the hole so you don't need to haul in any fill dirt. The project is completed right then and there. Some people think the stump will rot, causing the ground to settle, but it doesn't seem to. Apparently when buried, the stump just stays there without rotting. I first saw this done 30 years ago in a big tree in our yard and there's still no evidence anything was buried where the tree used to be. **(Tony Gardiner, tony24531@hotmail.com)**



We have a place on a 160-acre island near Anchorage, Alaska. I wanted to take my Deere 790 loader tractor out there so I made a small barge powered by a 35 hp. outboard. The barge rides

very low in the water so we make quite a sight during the 3 1/2-mile trip out to the lake. As the photo shows, it looks almost like the tractor is on top of the water. **(Mike Kerry, Anchorage, Alaska)**

In your last issue there was an idea about how to keep a toothpaste tube rolled up. Another way is to just fold over the spent part and staple it.

Also, if you are plagued with carpenter ants, just sprinkle some cornmeal (white or yellow) around your cabin and they will tote it down to their nests and eat it. They can't digest it so it kills them. Sure worked well for me. **(Guy Ramsey, Nenana, Alaska)**

I was badly injured in a car accident in 2008. During my 6 month recovery, the regular arrival of FARM SHOW helped me to keep my sanity while I was out of work. The wit and ingenuity of my fellow subscribers is part of the glue that holds this great country together. **(Paul Maccio, New Haven, Conn.)**

I haul hay for a living and use my loader tractor to load two rows of big square bales onto semi trailers. In the past, I always had to guess where the center of the trailer was so some bales were left hanging over the sides. To solve the problem, I painted a white line down the middle of the trailer. That way I can set one bale down flush with the line, then bump another bale into it. I continue that way until the trailer is fully loaded. It keeps the two rows of hay nice and straight. **(Dan Crick, 28862 433rd Ave., Menno, S. Dak. 57045 ph 605 387-5460 or 605 661-5460; crickds@gwtc.net)**

My home-built dump bed trailer is raised and lowered by a boat winch that mounts on the tongue. Works great for hauling yard trash and dirt.

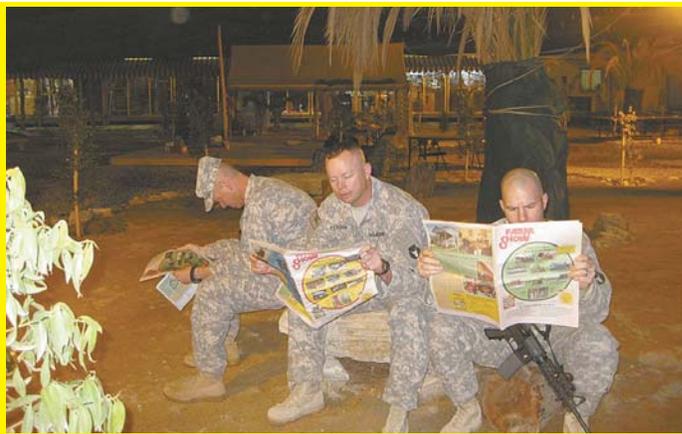
The trailer measures 6 ft. long by 3 ft. wide by 1 ft. high and rides on the wheels and rear axle off an old Deere riding mower. The bed was made from an unused fuel tank that I got free from a local company. I used a Skil saw to cut the tank open, then tach-welded it to an angle iron subframe that's welded to the axle. The tongue is made from 2-in. sq. tubing.

Cable goes under a pulley on the underside of the axle and then to the back of the dump bed. The bed pivots on two



pieces of flat iron, one on each side of the axle. My only cost was \$15 for the winch.

Another idea I had was mounting my 40-year-old Lincoln 150 combination welder-generator, and an air compressor, on a small 2-wheeled trailer that I pull behind my ATV. It provides me with air, power, and welding all in one pack-



I'd like to express my thanks to the editors and contributors to FARM SHOW Magazine. During my time here in Iraq, I could always rely on FARM SHOW to take my mind off the war and provide some relaxing reading. I am about to redeploy back to the states and will go back with three pages of projects I hope

to complete, all thanks to information I found in the magazine.

I've attached a picture of Major Pat Cornwell, SFC Seth Martell and myself enjoying a brief respite from work outside Basra, Iraq. **(Major Keith R. Ferdon, Basra, Iraq keith.ferdon@iraq.cent-com.mil)**

age. I keep welding rods and a helmet inside a plastic storage box on top of the welder-generator.

The rubber top on Yamaha golf carts makes a good, low-cost roof for tractors and lawn mowers. I mounted one top on my zero turn riding mower and another



on my IH 354 35 hp tractor. The top attaches to a frame made from 1 by 2 and 2 by 4 steel tubing.

I find it's easier to change oil on a pressure washer by placing it up high on an old wheelchair. I re-

moved the plastic covering from the wheelchair seat and back, then installed a length of angle iron on front of the wheelchair to contain the pressure washer. The wheelchair is easy to roll around and the brakes can be used to lock it in place.

I can store up to 100 ft. of 12-ga. extension cord on a plastic hose reel that I mounted on the deck of an old push mower. The reel is free to rotate on a round metal plate that's supported by a stub pipe welded onto the deck. A 10-ft. long "pigtail" can be wrapped on top of the reel where broom hanger clamps keep it in place.

I recycled industrial fan blades and scrap angle iron to make this 8-ft. high ornamental lawn windmill, painting the 22-in. blades red, white and blue. My neighbor got the blades from a local company where he works, and I mounted them on a 3/4-in. dia. spindle. I used metal pallet racks and angle iron to make the windmill's tower. **(Robert A. Walker, 2064 Davie Academy Rd., Mocksville, N.C. 27028 ph 336 918-3193)**

I used 2-in. round stock from old car axles to make a pair of bale spears, which I mounted on the loader bucket



on my Ford 4000 tractor. The 6-ft. long spears are spaced 32 in. apart and welded through holes in a heavy angle iron bracket that slips over the lip of the bucket. The spears extend through the angle iron and under the bucket, and are

welded to an angle iron frame on back of the bucket. A pair of pins secure the spears to a support frame already on the bucket.

I haul one bale on back of the tractor and one on front. I use the same forks to haul large pallets for pruning trees or painting.

One time the middle part of the bucket broke due to stress. Next time I'd use heavier angle iron and extend it over the width of the bucket in order to distribute the weight more evenly.



I cut plastic barrels in half, either vertically or horizontally, to make low-cost, temporary feed bunks and watering tubs. They come in handy when you have just a few animals.

Cutting a black 55-gal. barrel in half vertically also makes a great water tub that'll hold more than 25 gal. of water. A light chain secures it to a post or gate. My bull always lets me know when the tub is empty by putting his head inside the tub and rattling it around. Any thin ice that develops can easily be broken with a hard rap and then dumped out.

Horizontally-cut barrels make great feed bunks when lightly chained to the cross pipes on a gate. I drill 3/8-in. dia. holes in the bottom of the barrel for drainage. The barrels work great with salt blocks, too, because they won't rust. A 15-gal. barrel cut horizontally a little more than halfway up and with its handle still attached, can be laid inside a 25-gal. barrel to make a water trough for penned-up or smaller animals such as goats and sheep. Putting a little hay in the 25-gal. tub helps level and steady the trough and also prevents water from freezing all the way down to the bottom of the tub.

A tip for removing ice from stock tanks: Just slide a piece of galvanized wire mesh, about 1 ft. square, onto a pitchfork. It lets you sweep out the ice without getting your fingers cold and wet. **(Gabe Davidson, P.O. Box 61, Annandale, Minn. 55302 ph 320 274-8837)**