

Reader Letters



I've found that old tire lug nut wrenches, which you can find at any salvage yard or auction, can be very handy around my place. I heat the bend with a torch to straighten them out, then use them as picket pins for animals, pry bars, large spikes, drawbar pins, ground markers, and much more. They're heavy and strong. Handy as a pocket on a shirt.

After I finished wall boarding my house, I had a bunch of leftover pieces. I called the manufacturer and they said it was made up of gypsum, regular paper, and .003 percent captan, which is a commercial fungicide used in edible crops. So I laid the pieces down between rows in my garden. Made it easier to work the rows without tracking mud, and the next spring I tilled the deteriorated gypsum board into the soil, which was great to balance out the ph. I picked up more scrap wall board for the next year. (Paul Miller, Gardiner, Mont.; paul.j.miller69@gmail.com).



Not being able to buy a full-sized "toy" to play with, I decided to build a small one out of a pair of Case 220 garden tractors I already owned. I used one of the frames, cutting it at the center to articulate it. I then fitted the frame with both rear ends, hooked up the hydrostats to the drive motors on the wheels, and installed a 20 hp. Onan engine to power it. It looks and works great. (Ron Burt, 1776 Crouch Road, Jackson, Mich. 49201)



During the winter, I sometimes have to switch between my tractor's rear-mounted snowblower and my rear-mount winch for dragging downed timber. To make it easier to move them into position for mounting, I built wood frames on casters to roll them into place. The heavy-duty casters make them fairly easy to move around and hook up. Saves a lot of frustration when it's cold out. (Richard Diefenbach, Danville, Vt.)



I took the rear carrier off my Deere Gator and mounted it on front. It frees up the rear for towing and I can still carry the same amount of cargo. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)

When the rear drive wheels on our self-propelled push mower wore down, my husband Jay came up with a cheap way to renew the tread.

He cut up an old knobby bicycle tire and then used 3 flathead screws to attach the tread to each wheel. Ten years later the treads are still there.

Unfortunately Jay recently passed away. He loved reading FARM SHOW and would have been proud to see this published. (Kay Bradshaw, 13195 Brant Rd., Victorville, Calif. 92392 ph 760 947-2980)



Here's a photo of a riding mower hoisting device my niece installed at her country home near Langton, Ontario. She sketched the plans for the hoist and a friend welded the unit together for her. It's built out of sq. tubing and anchored in a casing set 4 ft. deep in the ground, which allows the hoist to be removed for winter storage. A hand winch provides the lifting power. It's a simple, slick way to build a service lift. (Harry Pamplin, 121 Mallens Rd., RR3, Elgin, Ontario Canada K0G 1E0 ph 613 359-6115).

If it's too late to apply granular fertilizer to your garden plants, try using a high pressure washer to apply foliar fertilizer to the plant leaves. Use a 1-gal. jug and mix the fertilizer stronger than normal, because it's going to get mixed again as it leaves the pressure washer.

Works great on raspberries, strawberries and vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers. (Jerry Brandt, 610 Webster St., La Grange, Mo. 63448 ph 573 655-4148; jbrandt000@centurytel.net)

I'm a retired farmer and thought your readers would like to see the 1938 John Deere 200 Spring corn sheller that I recently restored. It's powered by a Waterloo Boy 4 hp engine. I bought the sheller from a retired John Deere block man in Garrison, North Dakota after seeing an ad for it in Green Machine magazine. It rides on steel wheels and



is designed to be belt-driven off a small tractor or gas engine. When on display it's shown with the Waterloo Boy engine.

Back in the old days, ears of corn were shoveled into a conveyor that delivered the corn up into the sheller. From the sheller the cobs were delivered into another conveyor, which dumped them into a pile or a wagon. The John Deere sheller is very similar to the one found on a 2A hand-cranked sheller that the company introduced in 1938.



I have a collection of old corn planters and hand-operated shellers. The John Deere 200 is one of the rarest shellers in my collection. I recently donated the sheller and engine to the Northwest Iowa 2-Cylinder Club, which displays them every year at the Clay County fair and stores them in the 2-Cylinder Club building an Hwy. 71 north of Spencer. My hand-operated corn planter collection will be on display at the Kossuth County, Iowa fairgrounds. (L.R. "Pete" Petersen, 1712 14th Ave. W., Spencer, Iowa 51301 ph 712 262-3258; jalin@smunet.net)

I enjoyed reading the article about the Button-Up Helper from Lee Valley Tools



in your last issue. I don't have arthritic hands, but my fingers do get numb. So to fasten the buttons on my shirt I take a large paper clip and straighten it out in the

middle. I hold the big end of the clip and push the small end through the button hole to catch the button and pull it back through. (Bill Johnston, 798 E. Main St., Carthage, Miss. 39051)

Some 2014-2015 LT Chevrolet Silverados don't have power seats so they can't be raised or lowered. I wanted a better view so I decided to make 2-in. risers for the



captain's chairs on both the driver and passenger side of my truck.

I made 12 risers out of 1-in. aluminum round stock - 6 risers for each seat. I tapped each riser on both ends at 8 mm. I installed 8 mm studs on top, screwed the new risers on existing studs on the bottom, and then used the factory 8 mm bolts that were on the bottom to fasten the seat in place on the risers. Now it's a different truck! (Edwin Hankinson, 101 N. Hillview Dr., Georgetown, Texas 78628 ph 512 925-2548; ed.hankinson@gmail.com)

My wife got tired of gophers killing her tomato plants, so I made an in-ground protection system by drilling holes into a 5-gal. bucket with a large hole cutter and then lining the inside with hardware



cloth. We just bury each bucket and plant into them. When the season is over we pull the buckets out of the ground, hose them off, and save them for next year. (Ken Henderson, 21359 County Road 99, Woodland, Calif. 95695 ph 530 666-4630)

I came up with a real time and back saver for pulling out wooden posts. It's very simple - just a ring of heavy wall pipe big enough to go over the post,



with about 1 ft. of sq. tubing welded to it on opposite sides. A length of chain is fastened onto both ends of the tubing so the tubing can be tipped with my front-end loader. Metal teeth welded on inside the pipe help it grip the post. I just drop the pipe over the post, tilt the loader bucket, and lift the post out. (Dave Marsh; brokefarm78@gmail.com)



Editor's Note: An Alberta rancher sent in a "best buy" report in the last issue about his Frostfree Nosepump waterers. The photo showed the pumps, which are manufactured in Rimby, Alberta. Unfortunately, the contact and pricing information in the article was for Rife Ram pumps, which are also nose-pumped waterers but which are not designed for winter use.

Here's the correct followup information: Frostfree Nosepumps, Box 675, Rimby, AB T0C 2J0 Canada (ph 866-843-6744; www.frostfreenosepumps.com).

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