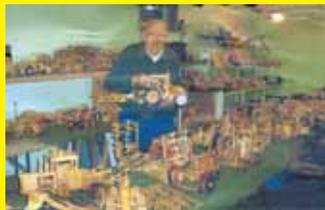


# Reader Letters



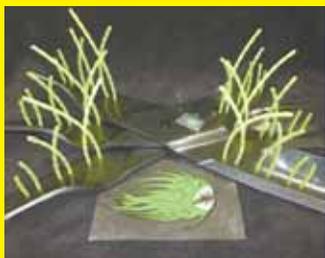
To make wood pellets last longer in the pellet stove out in my shop, I pour 1/2 gal. of used motor oil into a 5-gal. bucket of pellets and let it soak in. This is a good way to get rid of used oil and my pellets last longer. (Paul Smith, Florence, Colo.)



You had a story in your last issue called "Website Puts Makers and Customers Together". I make model farm tractors, implements, trucks and airplanes out of wood. If any of your readers are interested, I would be happy to build any model they might like. (Norman Riley, 726 Wind Breeze Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43615)

Thank you for your article in the last issue about my business of restoring and selling old Stetson hats. I was surprised by how many calls and emails I received as a result of your story. I just finished a couple hats for a guitar player in a Southern rock band and another FARM SHOW reader is sending me duck and turkey feathers to put on a hat he wants to give to his hunting friends. (Keith Betar, Temecula, Calif. ph 951 767-0626; outwesttranch@yahoo.com)

I just wanted to let you know how much FARM SHOW has inspired me. I received many calls and letters after you featured my idea for attaching weed eater lines to mower deck blades to do a better job of mulching leaves (Vo. 39, No. 3). I talked to



people all over the country and they've encouraged me to develop the idea. I'm going to start selling them this spring and am working on a way to mass produce them. It's been a great experience so far. Thanks again. (Steve Simpson, 9601 North U.S. Hwy. 231, Quincy, Ind. 47456 ph 765 712-0930; roadking231@icoud.com)

When you have to thin out a row of carrots, if the soil is too dry the tops will pull off leaving the root still in the ground. However, if I just push down on the carrot a bit first to loosen it, I can then pull the entire carrot out of the ground.

As the weather warms up in the spring, any snow found in roadside ditches will thaw before the culverts do, causing water to back up and overflow onto the roads. I don't have a culvert to try this idea on, but I think it would work.

Run a small pipe through the culvert with the pipe's ends turned up and

capped. When the culvert freezes up, uncap the pipe and hook up a flexible hose from a vehicle's exhaust muffler to the pipe. The pipe will heat up and the ice around it will then melt, allowing flowing water to enlarge the passage through the culvert. (Bob Stuart, P.O. Box 913, Spiritwood, Sask., Canada bobstuart@sasktel.net)



About five years ago I restored this 1936 Oliver Hart-Parr 70 tractor to near original condition. It was my dad's first tractor. I'm 80 years old. (Lyle Sternberg, 16702 County Hwy. 114, Fergus Falls, Minn. 56537)



Thank you for putting an article about the 1946 B Deere my dad bought new in the spring of 1946 (shown in the photo). After a number of phone calls from FARM SHOW readers, I was able to track what had happened to it up until about 10 years ago. One of the fellows I tracked down owned the tractor for 25 years after my father and worked it hard. Our best guess is that the tractor finally wore out and was sold for scrap. It's probably part of a Toyota today. Thanks to all the people who called to help. They all had stories of family tractors that meant a lot to them. (Gary Swenson, Yankton, S. Dak.)



I recently came up with a pair of antique tractor seat shop stools. One seat mounts on a car wheel base and swivels 360 degrees. The other seat bolts to the base of an old cream separator and remains stationary. I keep the cream separator-mounted stool in my shop. I haul the other swivel-style stool to car and antique tractor shows, where I can tip it on its side and easily roll it around.

To form the 360-degree swivel, I welded a 6-in. dia. metal plate to the wheel rim, then welded a pipe to the plate. I bolted a rod to the seat. The rod goes inside the pipe to form the swivel. I machined grooves in the rod so I can add grease to lubricate the swivel. A washer on the pipe serves as a wear point. (Dave Dam, 111 N. Buena Vista Rd., Eau Claire, Wis. 54703 ph 715 450-2943; ddamwhistler@gmail.com)



I catch mice with a plain old 5-gal. plastic bucket. I put a couple inches of water in the bottom and float an ear of field corn in there. Mice climb right up the handle and drown trying to get at the corn. You can set the bucket near a drawer or cupboard to climb on but you don't have to. It'll work just free-standing on the floor. (Dan Gogerty, Ames, Iowa)



I cut the sides out of 1-gal. rectangular chemical cans to make handy storage drawers for tools and parts. Four rectangular instant coffee cans fit inside each chemical can to provide storage for smaller items. Eight plastic baby food containers can fit inside the can for even smaller items. Altoid mint tins can also be stacked neatly inside the cans/containers.

I've got them stacked on shelves above my workbench and I made a mobile work island that holds 20 of the chemical cans to hold nuts, bolts and washers.

After 40 years our mobile dishwasher quit working so I gutted it to use for storing battery-operated tools. (Kelly Best, Tampa, Fla.)



Leigh Knudsen recently sent FARM SHOW a full set of 4 Soft Jaw Vise Pads to test out. The no-scratch plastic pads fit over the jaws of standard bench vises and wood vises alike. Embedded magnets lock them in place, yet make them easy to remove. The lips that fit over the top of the vise jaws help prevent slippage.

Too often in the past I'd tighten a vise on soft metal or wood and have to find the balance between securing it in place and crushing it. The soft plastic face bends around odd shapes and soft or easily scratched items, holding them firmly without a problem. The molded polyurethane faces offer waffle textured finishes and grooved finishes for holding round stock at different angles.

The pairs are priced at about \$12.99 each or two pairs for \$22.95. Knudsen encourages customers to order the jaws through eBay (<http://www.ebay.com/usr/catruckman%24aol-com>). They can also be ordered from: MarMachine, 719 Ohms Way, Costa Mesa, Calif. 92627 (ph 949 645-7601). (Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor)



I saw some barn quilts in the last issue of FARM SHOW and thought I would share what I did. We had to cut down a pear tree next to our machine shed, which left a big white blank wall for us to look at from the house. I solved the problem by painting quilts on the wall that look like they're hanging on a clothesline. (Leah Swartzendruber-Warrick, 6328 Hopedale Road, Hopedale, Ill. 61747)

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