

Reader Letters



Here's a photo of my Long tractor equipped with a canopy I made using the top part of an old Allis Chalmers Roto Baler. I painted the canopy yellow to match the tractor's front-end loader. The Roto Baler was popular during the late 1940's and 1950's. It made small round bales that were only 10 to 12 in. in dia. and was the beginning of the round bale era. You can still find a lot of these balers sitting around on farms. (Duane Myklejord, 34683 350th Ave. S.E., Fosston, Minn. 56542)



I can't start my lawn tractor without my grandson running up to me and asking for a ride, but it's dangerous to hold a child on your lap while mowing. So I decided to make a safety seat for



him. A couple lengths of angle iron, a booster seat with safety straps, and a couple nuts and bolts were all I needed. (Wendell Bragg, wwbragg@hotmail.com)



My daughter Payten and I had a lot of fun building this snow dinosaur last winter, which stood along a highway in front of our house. He was about 25 ft. long, 9 ft. tall and painted green. We called him our "snowsaurus Rex".

We used broom sticks to make a rough frame for the arms and head and then packed snow around it. To make the teeth we sharpened up some carrots and spray painted them white, then strung the carrots from a stiff wire

and used smaller pieces of wire to hold them in place.

To make the head, we packed a 10-gal. bucket full of snow and let it freeze solid. Then we removed the block of snow from the bucket and used a sawzall to carve the head out of it. Apples served as the eyes.

To paint snowsaurus Rex we poured food coloring into a spray bottle.

Our big green snow dinosaur made it into 3 or 4 local newspapers and was all over Facebook. For 2 weeks people would constantly stop by and take photos. Most children loved him, but a couple of real little kids got scared and cried. (Steven Simpson, 9601 North U.S. Hwy. 231, Quincy, Ind. 47456 ph 765 712-0930; roadking231@jcloud.com)

Here's a photo of my granddaughter and me on a self-propelled, steel-wheeled parade buggy I built. All parts on it and even the flags are American-made. The



wheels are off a hay rake, with the rear wheels chain-driven off a 5 hp engine and the 3-speed transmission from a 1937 Chrysler. It'll climb a pretty steep hill.

Over the years I've collected a large number of big steel wheels, some more than 100 years old. I've found that if you keep these big old wheels greased, they'll never wear out. (Duane O. Hansen, 3761 Carson City Road, Sheridan, Mich. 48884)

I've been around chickens most of my life, but I've never seen a chicken egg as small as this one. It's not much bigger



than a dime. I found it in a nest box with a half dozen other eggs. How it kept from getting crushed I have no clue. I don't have any prankster neighbors so I have to assume it was laid by one of my chickens. This might be one for the Guinness Book of World Records! (Gregory C. Korner, Sr., Brookville, Ind. ph 765 647-6314; lookoutmtnrr@wildblue.net)

I laughed when I read the article about IH freezers and refrigerators in the last issue of FARM SHOW. Back in the mid 1950's when I was growing up on a farm near Limon, Colo., my folks bought a huge chest-type IH deep freezer. They lugged it down into our house's basement through the outside entrance, since the freezer was way too big to go through any of the doors. And there it sat, humming away and keeping our frozen food safe year after year after year. I think it only had one or two service calls, probably to recharge the Freon, during the 50-plus years after we bought it.

Well, the years passed; mom and dad passed on too, and left the farm to their

5 kids, but the old IH freezer just kept on chugging. In later years, after 2000 perhaps, we began to brag to ourselves and to others about that wonderful freezer which just kept going and going and going for all those years.

But, like anything else, the old freezer finally gave its last gasp and stopped working. That was back in 2010. So, we dragged it up out of the basement, up those same old concrete outside steps where it had come in. Getting the freezer out required the use of a loader tractor and the 3 boys in our family that were just little kids when it came in.

But the real joke was on us when the electricity bill for the farm went down about \$50 a month after the freezer finally died. Heck, with all the money we spent on electricity to operate the freezer over the years, we could have bought 10 new freezers and still had money left over!

So, anyone who's still using one of those old IH refrigerators or freezers might want to try unplugging it for a month or two, and take a close look at their electric bill.

Thanks for your good work at FARM SHOW. I greatly enjoy the magazine. (John Ottem, Broomfield, Colo. jottem@q.com)

Regarding the story in your last issue about the homemade cannon that shoots cement-filled soup cans, I wanted to point out that the method used to make the cannon barrel – using multiple pipes – is very dangerous. Also, he mentioned loading it with 14 oz. of gunpowder but a safe load for a 3-in. bore is 4 oz. according to Dixie Gun Works, which sells cannons. (Al Mallette; mmaryray@aol.com)

In regard to the story in your last issue about a home-built cannon, it must have been quite a dusty explosion each time Mr. Mathwig shoots off one of his "cement-filled cans". Unless the cans were actually filled with concrete. I suspect the two words were misused. Think bread and flour. Flour makes bread and cement makes concrete.

It's a small thing but you might as well get it right. (Ralph Jorgensen, Calgary, Alberta)

I don't have a corn crib so when I picked an acre of corn recently, I used a 16-ft. long piece of cattle panel and wired the ends together to make a circular pen. I put pieces of steel inside the ring, leaving 2-in. air gaps between pieces. Then I covered it all with a tarp. Worked great. (J.R. Gingerich, Wadena, Minn.)

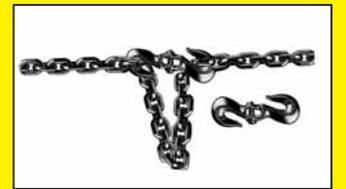
Here's an idea that will help you when cleaning fish. Use a piece of countertop, or just an old board, and drive a 16 or 20-penny nail up from the backside so it sticks up. Impale the fish over the nail to skin it or scale it. The nail holds it from getting away and you don't have to fool with a clamp when you have slimy hands. When you're done with one side, flip it over and do the other. I've used this idea for 50 years. (Bob Myracle, Baxter, Tenn.)

To find your way around your farmyard at night, lay out an old garden hose on the ground off to the side of the path you take. When there's no light on the darkest nights or during a storm, you can find your way by walking along with one foot

feeling the hose. If needed you could even crawl. (Ray Cimino, Eatonville, Wash.)

To make leather work boots last longer, you should oil them occasionally. If you don't have leather oil on hand, Vaseline works, too, and actually repels water a bit better. To help oil or Vaseline soak into the leather more effectively, put your freshly "greased" shoes in a warm but not hot oven for several minutes. Too long or too hot will damage your shoes so check every couple minutes. (Jonathan W. Yoder, Windsor, Mo.)

In your last issue, you ran a "worst buy" report from a reader who had problems with the drive belt on his 2013 Cub Cadet LTX 1050 riding mower. Anyone having this problem should contact Cub Cadet headquarters. I also had to replace 3 belts before I contacted the company and they replaced the pulley and belt. I haven't had any further problems. The dealers might not tell you about the problem with this particular mower. I inadvertently heard about it from an employee. (Bill Chipps; bnchipps@gmail.com)



Thanks for running my "chain idea" in the last issue about using a couple clevis hooks to take slack out of a chain when pulling. The drawing you used might have been misleading because it showed the tips of the hooks going into the links instead of grabbing onto the link from the side, as shown in this drawing. It can be a handy idea if done right. (Whip Lashley, Shreveport, La.)

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