

Reader Letters



Many thanks for mentioning our "No Trespassing" sign in the latest issue of FARM SHOW. The new sign is unique in that it politely asks hunters and others to ask permission to use land, rather than simply telling them to stay off. It keeps people from peppering them with buckshot or tearing them down. Unfortunately, there was a typographical error in your story. The price for 25 signs is \$24.75 and not \$2.75 as stated in the article.

Francis Pollock
The New Farm
222 Main Street
Emmaus, Penn. 18098

I'm 80 years old and lately it's gotten so that it's difficult to balance my wheelbarrow. I decided to modify it by replacing the single front wheel with two widely spaced 14-in. wheels. Now it's easy to handle.

Alvin Whitney
205 N. Kates
Claremore, Okla. 74017

While reading a recent issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 12, No. 6), I noted with interest your story about the new Vermeer ear corn harvester. The article stated that it is now the only corn picker on the market so I thought I'd send you a photo of our just-introduced



one-row ear corn picker designed specifically to pick ear corn gently, quickly and economically. The picker has been tested extensively throughout the country. It's the easiest-to-operate and most effective sweet corn and ear corn picker built. The picker is geared toward fresh market sweet corn but also does a fine job harvesting dried field corn and seed corn. Features a set of aggressive 10-blade stalk rolls that cleanly cut stalks, wing-nut adjustment of stripper plates for quick and easy adjustments, proven Deere gearboxes, rubber gathering belts for gentle handling, and a powerful auger-type cleaning fan for cleaner, fresh market quality. It requires only a 40 hp. tractor and a 540 pto. The retail price is \$19,880.

Russ Quandt
Marketing Manager
Pixall Corporation
100 Bean Street
Clear Lake, Wis. 54005
(ph 715 263-2112)

I read in FARM SHOW about fast-growing hybrid willow trees from Australia which are supposed to grow more than 40 ft. in just five years (Austree Inc., P.O. Box 349, Pescadero, Calif. 94060). I bought 100 cuttings which I planted on May 27, 1988. By last fall many of the trees were 7 ft. tall and most were at least 5 1/2 ft. tall, which means they grew a little more than a foot a month. I watered them a lot to achieve this growth and I did lose 7 trees, which is probably about normal. I'm very happy with the speed of growth and now I'm waiting to see how they survive our winter.

Ernie Wulff
Morinville, Alberta

I run a plastic hose from the overflow of the radiator on my combine up into the cab. It lets me detect overheating immediately. On

my tractors, I have extended the radiator overflows up above the hoods. Works great.

Robert A. Larsen
P.O. Box 7
Harvard, Idaho 83834

I have a unique tractor that I think FARM SHOW readers might be interested in. I bought it about 4 years ago from a building contractor who practically built it from scratch.



He started with a W6 International tractor. He lengthened the wheelbase, widened the front axle, widened the rear rims, installed a cab and all-new hood and grille, put in a 120-volt electrical system complete with alternator, power steering, loader with a live pump, dual fuel tanks in the rear fenders, engine heater, and heater in the cab.

Howard L. Smith
Brockton, Mont.

In your Vol. 12, No. 5 issue Dennis Matthews from Corunna, Mich. nominated his Behlen grain bin as his "worst buy". We sincerely regret that Mr. Matthews had difficulty with his bin. The Behlen Company takes pride in the quality of its products and thousands of farmers can attest to that quality. I do want to point out that the bin involved was discontinued in 1982. On this bin the eave curved



to meet the sidewall. This normally would not cause a leakage problem since well-jointed seams should shed water, regardless of the surface exposure. The enclosed photo shows the new design with roof overhang. The company went to this new design because it can be manufactured faster with an automated system and because it allowed us to offer a much wider range of sizes.

Robert W. Theilen
Vice President
Behlen Mfg. Co.
P.O. Box 569
Columbus, Neb. 68602
(ph 402 564-3111)

I made a handy "time saver" wagon for hauling seed, chemicals, tools and spare



parts. It's got solid panels at either end and metal ribs that run up over the bed of the trailer with open sides. We put a canvas over the top of the ribs. It's very handy to

load and unload from either side, rather than from the rear as with a pickup, and we can easily cover it when it rains.

Ernest McIff
Muscatine, Iowa

We're still getting hundreds of responses to your article on my "home brewed" solutions to pest animal and insect problems (Vol. 12, No. 1). I've come up with a couple of new ideas that may be of help to your readers. A good way to keep mice out of combines and other machinery - or out of sealed-up buildings or cabins - is to buy a bottle of Lorann peppermint flavoring. It's available for about \$1.49 a bottle at most grocery or drug stores. You simply soak cotton balls in the flavoring and place them inside and around machinery. For some reason mice can't stand the smell and they'll stay away.

Also, recently a lady told me that she'd given away a cat to a family that lived 7 miles away from her farm. Imagine her surprise 17 days later when the cat showed up back at her place. Here's the "fool-proof" tip I gave her to keep give-away pets from returning. Put bacon grease, butter or oleo on the cat or kitten's paws every day for a week or so after they first arrive. They don't like having it on their feet but it keeps their minds off returning home.

An idea that works good to get rid of starlings, sparrows and other pest birds is to soak bits of white bread in anti-freeze. They'll eat it and die. You have to be careful where you use this idea, however, so that children, pets or songbirds can't accidentally eat it.

Harold Bailly
"The Friendly Trapper"
3014 Middletown Road
Columbiana, Ohio 44408
(ph 216 549-2010)

We build lots of different equipment for our farm and last fall we came up with a new idea that works great. We put a row of small



packer wheels underneath the tractor we use to sow our winter wheat. We use a drill pulled behind a rotary harrow to do the job in one pass after plowing. The packer wheels help even out the loose dirt under the tractor that doesn't get compacted like the dirt under the dual tires. It evens out the soil surface so our harrow can do a better job ahead of the drill. We used old steel packer wheels and raise or lower them with hydraulics. A steel rod with an indicator on it extends up into the tractor cab so we can control down pressure.

We enjoy reading about all the projects built by farmers in the U.S. and Canada.

Bernard Bougaud
1, Route Nationale
Chemin, 39120 Chausin
France

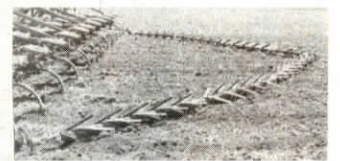
I've invented a nifty new nut huller that makes opening up walnut, pecan and other nut hulls easy. Women who've used it say that working without one would be like trying to crochet without a needle. It's simply a small 6-in. long rod with a flat metal head. They sell for \$1.50 a pair, including postage.

Bill Dunham
P.O. Box 1126
Sherman, Tex. 75090
(ph 214 465-3699)

Using large rotating chains that simply drag

along the ground to level fields is a concept that has caught on fast in Australia. Farmers simply use large link chain with blades or spikes fitted to each link to give more "roll" to the chain and work residue into the top inches of the soil. Unlike conventional field harrows, they don't plug up with trash.

Now we've taken the concept one step further by replacing chain links with short lengths of tubing linked together and fitted with "blades" that do everything other chain-



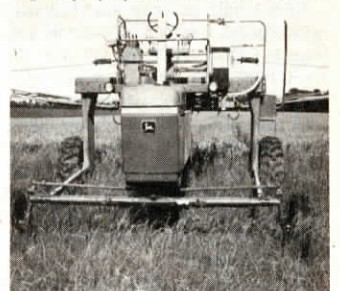
type units do plus they chop the straw, making it possible to come in right after it with a seed drill or planter. It has been received with tremendous enthusiasm by farmers who've seen it because of its aggressive tilling action and the way it leaves the soil perfectly level.

Austin Ryan
Ryan Scaravators Pty. Ltd.
Box 50
Warracknabeal 3393
Victoria, Australia

We'd like FARM SHOW readers to know that our Rotary Rock Picker (featured in Vol. 12, No. 3), which is designed to front-mount on any swather, won the silver award in the inventors competition at the 1988 Northern Farm Show in St. Paul, Minn. We placed second out of a field of 49 inventors. The judges liked the fact that our picker mounts on existing equipment and that it picks and digs out rocks before the wheels of the swather run over them, unlike trailing pickers designed to be pulled by tractors. We're excited about the potential of this machine and we're looking for a manufacturer to produce it.

Cliff Ranger
Box 1377
Lloydminster, Alberta
S9V 1K4 Canada
(ph 403 825-7911)

I am enclosing a photo of my Deere 6000 "high-boy" sprayer that I made a wide front



for so as to leave only two sets of tracks in standing wheat while putting on fungicide. I also extended the booms out to 60 ft. from 47 1/2. To transport the sprayer, I put rails on the outer edge of a trailer so I just drive on and go.

Wesley Hunt
1316 Anderson Rd.
Pembroke, Kent. 42266

We're getting great response from the FARM SHOW report on our new self-loading big bale trailer, which was featured in the last issue. We've had many readers ask if the product is patented. The answer is yes. The patent is pending and we expect it to be issued shortly. Thank you for calling this important point to the attention of your readers.

John Crowley
Hoover Farm Shop
1793 Ridge Rd.
Penn Yan, N.Y. 14527