

# Reader Letters

When Case built the 4490 tractor, they positioned the 3/4-in. oil drain hole directly facing the right hand front wheel. When you pull the plug, the pressure of 6 gal. of oil sprays oil all over the tire. I solved the problem by connecting a 2-ft. long hydraulic hose to the drain plug and putting a threaded plug in the free end. In operation the hose hangs up under the chassis. To drain oil, the free end of the hose hangs straight down in a pail.

Tim E. Clifford  
Box 37  
Lucky Lake, Sask.  
Canada

I'm nearly 81 years old and still farm about 1,440 acres. I'm very interested in all the new ideas in FARM SHOW because I work in the shop a lot myself and have made all my own shop equipment as well as much of my farm equipment, including a sprayer made out of an old combine. FARM SHOW is the best magazine I get. I read it from cover to cover and my wife reads a lot of it too.

Logan A. Meade  
Jetmore, Kan. 67854

A year ago FARM SHOW ran an article on a new electronic fence alarm I developed. We weren't ready to market the product at that time but we're now in production and have units in stock. Fence Watcher connects to any make electric fence. It senses voltage drops when the fence shorts out, or malfunctions for any reason, and sets off an alarm. The alarm can be wired to trigger a horn or a light. Sells for \$49.95.

Bill Young  
A-A Alarm Service  
Rt. 2, Box 319  
Beloit, Wis. 53511

My "best buy" is a farmer, mechanic, cowboy, sawmill builder, and weldor all rolled up in one. He's had 32 years of hard use since I purchased him with a marriage license. My "worst buy" is a wedding ring which has laid in his drawer unused for almost the same length of time.

Mrs. Dave Befus  
Carcajou  
Alberta, Canada

I have an easy, fool-proof method for getting rid of sparrows and other grain-eating pest birds. Get about a gallon of dry cement (concrete, not brick mortar) and mix about 2 gal. of milo or any other crushed grain that attracts pest birds in your area. Place the mixture in pans with 6 to 8 in. sides and position them under the eaves to keep the rain out. Sparrows will gobble it up. The cement they take in with the grain plugs up their craws and kills them.

James Bryant  
Rt. 3, Box 538  
Camden, Ark. 71701

I read with interest the story in your last issue (Vol. 12, No. 1) about the farmer who built racks for firewood that let him stack wood as he cuts it and then carry it back to the farmyard with his front-end loader, eliminating the need to handle the wood a second time. That's a fine idea but building the racks out of angle iron would be too expensive. I've used the same idea for 12 years but I use wood 2 by 6's. New 2 by 6's are inexpensive and used ones generally plentiful. I make racks 6 ft. and 8 ft. long, with 4-ft. tall ends. I nail three 2-ft. long cleats across the bottom and two 2-ft. cleats across the ends. Angled 1 by 4 braces hold the ends in place.

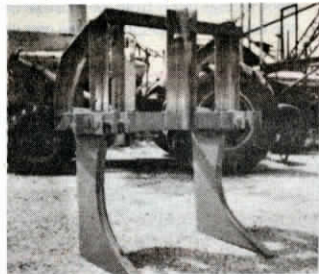
Robert Erlenbush  
Xenia, Ill. 62899

I build and sell custom fireplace doors fitted with a unique heat exchanger that I thought other FARM SHOW readers might be interested in. The heat exchanger consists of steel tubes that attach to a false bottom installed in the fire chamber. The tubes extend up the back of the chamber, over the top of the fire and then out holes along the top front panel of the doors. A squirrel cage fan positioned in front of the doors blows room air into the false bottom and then back out into the room through the tubes. The heated-up air never enters the fire chamber itself. All smoke and ash rise normally up the chimney.

I've been building and installing the heatexchanger for 9 years working within a 200 miles radius of my shop. I'd be interested in working with anyone who might want to build the unit for sale in other areas of the country.

Pete Henkels  
Peterbuilt Fireplace Doors  
Rt. 2, Seippel Rd.  
Dubuque, Iowa 52001  
(ph 319 583-5454)

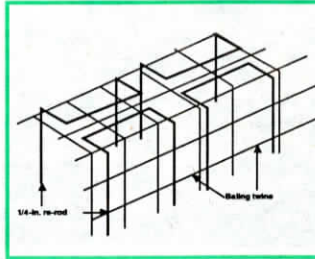
Here's the latest model of our deep-tilling subsoiler or root plow which FARM SHOW first featured 2 years ago (Vol. 10, No.1). It digs 20 to 24 in. deep and works great to cut the sucker roots off hedgerows alongside fields so they



don't suck moisture from crops. Just one shank is needed to cut roots. Also works great as a subsoiler. Because of increased moisture retention, you can tell to the row where you've used it after the crop comes up. The double plow sells for \$550.

Neil Saueressig  
Saueressig Construction  
Rt. 1, Box 226  
Burlington, Kan. 66839

For the past four years we've had tremendous success in our garden using a bean trellis made out of steel reinforcing rod and plastic twine. I simply bend each piece of re-rod as shown in the accompanying drawing and then stand the pieces upright in pairs facing each other by shoving the ends deep into the ground. Then I run black polypropylene baling twine back and forth across the



top and sides of the tunnel formed by the re-rod supports, and plant pole bean plants along the base of each side. It makes the beans a joy to pick because you can walk down the center of the tunnel and the beans hang all around you and over your head. If you set the trellis up properly you can run a garden tiller down the center.

Eugene Menke  
Rt. 1, Box 192  
Berger, Mo. 63014  
(ph 314 834-5354)

We publish state by state annual directories for hunters that list all known public and private land open to hunters. An important part of each directory is the section listing private land open to hunters for a fee. Farmers can list their farms, along with their hunting fees, at no charge. It's a great way to supplement farm incomes with no expense to the farmer. Any farmer interested in listing his farm should contact us for the appropriate listing form. Each state hunting directory (\$24 each) lists hunting preserves, shooting ranges, clubs open to the public, outfitters and guides, taxidermists, wildlife management areas, public hunting lands, and individual county information.

Sigrid T. Stanley, Manager  
C & J Sapp  
P.O. Drawer 610  
Bokeelia, Fla. 33922  
(ph 813 283-3800)

Thanks to the tremendous response we received from FARM SHOW readers to your story about our fast growing willow hybrid tree which we cultivate in Australia



(Vol. 11, No. 5), we've now opened up U.S. headquarters in California. Our trees will grow as much as 12 ft. the first year from specially treated cuttings and can reach 40 ft. or more in five years. The willow hybrids have been bred specifically for windbreaks and are resistant to the diseases commonly affecting ordinary willow varieties and poplars. The trees will thrive anywhere other willow varieties will grow, and are extremely versatile. Australians use them for wind and firebreaks, erosion control, landscaping and many other uses. Cuttings sell for \$1.90 each. For FARM SHOW readers we would like to offer a discount of \$10.00 per 100 trees.

Neil Curry, Austree  
3145 Geary Boulevard, Suite 623  
San Francisco, Calif. 94118  
(ph 800 638-1441 or 415 668-1818)

We've had tremendous response to your FARM SHOW article (Vol. 12, No. 1) about my home-brewed solutions to pesky animal and insect problems. Hundreds of letters and phone calls have come in from every state except Alaska and Hawaii. I try to help everyone I can but it's not always possible to respond to a problem personally. If the answer to a particular farmer's problem is in my book, I suggest he send for that to get the best answer (sells for \$11 postpaid).

The most common problem we've heard about from FARM SHOW readers deals with sparrows and starlings. One good way to get rid of pest birds is to put salt and bacon grease in a cookie sheet and place it out in the open. They'll eat it and then fly right up and die. Salt kills pest birds. The good thing about it is that if a hog or other animal eats the dead bird it will do them no harm, unlike poisons (like strychnine) that are sometimes used. Another good way to kill pest birds is to string an electric fence wire inches above the ground and put feed on the ground under the wire. As birds go for the feed, they hit the wire and, because they're grounded, they get shocked and die. The shock is too much for their small bodies, although it won't damage dogs and cats or other animals around the farm.

I've been experimenting with cracked corn soaked in whiskey to get rid of pigeons. They eat the grain, get drunk, and you can easily pick them up off the ground.

If you've got problems with deer, Deer Away is a commercial product that can't be beat. Deer can't stand it.

Harold Bailey  
"The Friendly Trapper"  
3014 Middletown Rd.,  
Columbiana, Ohio 44408  
(ph 216 549-2010)

Here's an idea that works good for checking for "hot spots" inside metal grain bins. Just take out a bolt in the side of the bin and push a long 1/4-in. dia. metal rod in through the hole to the middle of the bin. If you leave the rod in the grain for a bit you'll be able to detect hot spots by the feel of the rod when you take it out. You can check the whole bin this way.

Bruce Penner  
Saltcoats, Sask.