



Grain Wagon Tail Lights

B. Jerome Schulte, Canton, Ohio, equips his grain wagons with tail lights.

"When we hitch the wagon to the tractor we also hook up a 3-way plug. The plug from the tractor is wired into the signal and blinker system of the cab. Each wagon has

its own set of plugs, front and back, so you can pull more than one wagon if you want. Makes it less likely to get hit from the rear," says Schulte, who simply uses a set of tail lights mounted on a lightweight angle iron frame.

Corn/Sunflower Silage Mix

You can increase the protein and fat content of corn silage by growing it in alternating rows with sunflowers, according to researchers at the Western Washington Research and Extension Center in Puyallup, Wash.

Extension agronomist Steve Fransen says the unique cropping arrangement takes advantage of the best features of both crops. "The mix is better than either crop alone. Sunflowers are too high in fat and have low digestibility while corn is too low in fat and not high enough in protein. The mix of the two results in a crop with higher digestibility, higher protein and fat, and a good level of fiber," says Fransen, noting that in tests at the research station, cows fed the mix produced the same amount of milk

on less feed.

The mix contains 8 to 10% fat and about 10.6% crude protein, which compares to about 3 1/2% fat and 9.4% protein for corn alone.

One problem with planting the mix is that sunflowers generally are planted shallower than corn. The researchers used a Deere 4-row planter and placed the seed at an average depth between the two. Crops were planted in alternating double rows so that corn could support the easily lodged sunflowers. The corn/sunflower mix was harvested with a 2-row chopper, taking one row of corn and one row of sunflowers at a time so that the machine did the actual mixing of the crops.

Build Yourself An "Electric Pail"

Yes, it's an "electric pail!" It doesn't light up, doesn't move and doesn't heat up or keep things cool.

What it is, is a super extension cord to let you "reach out" to where there aren't any plug-ins. It also helps you keep extension cords from becoming a hassle. The pail provides a place to neatly coil the cord inside, and the cord will always be there—it's wired directly to the exterior receptacle.

But the best thing about the "electric pail" is that it has a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) duplex grounding receptacle mounted in the box. The special receptacle cuts off power within a split second if there's any problem with shorts or defective tools.

To build, find yourself a plastic pail, a metal wall box and connector, the GFCI receptacle and a 50 or 100 ft. outdoor 16 AWG all-weather extension cord. Cut a hole through the pail and install the connector through the side into the box. Then, run wire through, clamp it and connect it to the receptacle.

Wires on the receptacle connect to bottom terminals marked LOAD, white wires to the silver screw, black wire to the brass screw. (If you connect the extension cord



wires to the top terminals marked LINE, the GFCI feature won't work.) The ground wire is connected to both the ground terminal on the receptacle and to the box via a pigtail.

After you've got your "electric pail" together, you can test the GFCI. The receptacle has a test button and reset button. If you've hooked it up right and you press the test button, the reset should pop out, cutting off the current.

When not in use, just coil up the cord inside the pail and hang it up in your shop or garage. (Reprinted from HOME SHOP NEWS).

FARM SHOW



Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

"Easy Built" Calf Starter House, Hutches

"An old 10 or 12-ft. wide trailer home makes a nice calf starter house," says Robert Beecher, Livonia, N.Y.

"We first removed all partitions and poured a 2 to 2 1/2-in. layer of concrete over the floor. We sloped the trailer toward one end and down to one side so we can easily hose down the floor for daily cleaning. At one end of the trailer we buried an old 2,000 gal. fuel tank to catch slop out of the drain we built into the floor. We periodically empty this tank with a vacuum pump. Fifteen calf stalls were positioned at the center of the trailer so we can walk

along either end of the stalls," says Beecher, who also has a good idea for individual calf hutches.

"Old car or van bodies which you can get for practically nothing at junk yards make excellent calf hutches. The glass windows provide better light and ventilation than you'll find in costly commercial hutches. Just remove the wheels and set the chassis on the ground, leaving one door off."

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Diesel Farmall "M"

Richie Gess, Ft. Atkinson, Wis., put a 65-hp. 248 Perkins engine in his old International Farmall M. He says it's sized perfectly for the tractor and was easy to install.

"It was designed for a 175 Allis Chalmers tractor. The company was selling reject brand new engines with imperfections for 20 cents on the dollar. It fit between the frame perfectly. The only modification

needed was to redrill the flywheel to a 6-bolt pattern and put a 7/16-in. spacer between the flywheel and crankshaft. The tractor is very economical on fuel and a real workhorse. I doubt if I'll ever retire it," says Gess.

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