

Reader Letters

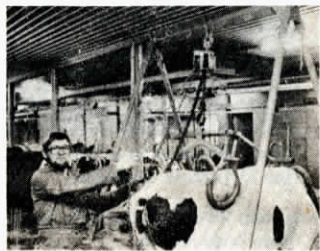
Thanks for your excellent FARM SHOW magazine. I loan copies to friends, some of who are no longer farming or ranching due to runaway inflation. They tell me they would probably still be farming if they had had a magazine like FARM SHOW years ago to help point the way to new do-it-yourself products and ideas — without having had to invest so heavily in new machinery. The younger generation will benefit manifold from reading FARM SHOW. We all thank you for that.

D.R. Davidson
Sheridan, Wyo.

FARM SHOW's report in the last issue on patents was a terrifically educational article. As you know, many rumors on patents and inventions abound at the coffee shop and grain elevator, and most of them are totally erroneous. It would, no doubt, cost most farmers the price of several years of subscriptions to obtain the legal advice given in the article from a patent attorney. Keep up the good work.

Wm. J. Dietrich, Sr.
Chairman of the Board
DMI, Inc.
Goodfield, Ill.

I happened to come across an issue of FARM SHOW here in Sweden and found it very interesting. On page 32, for example, you write about lifts for "down" cattle. All these lifts will do a good job, I think. But in Sweden we have another type of lift which has the



advantage that you do not have to lift or roll the cow to put something under her body, as you must do when using slings, air bags, and such things. The Swedish lift raises the cow by her hips.

One thing you should emphasize to farmers is that they must not lift a cow over and over again, day after day. It is very cruel to the animal, I think, to continue to lift a cow, suffering from muscular or skeletal injury, over and over again just to be able to milk her or to let the calf suck.

Bengt Knutsson, Editor
Husdjur Magazine
Ullungforsvagen 24
Edsbyn S-8200
Sweden

This is in answer to the FARM SHOW reader who is having a cob-sticking problem with his Deere 55 combine. Take out the straw walkers and cut expanded metal to fit, then spot weld it in place. This solved my problem and works as good as the Corn Special walker Deere sells. The first time I used my 55 with corn head, I found that the walkers were not designed for cobs.

My do-it-yourself field update took about 10 hrs. Use expanded metal with approximately 1½ by ¾ in. diamond-shaped openings. It's available at most welding and blacksmith shops. Thanks for a really fine magazine.

Ted Werling
New Haven, Ind.

Concerning the letter from the farmer who wanted to cob-proof his Deere 55 combine (Vol. 7, No. 6), I was having the same problem with my Deere 105 combine until I came across a filler plate for International straw walkers that solved the problem. It isn't quite long enough, replacing all but the last two rows of rectangular holes in each step portion of the walker. Widthwise, these plates are just right. I cut out the top of the walker to the right length and then welded in the replacement filler plate. These plates have the same type of holes as the 55, 95 and 105 combines. I don't know if this is the best way but it sure is a lot cheaper than replacing the whole walker. The IH part number is 196136C1.

Merle Yoder
Utica, Ohio

We enjoy FARM SHOW very much. Your "Best and Worst Buys" have been valuable in our machinery replacements — the solid clues to auction or dealer purchases of used equipment. (Who can afford new?)

John Hollowell
Pennyan, N.Y.

I am very concerned about your cover article (Volume 7, No. 6, 1983) on a homebuilt grain vacuum. The mere fact that you wrote and published an article on this home built pneumatic conveyor might well be considered an endorsement of the design and encourage some of your readers to build a similar device.

Since we are suppliers of pneumatic grain conveying systems, we are quite aware of what is required to build a unit to service a customer's needs for many years in a safe manner.

Your article indicates Mr. Datisman "tripled the speed of the 540 rpm pto-driven blower". I can assure you that it is highly improbable that any manufacturer of a blower device of any sort would recommend operation at three times design speed.

This forage blower was principally designed as a "material thrower" and not as an air moving device with any significant vacuum or pressure capability which would allow conveying of whole grain. Mr. Datisman has attempted to increase the available performance level of the blower by increasing impeller speed.

Stresses internal to an impeller are proportional to the square of the rotational speed. If the rotational speed is tripled, (as indicated in this article) the stresses in the impeller increase by a factor of nine times. There is also little doubt that the shaft bearings were not replaced with bearings suitable for the load and speed which creates yet another source for failure.

Please advise your readers if they decide to "build their own grain vacuum" to invest their money wisely and purchase a blower designed to operate safely rather than cutting corners where personal safety is involved.

Michael W. Hill
Vice President Sales
Neuro Corp.
1201 Hawthorne Lane
West Chicago, Ill. 60185

Thank you for your "Do It Yourself Patent" story in the last issue of FARM SHOW that explained how I obtained my own patent for a new baler that makes square bales the size and density of conventional big round bales, as well as some 17 other patents for products I have invented and successfully placed on the market, all without the benefit of a patent attorney. I have been deluged with calls and letters. Unfortunately, I'm not in a position to, and cannot legally, help others prepare their own patents. There are several books published on do-it-yourself patenting, however, and I suggest readers contact libraries or bookstores for copies of these books.

Joseph Molitorisz
15326 S.E. 43rd Place
Bellevue, Wash. 98006

Editor's Note: Here are the names of three books that explain in detail how to file your own patent:

PATENT IT YOURSELF
Hrand M. Muncheryan
Tab Books, Inc. - 1982

Monterey Avenue
Blue Ridge Summit, Penn. 17214
(ph 717 794-2191)

PATENT IT YOURSELF
David Pressman
McGraw-Hill 1979
Manchester Rd.
Manchester, Mo. 63011
(ph 314 227-1600)

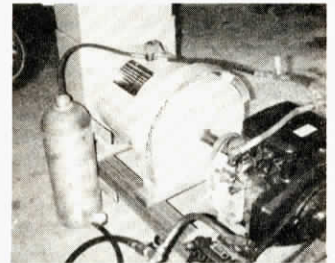
PATENT PENDING: HOW TO FILE YOUR OWN PATENT
Wesley J. Haywood
Joe Lane Publishing Co. - 1977
P.O. Box 2646
Evergreen, Colo. 80439
(ph 303 674-5314).

I was reading your last issue (Vol. 7, No. 6) and stumbled across an article on an outside wood furnace. Approximately one year ago we purchased a unit similar to this, manufactured by Hardy Manufacturing, Philadelphia, Miss. We have been very pleased with this stove, cutting our wood consumption to one fourth that of our previous conventional wood burner. Could you publish an article in your magazine on the Hardy furnace?

Donald Ruschill
New London, Iowa

Editor's note: The Hardy outside furnace has already been featured in FARM SHOW. Two years ago, in a roundup of innovative wood burning home-size furnaces, we featured the Hardy and several other furnaces that install outside the home without requiring any modification to the home. Copies of that back issue, Vol. 6, No. 1, are still available for \$2.

We have had hundreds of letters from FARM SHOW readers from all over the U.S. and Canada in response to your article (Vol. 7, No. 5) on our air power kit that converts conventional gas-powered cars and trucks to run on compressed air. We cannot answer all of the mail at this time. However, we have all letters on file and plan to hire someone soon to reply to each person



who has written. We are in the process of readying our air kit for market. One of the top engineers of the country recently evaluated the invention and agreed that it is ready to go. We have also developed an electric generator that is powered by air (see photo). The generator, which would supply unlimited amounts of electricity at little or no cost, is also in the final stages of completion.

Lee Rogers
Rogers Manufacturing Co.
P.O. Box 3077
Ft. Myers Beach, Fla. 33931

In the Vol. 7, No. 6 issue of FARM SHOW you featured a story about a couple Ohio farmers who mounted a gravity wagon bin on a truck for hauling grain to the elevators. I have tried this idea and it isn't as nifty as it sounds.

We put a 250 bu. bin on a '64 International truck to haul corn to the elevator and then added racks to hold 300 bu. Besides the aggravation of trying to keep an old truck running as it's unloaded, the weight comes off the side where the door is. This causes the springs to lift that side of the box and, in effect, leans the bin in the opposite direction, leaving about ¼ of the load to be shovelled out by hand. We finally gave up on the idea and put the box back on a wagon running gear where it was meant to be. It seems to be one of those real good ideas that just doesn't work.

Bill Wilkins
Lucknow, Ontario

Thank you for the report on Bovi Jak, the new air bag for lifting down animals. Your readers will be happy to hear that the English manufacturer now has two U.S. distributors — John Ward, Electric Cleaner Co., Osseo, Wis. 54758 (ph 715 597-3181) and myself. Dairy and beef producers interested in learning more about the popular new lift can contact us.

Bradley Pattington
Scipio Center, N.Y. 13147
(Ph 315 364-8880)