Reader Letters

My friend Jessie Allen and I like to attend a tractor show in Paducah, Ky. every year. After suffering a light stroke at 84 years old, he had difficulty walking for extended periods of time so I needed a way to get him around the show. My little home-built trailer did the trick. I built it from scrap steel and painted it red, which is the color of our favorite Farmall. I also restored a 1941 Farmall H and I’m restoring a 1947 Farmall B.

The trailer has a padded seat and is properly finished off with a Farmall license plate. The photo shows it being pulled by a 1971 Montgomery Ward Gilson tractor that belonged to my father D.L. Lawrence, 265 Wilson Road, Water Valley, Ky. 42085 ph 270 355-9820)

We have a lot of thorn trees in our area that cause plenty of flat tires. Filling tires with foam is one way to solve the problem, but it’s expensive, adds weight to the tire, and is a lot of hassle. Has anyone tried to pelletize super dry wood chips or other materials so they can be blown into a tire? By expanding upon contact with water, the material would keep the tire’s shape up so that you could still drive with it. Maybe you could use a super absorbent material like they put in diapers, that would be flexible instead of getting super hard like foam. (Henry White, Paris, Texas ph 903 249-5853)

I needed to mow the grass around a big pond with steep banks. It used to take me 3 hrs. to cut the grass, with a weed eater, but now it takes only about a half hour. That’s because I came up with a system that lets me pull an 18 in. push mower alongside my riding mower.

An angle iron frame bolts on front of the push mower and to the riding mower frame, and a piece of deck height adjustment handle off another mower is attached to the back of the riding mower. A chain runs from the riding mower to a U-shaped yoke on the push mower. I just pull on the height adjustment handle to raise the push mower up or down.

I no longer use this setup, but when I did a lot of passersby on the road in front of our house used to stop and watch me work. (Norvil D. Arnold, 2594 N. 1050th St., Flat Rock, Ill. 62427)

My dad, Don Wilson, spent several weeks replacing the plumbing pipes and renovating the bathrooms in our house, and during that time he provided an unusual temporary shower for us in our laundry room. The shower was made using a hose tough, lengths of pvc pipe, and a garden hose with an adjustable spray pattern nozzle that hooked into the pipes leading to our washing machine. Dad set the trough on a sheet of plywood with a 2 by 4 on one side to give it pitch. My 6-year-old brother, Sterl, had the daily job of using a small hand pump to empty the trough. (Carmen Wilson) (thereisjoyinservingjesus@gmail.com)

Many readers have complained about the newer front-loading washing machines. I did, too, until I read the manual more closely and experimented a bit. Here are the settings and methods I came up with for using my Whirlpool:

I use the Deep Water Cycle for average mixed loads and the Bulky items setting for sheets and towels. For dirty or heavily soiled jeans and stained items, I use the Heavy-Duty cycle, with the Pre-soak and full a amount of HE detergent. When needed, I use a spot treatment on problem areas. It’s made of equal parts water, dish soap and ammonia. In general, I’ve found it works best to use the maximum amount of detergent for any load.

To reduce vibration during the spin cycle, I try to load the machine evenly. However, I do sometimes have to move the machine away from the wall from time to time. And the machine still does twist clothes together, such as long legs of pajamas. (Ken Ladd, Minneapolis, Minn., kenladd@comcast.net)

In your last issue, a reader explained how he used a control from an old and automatic to control push and pull of a lawn machine. I’ve used the same idea to control the power of a mini heater inside my home-built welding electrode cabinet. I set the heater at 40°F and 3W and so it keeps the electrodes dry. This setup is very energy efficient since the mini heater is only on enough to keep things dry. (Ken Todd, kentfi@xplornet.ca).

I’m apparently very attractive to biting insects like mosquitoes and ticks. I get a lot of bites. To stop the itching, I tried all kinds of creams and other methods. I heard about a battery-powered device about the size of a tube of chapstick that generates heat when you hold it over a bite. However it costs nearly $80 so it’s a little expensive.

So I came up with my own method. Just heat up a cup of water in a glass until bubbles start to rise in it. Drop a metal spoon into the cup and shake off the water, and then press the bowl of the spoon onto the bite. To do any good, it should be as hot as you can stand. Repeat 4 or 5 times and the itching will stop. This really works and is quick and simple. (Dave Nichols, Pfeffer, Ohio).

In the article you ran in your last issue about my idea of producing bug-free fruit by covering each apple or cluster of grapes with a doggie bag, I meant the kind of bags that restaurants give you, not dog waste bags. The ones I use are made out of very thin waterproof material. They are about 3 by 5 in. and 12 in. long. I cut them down to 9 in. The Wilson Paper Company supplies them in bulk with 500 per carton (www.wilsonpaper.com). Or you can look for restaurant doggie bags at www.amazon.com. (Alton Ellison, Northford, Conn.)

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Robert D. Brady Design, 355 W. Waterside Dr., Suite 103, Post Falls, Idaho 83854 ph 208 704-9916, robert@inventorslighthouse.com; www.inventorslighthouse.com

The disc angle automatically changes at a time to the upper grips of the walker. The disc angle changes with your changing hand position. I’m looking for investors or someone to finance and many to manufacture the product. (Robert Brady Design, 355 W. Waterside Dr., Suite 103, Post Falls, Idaho 83854 ph 208 704-9916, robert@inventorslighthouse.com; www.inventorslighthouse.com)

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My last copy of FARM SHOW was left carelessly out on a deck table and it got rained on before I finished reading it. I temporarily repurposed a deck chair as a paper dryer. We found great interest in theיבור Baker, 1406 Hooker Ave., Madison, Wis. 53704.

After reading the article in your last issue about the “quick brush” for removing silk from sweet corn, I felt compelled to share with you a way to cook corn in a microwave that someone recently showed me.

Place a whole ear, husk and all, in the microwave. Cook on high heat for 3 1/2 to 4 min. and then hold the ear with a towel and put it on a cutting board, or cut off the bottom half inch of the ear and squeeze with your hand on the silk end of the ear. You might have to give it a little snap of the wrist but the ear will slide right off the husk with no silk on it, really easy. If you have 2 ears, cook for 5 min. or 3 ears, 6 min. (Bob Moty, Crystal Lake, Ill.)

In the “Best & Worst Buy” section of the last issue of FARM SHOW, there was a report from a reader about his two McCulloch Model 700 chainsaws. I wanted to point out that the chainsaw pictured is not a Model 700. It’s actually a McCulloch Model 33-B Bow saw with a 3.3 cu. in. engine made in 1954. The McCulloch 700 chainsaw was made in 1977 and had a 4.3 cu. in. engine. (Michael Trimmer, Felton, Penn.)

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