



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.: “When I use my gooseneck trailer, I like to put some grease on the ball. When it’s not in use the grease collects dirt and leaves. This little coffee cup solves the problem.”

James Rissler, Hopkinsville, Ky.: “The brass pickup tube froze and cracked on an older Briggs & Stratton engine – the kind that has a metal gas tank with the carburetor on top. In the winter, water got into the gas and froze, cracking the tube. I cut the brass tube off above the crack and slid on a chainsaw gasoline fuel line and filter. Worked good on that rusty tank.”

Brian Oelhafer, Allenton, Wis.: “I used a Time-Sert thread repair tool to fix a stripped spark plug hole (available at amazon.com). It’s a great product, made to last. Works lots better than cheap heli-coil inserts.

“One simple idea I use in my shop is to put paper towel dispensers everywhere – in machine sheds, shop, barn and garage. Then I buy rolls of shop towels at Costco to put in the holders. Handy to have a towel whenever you need one.

“One repair we made that really saved money was when the tine bars on our old New Holland Super Hayliner baler wore out. New ones would have been \$200 apiece. In 2 hrs. on a lathe we made ‘plugs’ and welded them in as good as new.”

Marshall Clark, Scio, Ohio: Marshall puts “free” used vegetable oil – the stuff you can get from restaurant deep fat fryers – on equipment chains. Does a nice job because it sticks well to the chains and gears.”

Bob Nelson, Kamiah, Idaho: “My 2014 Deere 50-75 tractor doesn’t like 15-40-weight oil in winter. It starts hard, the oil light comes on, and it won’t heat up to working temperature. I switched to 10-30 oil, which the factory okays. Problem solved.

“The insulation on electric wiring in many cars and machines is soy-based rather than petroleum-based, causing mice and rats to chew on the wiring. I’ve found I can stop the problem by tucking used Bounce dryer sheets in vents, under hoods by firewalls, etc. The idea also prevents bees from making nests. Just change them out every month or so.”

Tim Steele, Front Royal, Va.: “My 1984 Ford F-250 diesel 4-WD with a Besler Bale Bed on it has to start up no matter how cold it is because I use it to feed cows. The glow plug controller failed intermittently at first, then failed completely. Troubleshooting revealed that all the glow plugs were still functional. I went online and found a YouTube tutorial for bypassing the controller and using a push-button switch to manually activate the glow plug relay to power the glow plugs. I found a push button 2-pole switch in my shop, drilled a hole in the trim panel under the steering wheel, then installed the switch. I ran the wiring as shown in the tutorial, hooked it up, and now the starting procedure is to turn the ignition switch on, mash the button for 7 seconds, and then start. Works like a champ and saved the replacement cost of the controller. Total time to install was 30 min. No need to remove the old controller.”

Douglas Creswell, Mount Airy, Md.: “One handy thing I did in my barn was to bolt a 4 by 4 to the concrete floor that I can shove against when mounting a front loader bucket on my Ford 1310 tractor. Very handy.

“Our oven door handle was falling off. The glass door made it difficult to replace. I used JB Weld to seal the handle to the glass, and after 24 years, it’s still holding perfectly.”

Mark Johnson, Park Rapids, Minn.: “I’ve extended the life of many bearings and bushings by drilling a 1/16-in. dia. hole through the seal and using a needle to inject them with grease. I seal the hole with a dab of silicone to form a gasket, if needed.”

Delmar R. Cornett, Independence, Va.: “The control gate on my fertilizer spreader rusted shut. I oiled it with WD-40 when putting it into storage but it was frozen shut the next time we went to use it. Then I read in FARM SHOW about the penetration oil made from a 50-50 mix of acetone and transmission fluid. Sprayed that on twice and it freed right up.”

Dennis Helmus, White Cloud, Mich.: “Hydraulic lines and filters were exposed underneath my 2012 Kubota L3650 HST

FARM SHOW

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

Have you come up with any unusual money-saving repair methods for fixing farm equipment? What maintenance shortcuts have you found? Have you had any equipment recalled by the factory? Name a particularly tough mechanical problem you’ve had with a piece of equipment and how you solved it.

These are a few of the questions we asked randomly selected FARM SHOW readers. If you have a repair tip, maintenance shortcut, or other mechanical experience you’d like to share, send details to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

tractor. To keep lines from getting damaged, I installed a skid plate, boxing in the hydraulic lines.”



Fritz Groszkruger, Dumont, Iowa: “I’ve got a ‘global attachment’ quick-tach Deere front-end loader. To release attachments, you pull out the handle and turn. The problem I had was that if I hit a bump while the pins



were out, it would snap back in again. So I would have to get off the tractor and pull it out again. I solved the problem by building up the rounded edge of the pin with weld and then grinding it smooth. The keyhole that the wider part of the pin turns into was punched in, making it slightly worn so I built that up as well. Now it takes a heck of a bump to pop it back in.”

Arnold Bailey, Charlton, Ont.: “As my eyes get worse, I find it extremely hard to see the tire pressure numbers on the side of tires. I have to get out a magnifying glass. So now, I take a silver-colored Sharpie permanent marker and write the numbers large enough to read on the tire sidewall.”

Leonard Mallas, Fond Du Lac, Wis.: “When repairing a pump on a washing machine, instead of bailing out the water, simply attach a wet vac to the drain hose and avoid all the wet mess.”



Douglas Gunderson, Balsam Lake, Wis.: “I converted a non working upright freezer to a handy winter storage cabinet that I keep in my shop. I use the cabinet for items that shouldn’t freeze, such as paint and other liquids. I spend my winters in Texas and the shop is unheated while I’m gone.

“The freezer is warmed by two 60-watt light bulbs, which are turned on or off by a digital temperature controller with a remote sensor. I bought the controller on eBay for \$9.99 including shipping. A refrigerator could also be used in this way.”



Damian Lakatos, Johnstown, Penn.: “I use an old Mason jar as a ‘spark guard’ to contain the sparks on my bench grinder. I didn’t want the sparks bouncing off my shop wall and back at me, and I was also worried they could start a fire.

“The jar captures the sparks surprisingly

Cordless Grinder Turned Belt Grinder

“I needed a little belt grinder for touching up ends of threaded rod, so I made one from an old cordless 4 1/2-in. grinder,” says Allan Isaac.

He made a machined flat pulley on his lathe to screw on to the grinder shaft and built a steel frame to mount a 2 by 30-in. belt. He fabricated 1 1/4-in. tubing with smaller tubing inside to hold the implement bearing shaft he purchased at a farm supply store.

“The secret to keep the belt in alignment is the 3 bolts that go against the bearing shaft that can be adjusted,” Isaac says.

To change the belt, he loosens the crank screw that tensions the belt, slips on a new belt, and tightens it up again lining it up with the bearing and a horizontal steel plate.

“The nice part about it is if you need something ground flat, you just hold it up against it,” Isaac says.

Because it is powered with a battery, the belt grinder is portable, and Isaac keeps it handy on the edge of his workbench.

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Allan Isaac turned a cordless 4 1/2-in. grinder into a table-mounted model for touching up metal.

