

Reader Letters



I was standing next to my Havahart live trap one day when a chipmunk ran right through the trap without setting it off. After examining the trap, I realized the problem was the chipmunk had simply jumped over the trip paddle. I solved the problem by placing a pair of plastic ties across the trap and above the paddle, which prevent the chipmunk from jumping over it. It worked. I was able to catch 34 chipmunks and six red squirrels last summer without using any bait. **(Leon Dykgraaf, 35393 23rd St., Kalamazoo, Mich. 49009 ldykgraaf@msn.com)**



I recently found a box of some old Liberty Spark spark plugs still in the original box and unused. The box contains 6 plugs, along with the paperwork describing the plugs. The address shows Hanover Street, Boston, Mass. I'd like to learn more about these antique spark plugs such as how old they are and whether they're rare or not. Can anyone help? **(Mark Condon; condonmark@comcast.net)**



A couple years ago I started making "yard art" from stuff I had laying around, and people really get a kick out of it. I made a giant turtle and a lady bug by cutting off both ends of a 1,000-gal. propane tank. I also turned the dash from an old Deere 2-cyl. tractor into an attractive table lamp.



The lady bug is painted red and black with welded-on legs and feet made from 6-in. dia. metal discs. Another disc painted yellow forms the head. Washers painted white and black form the eyes, and a pair of welding rods serve as the bug's antennae.

I used the auger flighting off an old IH combine to form the turtle's legs and welded metal discs on to make the feet. A welded-on pipe serves as the neck

and is split open at one end to form the mouth. **(Kenneth Stonecipher, 20521 S. U.S. 421, LaCrosse, Ind. 46348 ph 219 754-2497; knstonecipher@frontier.com)**

I have Parkinson's Disease so I have a shaking problem that makes it difficult to eat peas with a regular table fork. So I went to WalMart and purchased serving forks that are half again as wide as dinner forks and have tines spaced farther apart. They work well to keep peas and other food from falling off. Now I don't have to worry about peeing on the floor! **(Paul Miller, P. O. Box 862, Gardiner, Mont. 59030 ph 406 581-0102)**

I just read the article in your last issue about the owner who has put 2.68 million miles on a Dodge Ram pickup in the past 17 years. I'm not going to dispute him but when you do the math it really makes you scratch your head. It comes to an average of 433 miles per day, 7 days a week. I can't imagine driving that much every single day, in all types of weather, traffic, road conditions, etc. Doesn't seem like there would be much room for a life. **(Anonymous)**

I've got a correction to an item you printed in Vol. 41, No. 5. The drive pulley on my flail mower worked loose, stripping the splines, so I replaced it with a Browning clamp-on spline hub. The work was done by Bergan Electric Co., Auburn, N.Y. (ph 315 253-9789. **(G.F. Donk, Clyde, N.Y.)**

Thank you for sharing my story about water pumps in the last issue of FARM SHOW. I have had calls from people across the country interested in the pump to help people in other countries.



I want to share another idea I came up with several years ago to send to third world countries. I take an old 14 to 16-in. dia. disc blade and, with a plasma cutter, make 2 shovels and 6 garden hoes out of it. A short chunk of pipe can be welded on for attaching a wood handle. **(Ben Yantis, 2601 Lazy Days Lane, Sebring, Fla. 33872 ph 863 385-2378; yantisra@aol.com)**

Thanks for your feature in "Great Shop Ideas - Volume III" on my Magnum Bully line of industrial grade drill bits. Unfortunately, the phone number was wrong. The bits are manufactured from special Hi-Molybdenum tool steel and have 3 flat sides on the shanks to eliminate chuck slippage. The 135° split point gives fast penetration and accurate starting without a center punch. They're perfect for stainless steel and other hard metal applications. We sell other cutting tools such as hole cutters, hole hog drills, car reamers, countersinks and more. **(Wayne E. Sensenig, Hole Solutions ph 443 945-7011)**

That "Fur-Zoff" pet grooming stone that

you featured in your last issue is nothing more than a grill brick that you can buy at any restaurant supply store. I'm 83 years old and have used them for years. **(Dorothy Courtright, Temple, Okla.)**



Here are a couple of handy attachments I added to my loader tractor. The first one is a large hook bolted to one end of the bucket that makes it easy to lift, pull or move all kinds of things. I also added a pulling "eye" and gooseneck ball to the center top of the bucket for moving trailers around the yard.



Another useful idea was mounting a wire basket from an old golf cart to the underside of the ROPS canopy. It's ideal for holding gloves, rags, bee spray, water bottles, and other stuff. Very handy. **(Bill Trexler, Candler, N.C.)**



I modified my Ford 4000 front loader bucket so that it has both a ball hitch and a pin hitch on top, along with a chain hook. To use the hitches I just tilt the bucket forward. Pushing a trailer into a storage building is a lot easier than trying to back it in. **(Larry Wood, lawpressman@aol.com; ph 740 360-1956)**

If you have a fence to put up, before you go to the farm supply store to buy a bunch of T-posts, check your local scrap metal yard. I bought a bunch of posts for just pennies per pound, a fraction of what I'd pay at retail.

Also, I have Parkinson's Disease so it's difficult to grab the pull tab on zippers. When I buy a new pair of pants, I put a small ring on the tab so I can grab hold of it. This has saved me some embarrassment and the pants flap hides

the ring. I think clothing manufacturers could make the tabs a lot easier to use. **(George Carter, Point, Texas)**



We made a "sidewalk" out of used conveyor belting that we laid down alongside one of our farm buildings. It stops erosion caused by water coming off the roof and is great to walk on. The belting is 1 in. thick and about 5 ft. wide and just lays on top of the soil. We paid about \$1 a sq. ft. from repurposedMATERIALS in Colorado (www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com; ph 303 321-1471). The company finds homes for all kinds of unused industrial materials that would otherwise go into a landfill. **(Dale Goetz, Double D Family Mats; dalegoetz@ymail.com)**



I build 2-wheeled yard trailers from old riding mowers by cutting off the back part of the tractor frame just ahead of the transaxle, keeping the rear tires and axle, and then welding a home-built 3 by 4-ft. deck on top of the frame and adding a hitch. Spacers keep the deck clear from the tires. I use a 4-wheeler or garden tractor to pull the trailer. The



12 1/2-in. wide tires avoid making deep ruts in our lawn.

The deck has railings on both sides so it works great for hauling brush and other materials, and for hauling game out of the woods. **(Albert Fuhrer, P.O. Box 803, Drayton Valley, Alberta Canada T7A 1S2 ph 780 542-4151)**

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