

Reader Letters



Editor's note: Last issue we had a feature with several "made it myself" ideas from England, provided courtesy Farmer's Weekly Magazine. Unfortunately, we had the wrong website for the magazine, which is the best weekly farm magazine in Britain. To see more, go to: www.fwi.co.uk.



This photo shows my 5-year-old granddaughter really enjoying her favorite magazine. Keep up the good work! (*Göran Carlsson, Sweden*)

In a story about how Junior Stailey makes household pantry cabinets that double as caskets, we accidentally left off Junior's contact info. Here's how to contact him: Junior Stailey, 20716 Springfield Ctr. Rd., Harlan, Ind. 46743 (ph 260 657-5666; jstaileytexasrefinery@gmail.com).



Here are a couple ideas we use for rolling and unrolling fence wire to maintain the 27 miles of fencing we have on our Central Idaho ranch. If you can get near the fence with a loader tractor, we put a set of forks on the front of the bucket and use two large adjustable clamps to hold a bar in place on top of the tines. We use a 6-sided

I don't know what manner of ergonomic experts have been designing seats for vehicles and farm equipment in recent years. They seem to have insufficient padding where it's needed and too much where it's not, thus making them uncomfortable.

My recommendation is to go to your local Walmart Super Center and buy a bunch of kayak/canoe seats for approximately \$4 apiece. They're about 3/4 in. thick and 12 by 13 in. in size. Or you can buy a 1/2"-thick foam rubber exercise mat that's 2 ft. wide by 6 ft. long. Cut, tuck and glue them to the seats. Shoe glue works the best for me. You can even use this idea on armrests.

The bottom line is to make your seats comfortable for you, not some alien from a galaxy far, far away. (*Charles Matthews, 190 Patton Hollow Rd., Petersburg, Tenn. 37144*)

My wife, Carol, often wears men's boots that are too big for her feet. Instead of wearing lots of socks, she bought a 99-cent pair of flip-flops and removed the thongs, then cut the sole to fit the inside of the boots. Instantly, the boots fit perfectly and the thick foamy soles relieved her foot pain. These homemade insoles beat the expensive, highly-advertised commercial products hands down. (*Paul Peyton, Ava, Mo.*)



My friend, John Scanson, brings FARM SHOW to the coffee shop in our garage where a bunch of guys come over at 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. 6 days a week. They thought I should send you a photo of a "horseless carriage" I built. The body was built from rectangular tubing, plywood, and upholstery. It's powered by a lawnmower motor and transaxle, fitted with motorcycle wheels. It's steered by a single control lever up front. It looks like an antique and runs great. (*Roger L. Westby, New Rockford, N. Dak.*)

Large snap-open key rings work great to hold tangled-up computer power cords. Just fold up wire cords and snap a ring around them. (*Darrell Combs, Citrus Hts., Calif.*)



digging bar to provide a small amount of resistance. The flat sides act like a brake but don't slow down the spool too much when unrolling.

Another method we often use in more inaccessible areas is to put a disc blade on top of an old tire rim with a pointed rod sticking up in the center that you simply drive into the ground. It's better to use a round rod with this method because the disc blade will provide enough drag. If there's too much drag, I just give the blade a squirt of WD-40. (*Michael Thomas, Salmon, Idaho*)



This is a picture of an 8-row precision depth cultivator I built last summer. The shank brackets were moved to the front side of the lift linkage to bring the shovels closer to the tractor wheels. That reduces drift on hillsides and makes it easier to keep them centered between rows. The gauge wheels mount as close as possible to the front of the cultivator shovels - centered exactly in front of each shovel - insuring accurate, consistent depth control. This provides a smooth, consistent flow of soil delivered by the Flow-Shields that mount on each shank above the shovels. Flow-Shields, which

have been featured in FARM SHOW before, break up clods and slabs of soil (www.profitorganics.com; ph 608 606-0810).

This cultivator setup allows for progressively deeper cultivation with each pass with no readjustment of depth needed. We set the depth at about 1 1/2 in. and made no further adjustments during the season. The cultivator worked great and I plan to build another one identical to it. (*Curt Forde, Profit Organics, Viroqua, Wis. www.profitorganics.com*)



You don't need an expensive nut cracker to crack nuts - I find that a vise will do the job perfectly. A vise can crack any kind of nut, no matter what shape it is, and can apply whatever amount of pressure that's needed. Also, it lets me crack the nut at any angle without smashing the meat. (*Robert E. Fonfara, 4463 H St., Omaha, Neb. 68107 ph 402 991-2955*)

I couldn't find a heat houser for my Allis Chalmers D-17 tractor so I rigged up an old hunting blind instead. Works great. (*William Geis, 2496 Samson Ave., Duncombe, Iowa 50532 ph 515 359-2178; baadebintz@yahoo.com*)

Mixing one part of Simple Green All-Purpose Cleaner with two parts of an inexpensive liquid hand soap makes a nice hand cleaner. It's thicker than pure Simple Green, which is quite thin and watery, so it spreads better. It also saves money. (*Lynn Taylor, Tecumseh, Mo.*)

Thanks for publishing the story in your last issue on the chimney sweep I made for cleaning the chimney on our wood stove. Unfortunately, the address was wrong. (*Lee deVries, P.O. Box 214, Crawfordville, Oregon 97336 ph 541 367-8666*)

I read with interest the story on Andrew Kenny's deep "no-spill" water bowls equipped with high-flow valves (Vol. 42, No. 1). It's his answer to cattle slurping water from their buckets due to boredom and splashing it onto their feed or bedding. I agree this is a problem. I also noticed the photo in the story shows a Houle cast iron water bowl nearby, which is the kind I use. I decided to solve the water-slurping problem by modifying my Houle bowls.

I removed the washer from the bowl and replaced it with a Jamesway silo door latch, which already had a hole that would fit the washer hole. Because of the latch, cattle can't push the paddle down as far, and it can't flop back up. It was an inexpensive solution that works great. (*Francis E. Hanno, 7722 E. State St., Lowville, N.Y. 13367*)

Using 3-in. thick wall pipe, I made this backhoe-mounted boom that lets me put up building trusses by myself. The boom U-bolts to the bucket's center tooth, and also to a 2 by 1/2-in. steel bar that's bolted on back of the bucket. I use a sliding chain hook to secure the truss. (*Richard Schmitt, Monroe, Wash. ph 360 540-4086*)



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