

Reader Letters



I was at a county historical museum in Abilene, Kan., and spotted these "bog shoes" that were used to keep draft animals from sinking into the mud. The wide wooden pads have metal clasps that wrapped over the horses' hooves. (Cindy Ladage, Virden, Ill.)

Thanks for running the picture in your last issue of John Bell picking up my 1950's Deere 30 combine. To finish the story, I wanted to let you know that he used it to harvest this year's wheat crop. He harvested about 200 lbs. of wheat from his 1/4-acre plot with the small combine. He was very happy because the antique combine cost a fraction of what a brand new mini combine would cost. If you have a small plot of grain, an antique combine is a good way to harvest it. (Havah Gordon; havah230@cox.net)

I wish folks who write into FARM SHOW would make the correct distinction between the words "wrench" and "socket". They are entirely different things. Using the term "socket wrench" is the stringing-together of two distinctly different objects. A wrench is just a wrench and a socket is just a socket! (Tim Murphy, Grayling, Mich.)



I read your stories about side-mount mowers in the last issue and thought I'd show you one I rigged up a few years ago. Using automotive tie rods and 3/4-in. pipe, I mounted a 46-in. deck with a 12-hp. motor to the side and front of



my 48-in. cut 520-H Wheel Horse riding mower. The tie rods connect to an angle iron frame fitted with 4 caster wheels. I added an extra fuel tank so the side mower would run as long as the tractor before refueling.

I can mow around trees like a zero-turn mower with this setup. It's just great. (Robert Walker, Mocksville, N.C.)

If you buy a pellet stove and vent it out the side of the house, beware of

what can happen if a strong wind blows directly into the exhaust. The wind can act like a turbocharger, spewing out hot embers from the exhaust and right back against the house. This happened to my neighbor, who managed to shut the stove off before the situation got out of hand. I've never seen anyone mention this potential problem. I'm glad I vented mine up through the roof. (Scott Mathews, Northfield, Minn.)



Thanks for the article in your last issue on my unusual business of raising luffa. I've had calls from readers across North America. I wanted to let your readers know that I hope to have my website for selling luffas up and running soon. (Cindy Lou Oulton, Annapolis Valley Luffa; luffacanada.ca; ph 403 370-8766)



Grass patch products for seeding bare patches in yards are expensive and often contain cheap seed. I make my own patch mix using 6 scoops of potting soil, 3 scoops of top soil, 2 scoops of sand, and one scoop of quality grass seed. I pack the mix onto bare spots and water it with liquid plant food. The grass grows like crazy. The photo shows growth after just 4 to 5 days. (Scott Geyer, Publisher, FARM SHOW, Lakeville, Minn.)



Using a couple hose clamps to attach a lever to the handle of my "best buy" Woodford hydrant sure makes it easy to turn on the water when my arthritis flairs up. This hydrant has held up for many years, much better than the cheaper Chinese units now on the market. (Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio)



Thanks for showing my John Deere Tandem "D" tractor in your last issue. I'm considering selling this tandem tractor, which I put together in 1966. The back tractor is a 1947 D while the front one is a 1949 D, both with electric start. I needed more power to pull bigger equipment and they weren't making big 4-WD's at the time.

There are new tires on front and the rear tires are good. It has power steering so it's easy to drive and both engines are in good shape with new heads, blocks and rebuilt carbs. This is a rare and unique collector item. Give me a call or email if you're interested. (Steve McCheyne; mac36@accesscomm.ca; ph 306 536-8988)



My woodsplitter and some of my trailers have ball hitches, but I have other equipment with pin hitches. I got tired of putting a ball on and off so I made a quick-tach sleeve to slide over the drawbar. I welded 2 pieces of 3-in. channel iron together, drilling 2 holes in the sleeve to match the 2 holes in the drawbar. I used a pair of 1/2-in. bolts to go through the sleeve and drawbar. Hairpins through the bottom ends of the bolts keep them from jumping out. I welded nuts to the top of the bolts, positioned on their sides, and attached 1/8-in. pieces of cable to the bolts and hair pins so they wouldn't get lost. Now it takes only seconds to install the sleeve and ball hitch. (Terry Morgel, Avon, Minn.)

I enjoyed reading the article about reseeded a pasture with the help of cows by mixing grass seed with a mineral supplement which the cows then spread (Vol. 43, No. 3). I have a small ranch at a very high elevation in Oregon and keep my cattle home all year long. They're in the barn during cold weather, which produces fertilizer for the following spring. I sprinkle grass seed on top of each manure spreader load, so that the spreader does the seeding for me as it unloads the manure. (Cal Lemke, Broken Yoke Ranch, 19117 Yellow Jacket Springs Road, Beatty, Oregon 97627)

I had a lot of trouble with birds pooping in my rain gauges and got tired of having to dump out the dirty water. I tried everything I could think of to solve the problem. Finally I bought a cheap electric fence charger at Tractor Supply Company. The two gauges are located about 100 ft. apart in my yard, while the charger sets on our house porch and plugs into a 110-volt outlet. A pair of wires run from the charger through a length of underground pvc tubing that leads to each gauge.



The tubing then goes up and over the rain collection tube, where the wires form a perch. The wires are only about 1/4 in. apart, with one wire hot and the other ground, and a short insulator keeps them apart. As the bird lands, its feet touch both wires at the same time to complete the circuit. It doesn't kill the bird, but once it gets a shock it doesn't come back. Works great.

One of the two rain gauges is an AcuRite 5-in-1 wireless weather station, which I bought on Amazon.com. It accurately measures the temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed, and wind direction. It comes with a self-emptying rain gauge, and it shows rainfall totals for the day, week, and year on an illuminated color display that I keep in my house. I paid about \$100 for the AcuRite. It's also sold at Bass Pro Shops. (Mack Myers, Kirbyville, Texas ph 409 988 8327; mackwmyers@gmail.com)

Thanks for the article on my tread repair kits for boots. Well done. We've received several calls from your readers and have sent kits to individuals and even to shoe repair businesses. All of them are very grateful for the kits and praise FARM SHOW. (Dave Auble, GlueTread, LLC, ph 330 603-3213)

FREE Classified Ads!

Looking for FARM SHOW's classified ads?
We've got the best deal in the business!

FREE ads with photos at our "sister" company's website:
www.BestFarmBuys.com

More than 100,000 regular users will see your listing!