

Reader Letters



I was reading the story in your last issue about the guy in Canada who puts antifreeze on door jambs in extremely cold weather to keep them from sticking. This is not a good idea because pets will lick antifreeze – which is sweet – and get sick or die. We had a cat who died after licking up antifreeze on the floor of the garage. Please warn your readers about this. **(Edward Fett, South Dakota)**



I made a device to make it easier to read FARM SHOW while walking on my treadmill. It was difficult to find a place to put the magazine since the pages are floppy. So I made a support out of a piece of plywood with a coat hanger down the middle that goes through the center of the pages. There's a block of wood attached to the back that acts as a hanger at the top of the treadmill. Reading FARM SHOW makes the exercise minutes go much faster! **(Michael Heron, Lloydminster, Sask., Canada)**

To haul firewood on a flatbed trailer, buy an inexpensive wire-sided dog kennel and strap it down on the trailer. Works great to hold wood in place and can be easily removed when you're done. **(Wess Cornelius, Winlock, Wash.)**

Thanks for running the report on my MF 2625 tractor in the last issue. I've had problems with severe rust and corrosion in the cooling system, including finding chunks of rust the size of grapes in the cooling fluid. The tractor has only around 1,000 hrs. I'd like to hear from other owners who've had similar problems. By the way, my name was spelled wrong in your published report. **(Ed Hass, Ellsworth, Wis.; ph 715 594-3913; edhass@bevcomm.net)**



A friend of mine who goes to a lot of auctions with me, bought a 12-volt winch with a marine battery to load whatever he buys onto a trailer. The first time he went to use it, it wouldn't work and he discovered that while he was at the auction someone stole the battery, cutting the cables to get it out quick.

I liked his idea but decided to keep it simple. I bought a 6,000-lb. hand winch and anchored it to my 5" wheel ball and use steel cable to connect to whatever I have to load onto my trailer. It works fine and cost just \$150. It's also easier to lock it away to prevent theft. **(Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.)**

In his "best buy" report about his Frantz oil filter in your last issue, a reader said "oil doesn't wear out". It's true that it remains slippery, but acids build up and the additives (detergents, anti-foaming, anti-corrosion) break down. I'm afraid that following the advice to "never drain the oil" will lead to unnecessary engine wear.

Also, if you don't want to void your vehicle's warranty, you will need to replace the oil and filter at the specified change intervals, regardless of whether or not you supplement the filtration system with a bypass unit such as the Frantz. **(Bruce Brittain (brucebrittain@verizon.net))**

I want to comment on an article in a recent issue about a reader who uses a 5-gal. bucket (Vol. 43, No. 4), instead of a bag, on his Japanese beetle trap. Several years ago I also replaced the bag using a 2-ft. long square piece of vinyl square tubing designed to protect a 4 by 4 post. A piece of pvc pipe would work just as well. I attached the trap and tubing to a pole and hung it over the pond with the bottom of the tube about an inch off the water. Within 2 min., a bluegill snapped up the first beetle killed. So it feeds the fish and there are no dead bugs to clean up. **(Mike Stauffer, Leonardtown, Md.)**

To the fellow in your last issue who complained about NAPA auto parts not honoring a lifetime warranty on a starter, how can a retailer take back a defective product with no proof of purchase? I save all important receipts in a plastic bag in my pickup's glovebox. I have occasionally had to return a part to NAPA and have never had a problem because I always have receipts. **(Jon Wallace)**



My 1/4-scale John Deere D was built totally from scratch. It's powered by a Deere pony motor and Cub Cadet rear end. It has a functional belt pulley, flywheel, pto and hand clutch. I made the fenders and all the sheet metal parts, except the hood, which was made by my friend, Myron Hoelscher. The radiator core was special-ordered. The rear wheels are cut down dump rake wheels and the front wheels came off a cultivator. The seat is an original Deere cast iron seat.

The tractor is fully functional so we take it to shows, where it gets a lot of attention. **(Dewane Myers, Bethalto, Ill. ph 618 259-1813; myrswelding1@aol.com)**

Several years ago FARM SHOW ran a story on the powered starter I made for rope-pull engines. I built it for my own use but we had tremendous interest worldwide since your report, shipping prototypes to the U.S., Canada, Australia, Singapore, South Africa, and more. That gave us the confidence to manufacture units and put the Pull Starter on the market.

Basically, it gives the pull-rope several very quick pulls until the motor starts. It's powered by a cordless drill. You almost have to see it work to appreciate how easy it makes it to start any engine (see the video at www.farmshow.com). Anyone who has trouble starting up lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chainsaws, and other machines will love how the Pull Starter works. They're available



at our website for \$299 with free shipping. **(Frank Brankin, Northern Ireland; www.pullstarters.com; frank.brankin@btinternet.com)**



To keep from scraping rocks off my driveway when moving snow with my grader blade, I installed two heavy-duty 12-in. swivel caster wheels, one at each end of the blade. I use the third link to adjust the height before I start clearing the driveway. **(Richard Mountcastle, Rockville, Ind.)**



I replaced a rusted-out 48-in. plow blade on my old C-120 Wheel Horse tractor with a ProVantage 50-in. blade I bought at Amazon.com for a couple hundred dollars. The blade came with trip springs, skids and a wear bar. It was easy to adapt it to the existing plow frame with no welding and only some minor drilling. The new blade is very strong, made from 12-ga. steel. **(Lee Murgia, Pelham, N.H.)**

I read with interest your story in Vol. 43, No. 2, about different concoctions readers use to clean up rusty tools, such as Kool-Aid, Coke, and vinegar. I have found that one of the cheapest and most

convenient ways to make an acid solution is to use LemiShine (from Evroncon Technologies). It's available in most grocery stores near the dishwashing detergents.

Begin by wire-brushing off as much rust as possible, then use hot water with the LemiShine, adding a squirt of dishwashing liquid to cut any oil on the surface. Scrub the tool or part with a rough dishwashing pad, rinse thoroughly, then dip into a mild solution of baking soda to neutralize any remaining acid. Rinse again and dry. **(Bruce Brittain; brucebrittain@verizon.net)**

I use ordinary liquid bleach to treat bee stings and mosquito bites, as well as burns and/or swelling caused by contact with weeds such as wild parsnip and nettles. I place the bleach in small hand sanitizer bottles with flip-top caps, and keep them in my pockets whenever I'm out and about. Just squirt a little on the affected area and massage in.

If you get stung by a bee or wasp, make sure to remove the stinger before applying. **(John Lubinski, Plainview, Minn.; JJLubinski@yahoo.com)**



I used an Awesome Henry fiberglass conversion kit to convert an old WheelHorse garden tractor to look like a 1941 Ford 8N (www.awesomehenry.com; ph 937 497-9447 or cell ph 937 498-9705). Dave Knasel at Awesome Henry also offers overhead valve conversion kits for 289, 302, and 351 cu. in. Ford Windsor engines in N-Series tractors, as well as a baby Ford mini kit. The kit consists of a single piece fiberglass hood that fits over most standard garden tractors. It also includes a bumper, 12-volt working headlights, radiator cap, grille decals, hood script, Ford badge, and rear fenders with single rib and script.

I converted the tractor's exhaust pipe to come down under the tractor and go out the back instead of out the front like before. I built a 3-pt. hitch for the tractor and also a small hay wagon. **(Gail Ennis, Flora, Ind.)**

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