

Reader Letters



This grain truck recently caught my eye because it has two extra load-out doors, one in each corner. Makes it faster and easier to clean out a truck when unloading. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

Attention FARM SHOW mechanics! Before you spend months working on an amazing half-scale tractor – or other remarkable mechanical project – consider checking out your neighborhood to see if there are nearby farmers who could use your skills repairing their farm equipment. Lots of farmers have work that needs doing but they can't justify shop rates charged by dealers. But they'd be happy to pay you a decent fee and maybe also have a good conversation with you. So next time you find yourself setting out to make a garden tractor look like a Big Bud, think about giving a local farmer a helping hand. **(Gary Lobb, Makinen, Minn.)**

I was interested in the story in your last issue about using a pvc pipe and vinyl siding to make fish habitat. I wanted to point out that in many states, it's illegal to place objects like that in the lake. Of course, many people have their own farm ponds so it's no problem. **(Cal Miner, Willmar, Minn.)**

It's irritating when you put toothpaste on your brush and it tips over while you put the cap back on the tube. I solved the problem by attaching a flat washer to the handle with silicone so the brush will stay upright next to the sink. Great for kids and us old people. **(Roy Crofoot, Fowlerville, Mich.)**



I read with interest a recent FARM SHOW article called "A New Way To Grow Christmas Trees" (Vol. 41, No. 5) about leaving the lowest branch of a tree attached to the stump when cutting trees. That branch turns upward and becomes a new tree.

My family has been involved in the Christmas tree industry in Canada for 60 years. At it's peak in the 1950's, close to 2 million trees a year came out of this area. My father, Lister Canning, marketed his own trees for many years and ran a tree lot in Lethbridge, Alberta. He has since retired but there are still many "stump culture" trees grown in our area. Some have as many as 7 cuts which means that 7 trees were harvested off the same original stump. I'm sending a pic that shows a stump with 4 different cuts and a set of deer antlers that got caught in the tree, which then grew around them. **(Helen Hannah, British Columbia, Canada; aa442687@telus.net)**

My T-post puller works like an antique bumper jack that hooks into a vehicle's bumper, except that it catches the notches on the T-post.



A long handle runs through a 3-ft. length of aluminum channel iron and attaches to one end of a short length of square tubing with a bolt. A slot at the other end of the tubing slips over the back side of the post and pivots on the bolt. **(Rick Plunkett, 577 Campbells Ferry Lane, Albany, Ky. 42602 ph 859 472-9367; replunkett577@gmail.com)**



I slip pool noodles over my fishing rods to keep the lines from getting tangled, making sure to match the noodle size to the size of the guide eyes on the fishing rod. Works great. Pipe insulation would probably also work. **(Cal Miner, 3971 8th St. N.E., Willmar, Minn. 56201 ph 320 295-8481)**

I needed to bring water to an injured cow in a pasture, but didn't have a clean bucket with lid to keep the water from sloshing around. So I put a garbage bag inside the bucket, filled the bag with water, and tied it shut. Even though I had to walk across a rough pasture carrying



"I bought a 100-year-old, 20-in. Meadows Mills natural stone burr mill, built in the early 1900's for grinding corn, wheat and other grains. I paid \$250 and then restored it back to working condition. The mill had been robbed of many parts, including the pulley and cam that operated the sifters. I found a pulley and made the cam using a 7/8-in. thick washer off a disk harrow. I also had to replace some of the wood framing on the encasement that surrounds the granite stones. The stone wheel was still in good shape, but I had to reset it in cement because it vibrates so much. I also dressed the stones with specially made hammers.

I made a new bracket for the sifter, using the spring from an old recliner

chair to provide tension. The spring that sets tension on the mill's main shaft was missing, so I replaced it with the spring off a 3-wheeled golf cart.

Sometimes I haul the mill on a trailer to our local town festival where people enjoy watching me make corn meal or flour. I use a flat belt pulley on an old tractor to power it.

Meadows Mills quit making wooden encasements in the 1950's when they switched to metal, and they were the last company to do so. They're located in North Wilkesboro, N.C., and still make natural stone burr mills. They also restore old mills for customers or for resale (www.meadowsmills.com; ph 336 838-2282). **(Wayne A. Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy., Lincolnton, Ga. 30817)**



the bucket, I didn't spill a single drop.

Once I reached the cow, I just untied the bag and folded the edges back over the bucket so she could drink out of it. **(Richard Zigler, 1083 Roper North Fork Road, Charles Town, W. Va. 25414 ph 304 283-6799; rzigler01@gmail.com)**



Most people recycle old newspapers and junk mail, but I turn them into logs to burn in my fireplace or wood stove. They work great for starting a fire in the morning. They're easy to make and handy to use during the wood-burning season. **(Steve Hassett; ph 757 576-4007; shasse01@gmail.com)**

I welded a pair of chain hooks onto a short piece of rectangular tubing that I bolted to my 5-ft. loader bucket. The hooks work

great for various lifting jobs and make securing loads easy and transport safer. I didn't weld the hooks directly to the bucket because it's made of fairly thin material that I was afraid might bend.



Instead, I bolted the tubing behind the bucket, onto thick metal that's in line with the loader's hydraulic cylinders.

I started with 3 by 4, 1/4-in. thick tubing and welded a 4-in. square piece of 3/8-in.



thick steel on top of it to form a lip that goes over the top of the bucket. The hook is welded on top of the lip. I welded a 6-in. bar made from 2-in. square tubing on back of the block, and then drilled a couple of holes through the bottom of the block and bolted it on. As the load is lifted, the bar and bolts are both pulling together which keeps the the bucket from bending. **(Carl Cannon, 905 Springhill Church Rd., Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344 ph 731 986-5579 or cell ph 731 415-9447; cjcann43@hughes.net)**

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