

Reader Letters



My wife Lois and I repurposed a pair of old 6 and 8-ft. dia. satellite dishes into raised bed gardens. The dishes set on top of rear tractor tires, which are smaller than the dishes making it easy to mow grass around them. The photo shows a 6-ft. dish. The edge of the dish stands about 18 in. off the ground.

Both dishes already had a couple of holes in them, and I drilled more holes to drain excess water. I placed a layer of gravel on the bottom of the dish, then installed garden cloth and added topsoil. This summer we were away for a few days so I used pvc posts and netting to keep deer away.

The soil at the center of the dish is 6 to 8 in. deep, but shallower toward the edges. Next year we'll fill the dish with more soil so it will be deeper. **(Mark and Lois Julin, 25515 Raleigh Hill Rd., Shevlin, Minn. 56676)**

In the last issue there were reports from a couple people who were having trouble with mice getting into their cars or pickups. To solve the problem, take some 2-in. dia. pvc pipe and cut it into 2-ft. lengths. Put Havoc or D-Con rat and mice poison in the pipes and place them around outside the perimeter of the building. If the vehicle sits outside, put a pipe or two under the vehicle. This isn't safe if there are small children or pets around. **(John Richey, Country Club, Mo.)**



We had problems with deer polishing their antlers on our young trees and deforming them, so for the last few years we've been attaching scented dryer sheets to fiberglass posts placed beside the trees. The smell and movement of the sheets encourages deer to go somewhere else. We usually change out the dryer sheets about every 10 days, but more frequently during rainy weather. The sheets cost only a few cents apiece. It's a simple, low-cost way to save expensive young trees. I began using this idea about 10 years ago and haven't lost a tree yet. **(Dave Meiners, 1582 61st St., Edgerton, Minn. 56128 ph 507 829-1215; davemeiners123@gmail.com)**

A few issues ago someone wrote in the Best and Worst Buys about his Land Pride 6-ft., 3-pt. mounted rototiller. He said he couldn't get it to dig deep enough.

I bought one like his in the late fall of 2018. In the spring I had the same problem. I was very disappointed in this product. I had a 5-ft., 3-pt. mounted Tar River tiller that got burned up in a storage barn. That unit would dig down half way to China if I would let it, but it was mounted on a 75 hp. New Holland tractor.

The Land Pride is on a Workmaster 55 hp. New Holland tractor. After looking at it, I parked the tractor cross wise in my driveway and backed the tiller over the ditch. I lowered the tiller down as far as I could, got off the tractor and saw the tiller only went down about 2-in. below the rear tractor tires. Both of my 3-pt. lift arms are adjustable, so I lowered both arms down about 6-in. Now the unit digs or tills down 8-in. and I am very satisfied.

Sometimes it's not the tiller's problem but the tractor it's mounted on. **(Joe Cegielski, River Falls, Wis.)**



Several years ago my wife had knee surgery which meant she couldn't kneel to do garden work. Through the years our business had accumulated worn-out freezers, and we came up with the idea to fill them with dirt and some chicken manure to make raised garden beds. My wife could then garden while standing up, and she was able to raise more produce than she ever could before.

We placed rocks in the bottom of the freezers and also punched some holes in the bottom to drain water. We've used our freezer raised garden beds for at least 10 years and they haven't rusted out yet. **(Tim Neuberger; timneuberger@hotmail.com)**



About 3 years ago I rebuilt my 5 by 8 utility trailer. I used an axle from a 1970 military jeep trailer because it had a parking brake (lever shown in blue in the picture). It's great because I was tired of having to put a 2 by 4 block behind the wheels of my old trailer whenever I parked on an incline. **(Wayne A. Beggs, Lincolnton, Ga.)**

I put barrels on their sides in my tack room to hold saddles on top and then store other tack inside. **(Monica Rye)**



I make steel forks and pallets for toy skid loaders and tractors. The forks easily slide onto the bucket to lift our 4 3/4 by 4 1/8-in. pallets. We offer black, gray and galvanized forks, which fit buckets up to 3 1/2-in. wide and up. A set of forks and 2 pallets sells for \$10. **(Victor Good, 30 Wartluft Rd., Myerstown, Penn. 17067 ph 717 628-1317)**

To get everything out of a tube of caulk or toothpaste or anything else that comes in a squeeze tube, I cut a slot in a short piece of 1/2-in. dia. pipe and slip the bottom of the tube into the slot. Then rotate the pipe up to flatten and empty the tube. Simple and easy. **(Michael Bechtel, Lockport, N.Y.)**

When my sister redid her kitchen, I moved all the cabinets and countertops out to a corner of my shop to make a kitchen so my wife and I can do canning without messing up our house. **(Kent Sommer, Wis.)**

Thank you for the article in the last issue on my first-of-its-kind harvester for Haskap berries (Vol. 44, No. 4). I wanted to point out that there was an error in your story. It said the machine will harvest Haskap "trees" from 4 to 8 ft. tall. Actually, they're more like bushes and are 18 in. to 4 ft. tall. By the way, we also think it will work with raspberries and other such fruits. **(Pat Robertson, Box 212, Birch Hill, Sask. S0J 0G0 Canada; ph 306 961-2102; patrobertsonbh@sasktel.net)**

I got a big kick out of reading articles in the last issue (Vol. 44, No. 4) about George Hoffman's rebuilt Rumeley tractor, and also Richard Gorz's collection of rare Oliver outboard motors. My dad worked for Oliver up until their plant in Battle Creek, Mich., closed. In fact, at one time or another he worked for their farm machinery division, outboard motor division, and aircraft division, where he helped build B-47 and the RB 47-E airplanes. I got to know many of the men he worked with and often made trips to the farm machinery manufacturing plant.

My grandfather worked for Rumely and also Nichols and Shepard Co., which manufactured farm machinery - including steam engines - in Battle Creek and was later bought out by Oliver. I went on boat rides with an Oliver executive when I was a kid, and later my family owned an Oliver outboard motor of our own. What a treat!

Thanks for bringing back those memories of days gone by. **(Bill Halstead, Lacey, Mich.)**

To temporarily fix a hole in a tire, I simply insert a 1/2-in. long sheet metal screw that's big enough to fit tightly into the hole and then just air up the tire. I put about 5,000 miles on one tire using this idea before I got around to fixing the hole with a tire plug. A friend of mine doesn't even bother plugging his tires after putting screws in. He says the screws stay in just fine. **(Ed Grant, Penryn, Calif.)**

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ROGER KUNTZ

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I wrote *Inventing And Marketing* to detail the simple strategies I've used for many years to bring my ideas to market. Many people are disappointed at the end of their lives by the things they thought of doing but never did, or the idea they had first but that someone else benefited from. This book will help you understand how to think about ideas and provide practical tips on how to successfully bring your ideas to market.

Besides sharing the basics of what works and what doesn't in this book, I also have a traveling workshop and I consult with individuals and businesses facing the challenges of design, production and marketing.

My books sells for \$10 plus \$5 shipping. **(Roger Kuntz, 5251 Co. Rd. X, Grainfield, Kan. 67737 ph 785 673-5560)**

Editor's Note: Roger Kuntz, Grainfield, Kan., has had more than 30 inventions and ideas featured in FARM SHOW, dating all the way back to 1978. In addition to inventing and marketing a variety of products, he likes to help other people bring their ideas to life. That's why he recently wrote a book on how he put his inventions on the market while avoiding some of the common traps that can cost inventors thousands of dollars. Along the way he offers a bit of philosophy that might help you understand how successful inventors think.



My son Ralph, who is a woodworker, artist, and gardener, creates mosaics of produce. The photo shows a mosaic with a big slice of watermelon. **(John Matthews, Welland, Ontario, Canada)**

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