

Reader Letters



I've found that to keep hoses from tangling, it's best to lay them in a figure eight instead of a circle. It also keeps the twist out of the hose since each half wrap reverses direction.



I wanted to go through my corn rows with a small rototiller without getting wrapped up in the leaves. So I cut a piece of 12-in. dia. pvc in half and made some quick-mount brackets so I can put them on when needed. Worked great. I also use them around caged tomatoes and other garden plants as well. **(Jim Lacey, Dell Rapids, S.Dak.)**



Here's how I store bungee straps. Drill holes in a piece of pvc pipe and hook the straps over the end and into whatever hole matches the length. Eliminates having a pile of straps and you can see at a glance which strap is the one you need. **(Cal Miner, Willmar, Minn.)**



I save my leaves in the fall to put on my garden the next spring. Once the plants come up I pour the bags of leaves around them, greatly reducing weed growth and the need to water. In the fall I just chop up the leaves in the garden along with the garden plants. Makes good winter ground cover and food for worms. **(Clint Reynolds, Clarksville, Tenn.)**



Here's a photo of a window well covering for our house that I made using the tinted glass side window off an old van. The window measures about 30 in. long and 20 in. high, and is just a little wider than the window well. I placed the window against the house at a 45-degree angle, setting the bottom up against the metal window well. A couple of plywood pieces were used to close up both sides.

I came up with the idea because I got tired of buying cheap plastic window well coverings at big box stores. Hail goes right through them. I bought 4 of these windows 10 years ago and placed them all around the house, and not one has broken. I'm 93 years old and really enjoy FARM SHOW. **(John Hewitt, Litchfield, Minn. 55355)**

I have subscribed to your magazine for many years and almost every issue has an article that interests me – either a repair, product, or tip about something on my farm. I keep every issue and put a checkmark by articles I'm interested in and make a note on the front cover before putting it in my library storage area. Keep up the good work! **(John Janisch, Beldenville, Wis.)**



I got tired of sweating while mowing my lawn during hot weather, so I mounted a big fan on the hood on my old Wheelhorse riding mower. It keeps me cool on hot summer days.

I bolted a mounting bracket onto a 12-in. dia., 12-volt fan and bolted it on front of the mower's hood, then hooked it up directly to the mower's battery. A switch is used to turn the fan on and off. The fan provides plenty of air flow even on the hottest days. The photo shows part of the mower's hood removed so I had room to work on the engine. **(Milan Hochstetler, 174 Vogel Rd., Cumberland, Va. 23040 (ph 804 492-4295))**

To keep mice out of our camper/horse trailer, we put a couple bars of Irish Spring soap in various locations, just opening the ends of each box. It's no danger to kids or pets and really works. Before we did this, we had a big problem with them chewing on tack in the trailer. It's the smell that keeps them away because I never see signs of nibbling on the soap. **(Stanley Robbins, Rocky Mount, N.C.)**

I read the comments in your last issue about mice getting into readers' vehicles. I live on 10 acres with livestock. My two vehicles stay in a shop with a dirt floor. I use one vehicle daily and the other one may sit for a month or two. To keep mice out, I put Bounce Fabric Softener sheets in the cab and engine compartment and have never seen a mouse turd in either one in over 10 years. Bounce also repels mosquitoes. Just rub your face and neck, then put the softener fabric in your pocket. Works well if you're not allergic to it. **(Gary Morrison, Fallon, Nev.)**



I found a 38-in. pull-type lawn sweeper at the local salvage yard. The owner threw it away after the canvas bag on it rotted away due to long term outdoor storage. I thought about building a tin or plywood hopper to replace the bag, but then I saw a nearby 55-gal. drum that was nearly as tall as the sweeper was wide. Being a plastic food grade drum, it was light and easy to work with.

I bolted the drum to the sweeper's original bag mounts and added a piece of treated lumber as a stop to keep the drum out of the sweeper mechanism. Then I used a wood-cutting jig saw blade to cut out one side of the drum. The drum doesn't have a lot of capacity, but the ability to easily dump the load is a fair trade-off. We use the lawn trimmings collected by the sweeper as mulch and compost, and as a tasty green snack for our cow and horses. **(Nathan Koch, W6375 Old 8 Road West, Prentice, Wis. 54556 ph 715 428-2029; n.d.koch@outlook.com)**



Milk crates work great to hold propane tanks in the back of pickups or on trailers. Keeps them from rolling around. **(Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.Dak.)**

In the last issue a reader complained about having trouble with mice getting in vehicles by coming through the in-cab air filter. I suggest putting a bit of wire screening behind the air filter to keep them from getting through. **(Greg Herling)**

In the last issue of FARM SHOW, a couple readers told about having mice issues in newer Ford and GM trucks. I've spent most of my life working in the automotive trade so I know that since 2015 Ford and GM have been using a soy-based product to make wire insulation instead of petroleum. Ford also uses soy-based foam for their seats. Other manufacturers are using these products, too, including imports like Mercedes. My son, who is a Mercedes tech, told me they recently had a car come in for service and a small rabbit hopped out of the engine compartment, where he had been feasting on wiring. **(Larry Skoglund, Miltona, Minn.)**



I have wanted to have a lightweight disk harrow for my vegetable gardens. So I bought an older IH 10-disc harrow with a 1-pt. hitch. I modified it to a 3-pt. hitch using a drawbar and mast from a junked rotary mower. Due to the slope of the original 1-pt. hitch, I used a 1/4-in. thick piece of steel at the front of the hitch to level the drawbar before welding it in place. I braced it with a 1-in. thick steel bar. Works great. **(Wayne A. Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy, Lincolnton, Ga. 30817)**

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