

Reader Letters



Last August I hosted what I call our neighborhood Haynie Tractor Show on my 5-acre property. The idea was for neighbors to drive their tractors over to my place and get to know each other. This photo was taken at our first show, which was held last year, and it has now become an annual event. Eight tractors showed up last year, and we drove 1/4 mile down the road to a local Grange hall. It was a great opportunity for neighbors to meet and have some fun, and seeing all the tractors go down the road was inspiring.



I was cleaning out things recently and found an old letter from editor Mark Newhall. In 1997 I had sent a request to several companies asking for donations to help build a pedal tractor that could be used by kids to pull a sled. I don't remember how much money I was asking for and I might have gone about it the wrong way, but Mark was the only one to respond. I just wanted him to know that I really appreciated it.

To advertise the show, I made a 10-ft. square display sign out of sheet metal roofing off an old shed that I tore down. Everyone had a good time, and it brought back memories of how neighbors often used to visit in the old days.



On another topic, I had a Farmall H carcass laying around and figured I'd better do something with it, so I came up with this "tractorcrow" scarecrow. It stands along a fence line close to a nearby road. I put it together without doing any welding and used my loader tractor to stand it up.

The body was made by standing up the rear axle and transmission bell housing on a big wheel rim. I made the head by placing a big V-belt pulley horizontally over a pto shaft, and then placing an engine cooling fan on top of it. A vehicle's brake rotor made a nice hat. (Catherine Anderson, 3533 Haynie Rd., Blaine, Wash. 98230 (ph 509 859-2373; Catherine2373@gmail.com))



I built this loader tractor almost 60 years ago and still use it regularly. It's built on the chassis of an old Farmer's Union No. 3 tractor. Power is provided by a Dodge slant six engine with an automatic transmission, and the drive axle is a modified planetary axle off a Gleaner C3 combine. The power brakes came off a Chevrolet pickup.

The tractor has two steering wheels with a swivel seat - which I need because of a neck injury - so I can face either way to drive it. The loader is a Farmhand F11. (Ray Swenson, Swenson Feed Farm, 29667 State Hwy. 92 S.E., Brooks, Minn. 56715 ph 218 796-5285)



My dad, Arvel Newton, used mostly scrap material to build this replica of a McCormick Deering 15-30 tractor mailbox. He used a toy tractor to make a pattern and took measurements to make everything to scale.

The frame that supports the tractor is off an MTD-built Cub Cadet riding mower. The frame that supports the mailbox was made by welding together 6-in. angle iron and 2 1/2-in. flat iron. A raised metal screen at the bottom of the mailbox keeps the mail dry if any water gets inside the box. The door is held shut by a magnetic latch.

The fuel tank was made from a 20-gal. oil tank cut down to size and welded back together. The fuel cap is the wheel off a sliding barn door and is mounted on the tractor with metal straps, just like on the real tractor. The air cleaner was made by cutting a spin-on oil filter in half and then placing a piece of screen between the halves. The steering gearbox is from a weed trimmer crankcase, and the steering shaft is welded to a spark plug that's screwed into the trimmer's crankcase. The steering wheel is from a table saw.

The tractor mailbox is complete with a belt pulley, brake drum, brake pedal, drawbar, levers, exhaust and intake pipes, radiator and fuel caps, pto shaft, and even a miniature toolbox. If it's on a real tractor, it's on this mailbox. (Jerry Newton, 440 Co. Rd. 115, Lexington, Ala. 35648 ph 256 577-9815 or Arvel Newton, 3384 Co. Rd. 89, Lexington, Ala. 35648)



To haul big logs with a loader tractor, I cut off the big end of the log first and then chain the log to a bucket fork. It holds the log tightly in place and I don't have to worry about it rolling off the forks. (Dick Weygandt, Penn.)



During the summer I use homemade wooden towers to support a pair of 40-ft. long, 8-in. dia. "half-pipes" that collect rainwater on both sides of my garage's metal roof (see story in this issue on page 36).

During winter, I use the 5 and 4-ft. towers to support a pair of 10-ft. Western-style snow fences that keep snow from drifting between my house and garage. I just nail 10-ft. long 1 by 6's across both sides of the towers. Each tower measures 36 in. wide at the bottom and 18 in. wide at the top. I treat the wood with Wolman's F&P redwood stain finish and preservative. (Mark Johnson, 53742 Co. Hwy. 44, Park Rapids, Minn. 56470 ph 218 732-4214; maryjjohnson57@gmail.com)



Many years ago when I lived in Minnesota I decided to rebuild my house, which was built in 1914, to look like an old German farm house. I gutted the interior walls and rebuilt the inside, and also added a basement. It turned out to be a 20-year project, but I like how it turned out. (Robert Koch, 14468 Arabian Ct., Montrose, Colo. 81403 ph 970 240-8445)



I cut up an old fuel oil tank to make a loader-mounted box blade that I use to remove snow. I cut the tank down the middle and then connected the ends together. Works great any time we don't get a lot of snow at once. If anyone is interested I can provide details on how I made the blade. (John Middaugh, Cooks, Mich.)



I made this canopy for my 5310 Deere tractor that attaches to the top of the existing rollbar. It's made from heavy metal brackets welded and bolted together, with 1-in. cedar lumber across the top. It's solid enough to last as long as the tractor and provides relief from the sun in the summer. (Larry J. Thompson, St. Mary, Mo. Ph 573 535-0547)

My friend and neighbor, Tom Dufrense, had a big pile of buckthorn and other brush to burn last fall. He was having trouble getting the pile to burn because the branches were piled loosely and not all the material was completely dry. He told me he was thinking to himself that he wished there was a little wind to help feed the fire. That's when he realized he could create his own wind using his leaf blower. He got his gas-powered blower, pointed it at the smoldering fire, and got a big blaze going right away. (Tony Groble, Grant, Minn.)



After a guy ran through an electric fence gate on my property, I got the idea of attaching an old license plate to the middle of it. Makes the fence more visible and now I can see from a distance if the gate is open or closed. (Bill Derrick, Crossville, Tenn.)



I saw this toilet paper holder in a friend's shop bathroom. Made with a pair of pliers, a large bolt, and a box-end wrench. What could be better for a guy's shop? (Ed Zimmerman, New Holland, Penn.)

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!