

## Most Popular Products

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### Build Yourself A "Truck-Tor"

If you're looking for an "inflation fighting" project to tackle in your farm shop this winter, Steve Boendor's home built truck-tor, featured in our January-February issue last year, might be a possibility.

The front half is a pickup truck and the back half a tractor. Its equipped with a pto and serves as a second tractor for performing dozens of jobs around Steve's Oskaloosa, Iowa, farm.

Steve bought a 1957 Chevrolet 1-ton pickup for \$500 and was given a junked Graham Bradley (Sears) tractor by his father-in-law. He spent \$100 for a pair of used rear tires for a total project cost of \$600.

First step in building the truck-tor was to cut off the truck frame just in front of the rear wheels. "Then I took everything from the transmission and back off the tractor and mounted it behind the truck. I cut pieces in

the truck frame for the tractor axles to fit. I made the drive shaft and hooked the truck and tractor transmissions together which gives it 17 gears forward. It will go from a slow crawl, so you can pull a working tiling machine, on up to road speed."

Key to the vehicle's all purpose versatility around the farm is its reversible pto. It has 4 speeds in a clockwise direction, and one in reverse.

Biggest problem is in finding an old tractor with the right kind of rear end. "It has to be one with beveled gears. If you use conventional square edge gears, they heat up. I believe some old Massey Harris tractors are the best candidates, and certain model Oliver tractors. I know of several farmers who use gears from salvaged IH tractors. They weren't beveled and heated up when the home built truck-tors were operated at road speed."

### Solar Heater Built From Empty Beer Cans

That home-made solar heater built from empty beer cans you read about in the March-April issue of FARM SHOW last year continues to cut home heating costs "at least 30%" for Al Lebens.

Al uses three 4 x 8 ft. collector panels. The panels are placed along the south wall of the house in the fall, then removed again in the spring. Al cut the cans in half lengthwise with a band saw and used 180 "halves" in each 4 x 8 panel. The can "halves" are strung on 1/8 in. rods and are mounted in horizontal rows inside each panel. Black paint coats the aluminum cans and the entire interior surface of each panel.

Unable to keep up with the barrage of letters and phone calls, Al invested \$300 to print up an original set of blueprints, complete with illustrations and

step by step drawings. He sells these blueprints for \$6 and has just printed a supplemental set with additional details which sells for an additional \$4.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Al Lebens, 460 Flying Cloud Drive, Chaska, Minn. 55318 (612 445-2507).

### Turn Your Pickup Into A Tractor

Ever stop to think how much more work you could get out of your pickup if it was equipped with a "live" and reversible pto, and a high capacity hydraulic system?

For example, you could unload silage wagons right from the driver's seat by simply flipping a switch to activate the truck's rear mounted pto. Or, you could unload baled or

## Best Combine Book We've Seen

"... I strongly disagree with the recommendations of Allis Chalmers when they tell you that you can turn the whole cylinder or the individual rasp bars end for end."

"... On the three screen Masseys, there are some problems in severe conditions that I can't always control because air cannot be controlled or forced through the chaffer. In my

opinion, the best solution is changing a three speed machine into a two speed."

That's Ray Stueckle talking — telling it like it is in the popular new combine book which we told you about in our July-August issue. Entitled "Combine Settings for Better Harvesting", it picks up where most owner's manuals, supplied by manufacturers, leave off. Ray's recommendations, based on his personal experience with virtually every combine made, gets down to specific makes and models. For example:

"... the major cause for up-ended straw in Case combines is the drag chain throwing straw onto the first 6 in. of the chafers."

Over the past ten years, Ray has conducted hundreds of combine clinics throughout the United States and Canada to share his knowledge with farmers. His new book includes his recommendations for latest models of combines, and has been expanded to give more reasons for the combine adjustments and settings he recommends.

Cost of the book is \$16 per copy, including shipping and handling.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Stueckle, President, R & H Machine, 115 Roedel Street, Box 1348, Caldwell, Idaho 83605 (ph 208 459-1507).

### Solar Electric Fence

Latest new fencing idea under the sun is a solar fence, featured in FARM SHOW's July-August issue. A small collector captures "free" energy from the sun to keep a regular 12 volt car or truck battery charged. The battery, in turn, charges a 12 volt MK4 controller especially designed for use on long electric fences in remote locations.

Maximum output of the solar energizer is 19 volts (150 milliamps). Even on a cloudy day, it will produce about 15 volts of battery-recharging current, explains the manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Livewire Products, Jack Henderson, President, Box 150 Grass Valley, Cal. 95945 (ph 916 273-9397).

stacked hay right from the driver's seat.

These and dozens of other new ways to make your pickup work harder are now possible, thanks to the Power Package, which we told you about in our March-April issue last year.

Heart of the system is a specially designed hydraulic



pump. It's mounted under the hood and is "free wheeling" when not in use to save fuel. Provides high capacity power to drive the rear mounted hydraulic pto, which is both "live" and reversible. The pump, rated at 2,250 psi, has sufficient capacity to operate one or two hydraulic cylinders.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ott Power Systems, Randy Ott, president, Highway 69 North, Belmond, Iowa 50421.

### "Go Anywhere" Traction Tracks

Among the most popular new products introduced in our November-December issue was the new Martintraction tracks. They combine the best features of existing traction systems into a compact unit that bolts onto your truck, tractor or combine like a spare tire. What's more, a set of tracks used on your combine can be taken off and used interchangeably on your tractor.

The tracks are made of rubber and come ready to bolt onto the hub of the drive wheel of either your tractor or combine. No adjustments are needed to mount them on the vehicle — just remove the drive bolts and slip on the self-contained tracks.

A 13,000 lb. tractor equipped with the new Martintraction tracks can do the work of a 20,000 lb. four-wheel drive tractor, the manufacturer points out.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Martintraction Tracks, Sphagnum Ltd., 2124 Chemin Aubin, Bernieres, Quebec, Canada GOS 1C0 (ph 418 831-2313).