

## Teen's Invention Helps Crossing Electric Fences

An Irish teenager has come up with a simple solution to get over an electric fence safely. Alanna McCabe's patent-pending Fence De-Fence is an index finger-sized keyring with a slot designed to push down the fence wire to cross over it safely.

She made her first prototype out of a plastic toy when she was 14 after watching her dad fall while jumping a fence to avoid being shocked. The final versions are made of wood or laser-cut acrylic.

"Fence De-Fence was designed to fit into your pocket and be readily accessible when needed," says McCabe.

It can also include a business name or logo. Other customers are farmers, hikers and gun clubs. Fence De-Fence is sold through wholesale agriculture trade firms in Europe, to corporations and through her website. Retail cost is about \$2.50. It is not available in N.A. yet.

Winning the title "Young Innovator of the Year 2020" at age 14 helped McCabe attract attention to her invention. She was invited to host a trade stand at the National Ploughing Championships in 2022, which



**Fence De-Fence tool allows electric fence wire to be moved for easier clearing without being shocked.**

attracts 300,000 visitors over three days.

At 16, she has other inventions she hopes to launch as she follows a career in business.

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1914 Model T motor caravan.

## Model T Caravan Is Oldest Surviving RV

Recently, the oldest known surviving motor caravan (motorhome RV) sold at Bonham's Auction for £63,250 plus premium (about \$74,000 USD). Built just before the beginning of the First World War, the 1914 Ford Model T Motor Caravan featured Ford's Model T chassis and a wooden body manufactured by England's Dunton of Reading.

After the Model Ts were released in 1908, the Bentall's, a wealthy British family, inquired about the possibility of a moving home being built.

The resulting home on wheels began with a lengthened Model T chassis and refurbished body.

Built to resemble railroad carriages, the shell and exterior were made almost entirely from wood. A double bed with two overhead single bunks was installed for sleeping. The

driver's seat doubled as a leather sofa when turned 180 degrees. For cooking and heating purposes, a wood stove was installed along with cupboard space, a folding table and even a mail slot.

To power the motor caravan, the Model T 2.9-liter, 20-hp., flathead 4-cyl. engine delivered a top speed of 45 mph.

The caravan, which sold at Bonham's Auction, was discovered in the 1970's by Leo Smith who restored it along with cabinet-maker Robin Tanner. The vehicle went on to win seven awards in the 1976 Historic Commercial Vehicle Society's London-Brighton Run. Since then, the motor caravan has been featured on television, plus been an attraction in various rallies and historic vehicle shows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bonham's Auction House (www.bonhams.com).

Experimental and very rare Farmall M is the prized tractor in Wayne and Betty Hutton's collection of International Harvester tractors, implements and memorabilia.



## Family-Run IH Museum Features Rare Farmall

Wayne and Betty Hutton's farm near Clarence, Mo., has a large collection of International Harvester and Farmall tractors along with several buildings of rare farming memorabilia.

Their most prized tractor is a rare Farmall M that originally worked at the Burr Ridge IH experimental farm near Hinsdale, Ill. Wayne Hutton says the tractor was known as the Experimental M-8 because it had eight forward speeds and two in reverse. The motor has 4 1/8-in. pistons and disc brakes mounted lower on the frame to allow for a live pto with an over-center pto gearbox. Behind the motor, the light bracket, amp box, choke lever, bell housing, and starter are all

mounted differently than on a standard M. Hutton says after a standard M axle broke from the weight of a mounted corn picker, the Experimental M was fitted with larger and longer axles. His tractor has an M/W governor and a Behlen power steering pump.

The Huttons have a U.S. International Harvester M1 Garand Rifle like the one Wayne carried while serving in the Army. Other rare items include a Red Baby dump truck made by Arcade in Freeport, Ill., and an IH kangaroo, which was an award given by IH in Australia.

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## Trailer Jack Supports Roof Overhang

When Don Wiederhold's neighbor asked for his help with supporting her sagging overhanging roof while repairs were made, he came up with an innovative solution.

Since the 6 by 6-in. wooden post that normally held up the roof was rotten, she needed something adjustable to temporarily replace it.

Wiederhold thought an old manual boat trailer jack might work as part of the solution. He first removed the small wheel from its bracket as a 2 by 6-in. board would fit nicely into its size and shape. He then inverted the jack and welded matching brackets to it and a length of 2-in. round pipe to secure them together. The jack barrel fit inside the pipe with the crank handle sliding into a narrow slot he cut lengthwise in the pipe's end.

For added strength and stability, he welded a square metal foot to the bottom of the pipe. He also drilled a hole through the top bracket to bolt or screw it to a 2 by 6 which would be secured to the roof.

To make an even more versatile support, Wiederhold suggests a separate piece of pipe could be slid inside the main pipe with pre-drilled adjustment holes.

"It's a simple bolt-up assembly," he says.



**"It's a simple bolt-up assembly. You just put it under the overhang onto a 2 by 6 and crank it to the height you need," says Wiederhold.**

"You just put it under the overhang onto a 2 by 6 and crank it to the height you need. It doesn't slip out and works really well."

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## Tin Cans Collect Baler Twine Cuttings

David Arko of Fort Collins, Colo., wanted to do his small part to help protect the environment, so he came up with a simple idea for his straw and hay baler.

"I kept noticing all these little plastic twine cuttings everywhere from when the baler knotters tied the bales. They were all over in my fields and farmyard, so I decided to do something about them," he says.

Initially, he considered a complicated vacuuming system but thought something simpler would be better.

The tie mechanisms were secured with cotter pins on small posts, so he cut holes in the sides of two tin soup cans, removed the cotter pins, slid the cans onto the posts, and reinstalled the pins.

"The cans ride on the frame behind the cutters and every time the baler makes a tie, the small cuttings fall into the cans by gravity," Arko says.

He tries to stop and empty the cans using needle nose pliers when they fill up about every 35 bales.

"The cans are sharp, so pliers work well and save your fingers," Arko says. "I have a model 1283 self-propelled New Holland baler, so I can easily see the knotters and cans from the cab to tell when they're full, but the idea should work on any brand of baler."

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