

Reader Letters



Has anyone ever painted a shipping container flat black and then insulated the north wall and ceiling inside? Then you'd put in a few barrels about 3/4 full of a water/antifreeze mixture. A box fan would blow warm air through radiators that would transfer the heat to liquid that would run to radiators in the house or barn to provide heat. The shipping container would act as a giant solar heater that should produce an incredible amount of heat. I'm planning to try this. Are there any problems with the idea that I haven't thought of? **(Jerry Jett, Greeley, Colo.)**



My sister, Marilyn Schafer, feeds her outdoor cats on the cement walk outside her farmhouse. This summer, she was tired of ants that kept getting into the cat food and hanging around near her door. She solved the problem by placing the bowl of cat food in a slightly bigger container with water in it. The cats still have easy access to their food, but no more ants. It's simple but very effective. **(Dee Goerge, Minn.)**

Most mower decks on riding mowers are covered with shiny paint that can be slippery when climbing onto the machine. I bought some 2-in. wide Gorilla non-slip tape and placed it everywhere a person steps when getting on or off. Works great. **(Bob L. Stephens, Beggs, Okla.)**

If you have trouble damaging your garden plants while dragging a hose down the row, you need to make one of my hose guides. Take a piece of 28-in. long, 5/16-in. round stock and grind a point on both ends. Then bend the rod like a horseshoe with a 2-in. gap between the two sides. To use it, just stomp it into the ground over your hose at the end of a row so the hose slides freely through it, and then pull your hose down the row.

Easy Way To Send Your Ideas

How often do you see an idea when you're out and about and say, "Hey, that should be in FARM SHOW?" Next time that happens, just take out your phone and send us a photo or two. Just text them to us at 952-465-5019. If you want to leave a voice mail explaining what you're sending, this phone is dedicated to FARM SHOW stories so it's on and available 24/7. No need to worry about disturbing anyone. Call or text day or night with your ideas, comments, or suggestions.



You can hang the guide on the hose bib once you're through so it's handy for next time. **(Ron Epperson, Montgomery Creek, Calif.)**



My wife wanted help blind coring apples so she could stuff them to make baked apples. I said I needed to go out to the shop first.

When I returned with my cordless drill and a spade bit, she was skeptical.

Presto! It wasn't the most elegant thing, but the apples were perfectly blind-cored. Well, they were perfect by my standards, and she found them acceptable. I hope other readers get a laugh out of what I did.

I always enjoy FARM SHOW. It's entertaining, and I get some good ideas from it. **(Gerry Hawkes, Woodstock Vt.)**



Farmers in the Shenandoah Valley here in Virginia have been experiencing a fairly recent scourge of invasive, highly aggressive trees known as Bradford Pears. When introduced, they were technically sterile, but when fruit pear pollen blows on them, they become a highly fertile hybrid with horrible thorns. Small saplings gave us seven flat tires one day when we were trying to bale hay. If you cut one down, it will send up a wide circle of thorny root shoots. They'll quickly engulf an entire field so thick you can't walk through them, and the thorns will slice your flesh like razor blades. Birds carry their seeds and drop them in flyways and resting points. It seems like all open land will eventually be covered. We need a solution to wipe them out. **(Gary Meeks, Verona, Va.)**



I bought this Brandt auger from an insurance company for \$2,750. It had been damaged and had a big kink in it so it couldn't be used. To work on it, I put the auger wheels in a ditch so the auger tube was at waist level. Then we straightened out the tube and repaired the bent auger flighting. Once we finished, we had a nearly new auger worth \$50,000. **(Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N.D.)**



Readers might be interested in my "Snow Stick" that I make from a shovel handle. Instead of a scoop at the end, I mount two spikes. The Snow Stick lets you walk through deep snow and ice more easily. The big handle lets you wear heavy gloves or mittens. Very handy. I make them for \$60. **(Daniel Jacobson, 8913 Weaver Lake Dr., Pequot Lakes, Minn. 56472; ph 218-543-6623)**



In 1967, we bought a new Gleaner E combine that had a 3 1/4 by 17 1/2-in. nitrogen accumulator cylinder mounted to the frame and plumbed into the hydraulic lift side of the cylinders that raised the header. When the gate valve was open on the nitrogen cylinder, the header floated smoothly. When we closed the valve, the headers were rigid.

The Gleaner manufacturing plant was just outside Kansas City, and we visited the nearby salvage yard, where they took their excess material and scrap. We brought three of those nitrogen cylinders home with us, not knowing what we would ever do with them. A few years later, we built heavy-duty big bale carriers to fit our IH 560 gas and 560 diesel Farmall tractors fitted with Great Bend loaders and Schwartz heavy-duty wide front ends. Our IH dealer charged the nitrogen cylinders to 3,000 psi, and we mounted them on the main center support of the loader, so the gate valve was easy to reach. We close the valve when pulling posts and open it when hauling big bales or logs. Those cylinders sure take a lot of shock off the front axles. Bales just kind of float as you cross ditches and rough ground. **(Roger Ford, Cosby, Mo.)**

My wife asked me to put a furnace in our 3-car garage because even though she parked her car inside, she always had to warm it up in the winter before taking off for work. I went to Grainger and got an inexpensive 80,000 Btu thermostat-controlled forced air gas heater that I installed myself. I also insulated the ceiling in our garage. I keep the thermostat set at 50 degrees unless I have some work to do on a vehicle. Now, when she comes home with snow and ice covering her car, it's all melted off by morning. I have a floor drain in two stalls. The amazing thing is that we noticed only a few dollars difference in our gas bill, so we're actually saving money because we don't have to warm up vehicles before we leave. It's also safer since all the windows are clear. **(Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.D.)**



Editor's Note: In Vol. 47, No. 5, we featured a gravity-powered dump trailer made by frequent FARM SHOW Contributor Mark Yax. The photo that appeared in the print article was of the old hopper used to make the dump trailer and not the finished trailer. The finished trailer photo is shown here as well as online at www.farmshow.com.

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