Reader Letters



I love FARM SHOW, especially the "Liberty Quotes." I check those first, then skim through the rest of the paper several times before passing it on to a retired farmer friend.

My wife has a birding buddy from Minnesota who has been told several of the Sven and Ole jokes with Florida characters.

Keep up the good work. (Brian Edmondson, Venice, Fla.)

Don't put used motor oil on pine trailer floors. It breaks down the pine sap. (Harley Ashcraft, Tucumcari, N.M.)

I'm frustrated with lawn mower companies. I don't understand why they can't make the front lift up for changing blades and doing other maintenance. There are a lot of older people still mowing grass, and they can't be crawling around on the ground trying to take blades off. Years ago, John Deere made one that lifted. They didn't make them for very long. I hope somebody starts making lawn mowers in different sizes that make maintenance easy—they'd sell like hotcakes. (Ron Schmidt, Mandan, N.D.)

Problems come in many forms, including personal, medical, mechanical and others. When you face an issue, you need a plan—a way to guide yourself toward a solution. My approach is to identify three possible solutions. One of them is probably the right one. I've learned this through new house construction.

Here's a common HVAC problem: blueprints hardly ever show where the large trunk-type ducts that provide comfort in winter and summer should go. In the hundreds of homes I've worked on, only one contractor ever even gave it lip service by saying, "We'll leave a mechanical space for you in these truss-type floor joist cavities."

I would show up at a new house during the "rough-in" phase of construction, meaning all walls, studs, rafters and joists are not covered. It has a bare bones look. There would be no preplanned space for me to run ductwork. No space for either the air handler or furnace.

So, I would identify three possible locations for them, each with ramifications for cost and airflow. Then, I would involve the homeowner and present the three options. They would help me decide on the best solution.

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.



Eventually, I realized that the "find three solutions" method can be applied to other situations. Personal? Mechanical? Financial? It works, but only if you put in the effort. As Henry Ford said, "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."

Pick one. Stay with it. But only if you work it. While "ignorance is bliss," it doesn't solve stuff. (Alan Linda, New York Mills)

I keep bees and am used to getting stung. Running lots of cold water on them really kills the sting. I've also been stung by much stronger wasps. A frozen soda bottle stopped the sting, and it didn't swell at all.



You can add a handle and help "spillproof" gas station coffee by placing the cup in a coffee mug. (John Rochester, Charlotte, N.C.)

As I was reading the latest issue of FARM SHOW, I thought of something I've been wanting to share. I've read about many people being frustrated with the way high-efficiency washing machines work and don't wash as well. What I've found is that if you hook up hot tap water to BOTH the hot and cold hookups on the machine, it cleans better. This helps make up for the fact that they use less water. It also eliminates soap buildup in the fabric.

My Amana top-load washer works better now, and I like it more after making this change. Also, this particular washer would blend hot and cold water even when the dial was set to hot. Well, not anymore! (Anthony Carlson)

About 15 years ago, I purchased a Deere 4020 at a consignment auction. I only bought it because it was a clean, low-hour tractor.

I used it a small amount for 10 years, and it ran great. However, it had a gas engine, which wasn't very fuel-efficient. I prefer diesel, so I purchased a late-model 6600 combine for \$1,600. It was worn out, but the engine ran well with 3,600 hrs. on it.

I spent about a month that winter tearing down the combine and installing the 4230-style engine in the 4020. The major parts fit; some minor things took some imagination.

The biggest cost was a tractor-type flywheel, which I needed because the gas engine and diesel flywheels are different. The clutch assembly was reused. I also needed a tractor oil pan and balance

I sold parts and tires off the combine to equal the cost.

I'd encourage anyone with mechanical skills not to be afraid. It's well worth trying. The swap I did works and looks great. (Ted Thompson, Thompson, lowa)



I recently came across an interesting piece of equipment. It's stamped with the manufacturer's name, location and several numbers. I've since learned that it's a buggy jack made by the Wm. E. Pratt Manufacturing Company of Chicago, Ill., designed for antique cars or tractors. They were often made of cast iron and had a screw-ratcheting mechanism operated by a handle. (*Gary Sampson*)

I just finished reading my latest FARM SHOW. I must comment on one suggestion on page 32 (Vol. 49, No. 5) to restore a loose-fitting bearing race into its mounting hole. What was suggested is poor practice. A bearing race should never, under any circumstance, be beaten on to raise prick punches or presumably welded on. I'm not sure what the contributor was trying to explain. Any oversize bores for bearings need to be either bored out and bushed or welded and rebored. Bearing races are finished off to tolerances in the millionths of an inch and will quickly fail if this kind of repair is attempted. (Jon Wallace, Central Point, Oregon)

I use a Cuisinart stick blender to mix milk replacer for bottle-feeding lambs. It's much faster and works better than hand shaking. Almost makes it fun. (Dave Arko, Fort Collins, Colo.)

I read with interest the "Rare Vintage Ford Tractor" article in the last issue (Vol. 49, No. 5). The connection between the Minneapolis "Ford" tractor company and the start of the University of Nebraska tractor tests is well known. However, there's a glaring misconception about this company.

Your article implies, and it has been often reported, that Henry Ford was unable to use the "Ford" name on his tractor because of this other "Ford" tractor. The idea that Henry Ford would've let some small upstart company usurp the right to put his own name on his tractor is just plain silly. The reason the early tractors were known as "Fordson" was that the Ford Motor Company didn't produce them; they were made by a separate company, Henry Ford and Son. At the time of the early Fordson

At the time of the early Fordson tractors, Henry Ford was the president of Ford Motor Company, but he didn't hold a controlling interest in the company. The major shareholders, led by the Dodge brothers, were primarily interested in earning dividends on their investment and didn't want profits diverted to other enterprises. Mr. Ford wasn't one to be told what to do, so he simply created a new company to manufacture tractors: Henry Ford and Son. Hence, the Fordson tractor was born.

This separate company not only gave Henry the freedom to manufacture

tractors but also provided the leverage needed to secure control of Ford Motor Company. There was a strong implication that the new company would start manufacturing a car to compete with the Model T, thus reducing the profits of the Ford Motor Company. The Dodge brothers and other shareholders sold their stakes in the company to Henry Ford, and for the rest of his life, he was the sole owner of the company. Henry Ford and Son was later merged into the Ford Motor Company. (Matt Carpenter, Hudson, Mich.)



I've found a new use for an old-style brass water/air fire extinguisher. When groups of cows bunch up in a corner in hot weather, I fill it with water and pump up the pressure. I blow the water out over the cattle, and it provides some relief from the heat. It also chases away the flies that gather. It's a quick and easy fix, and the cattle spread out across the pasture again. (Scott Fettes, Gladmar, Sask., Canada)

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