Reader Letters

I’ve discovered that it’s a lot easier to clean fish if you freeze them first with the scales on. Once, frozen, the scales slip right off by hand. (William Huddleston, 3306 Burn- ton CV Rd., Cookeville, Tenn. 38506)

Our replacement parts business has been featured in FARM SHOW several times. I wanted to let your readers know that we’re now doing a booming business making hard-to-find tractor crankshfts, which we’re able to do at a fraction of the cost of factory-built parts. Here’s what we have available:


We will soon have cranks for Case 188 diesel and Case 207 diesel. (Dave Steiner, Steiner Crankshaft, G-10096 S. Saginaw, Holly, Mich. 48442 ph 800 234-3280 or 810 695-1919)

We’ve never bought much John Deere equipment except for those other equipment but we’d always heard nothing runs like a Deere. When Deere came out with the STX 38 mower, we bought one. We didn’t have it long until we learned nothing fails apart like a Deere. Our 626 Deere ATV isn’t what it should be, either, considering what we paid for it. So far as I can remember, Deere’s with legs run. The ones with wheels fail apart. (Lee D. Hostetler, Rt. 1 Box 125, Cottage Grove, Tenn. 38224)

Of 5 years research and development, Morris Seed Farms is now offering a open-pollinated seed corn for $30 per bushel. Our open-pollinated seed corn is higher in protein, amino acids and sugar than regular hybrids. It gives livestock farmers higher feed value per bushel with a significant savings in seed cost. Open-pollinated seed corn must be planted at low populations - 10,000 to 13,000 ppa. That insures good standability, large ears, and drouth resistance, with a seed cost of only about $5 per acre.

FARM SHOW readers can reach me evenings at 314 875-8553 or write. (John H. Kline, Morris Seed Farms, Rt. 2, Box 57A, Clark, Mo. 65243)

My brother-in-law and I built an all-hydraulic tractor using two WC Allis Chalmers rear ends, powered by a 283 Chevrolet engine. The drive is a transmission pump and gear case. We built the bucket out of 1/4-in. polished seed corn for $30 per bushel. Our open-pollinated seed corn is higher in protein, amino acids and sugar than regular hybrids. It gives livestock farmers higher feed value per bushel with a significant savings in seed cost. Open-pollinated seed corn must be planted at low populations - 10,000 to 13,000 ppa. That insures good standability, large ears, and drouth resistance, with a seed cost of only about $5 per acre.

Your readers may be interested in the 1-in. dia. John Deere advertising glass marbles I’ve got for sale. They were made in the 1970’s and are yellow with the John Deere crest etched in green. They’re all in excellent condition. I’ll sell them for $25 or $24 for $40, postage included. (Lawrence Parks, 5205 Davwood Dr., Toledo, Ohio 43623 ph 419 472-9242)

I read with interest the story on corn burning furnaces in your Vol. 16, No. 6 issue and the fact that some farmers who’ve built such furnaces have used coal stokers to feed corn into furnaces. I’ve seen stokers off coal stokers that would work good if any readers are interested. (J. Yeomans, Rt. 2, Lynden, Ontario LOR 1TA Canada)

About a year ago I read an article in FARM SHOW about Piedmontese cattle. We’ve been working with Piedmontese for a few years and feel they’ve got potential. The main benefits of Piedmontese are: 1. Less fat, calories and cholesterol than roast chicken without the skin; 2. 10 to 15 percent more meat from the same weight carcass with the extra meat in all the prime cuts; 3. No fat and no marbling yet it has the most tender, flavorful meat in the world (cooking time is 1/3 to 1/2 less); 4. Calving ease. Unlike Belgian Blues, Piedmontese calves are born small and slim bodied. Their double muscling doesn’t appear until calves are 4 to 5 weeks old. 5. You can use Piedmontese bulls on your existing cows to get rid of fat in the very first cross, and 7. They’re hardy, adaptable, gentle and beautiful.

We aggressively market meat by targeting consumers in big city papers, selling our half Piedmontese beef by the quarter, picked up at the butchers shop for a premium at $5.00 per pound.

We can provide more information, and breeding stock, to your readers. In previous issues you’ve featured our Romanov sheep and, thanks to FARM SHOW, we’ve sold them into 42 states. After advertising them in 50 farm magazines across the U.S., nothing ever came close. We’d appreciate it if we had from an editorial report in FARM SHOW. (David & Nicki Blackstone, 49800 TR98, Lewilsville, Ohio 43754 ph & fax 614 657-3463)

As farmers in the great Southern area of West Australia, we very much enjoy FARM SHOW. Our property of 6,000 acres consists of approximately one-third grain crops (wheat, barley, oats, lupins, and canola) and the other two-thirds is set aside to pasture for about 8,000 Merino sheep.

As far as our “best buys”, we’re very happy with our 1994 Case-IH 1788 combine, a 1989 Case-IH 7130 FWA tractor, a 1994 International 5088 FWA tractor, as well as various other Australian-built tillage equipment and Japanese motor vehicles. (Dawson & Mary. Hunter, Rte. 491 Kelly Road, Katanning, Western Australia, 6317 Australia)

In reading your “World’s First Encyclopedia of Best Ideas”, I came across a story called “Drainage Bullet Eliminates Tying.” It described drainage “bullets” pulled behind subsoiler shanks to create under- ground tunnels to carry subsoil moisture (see drawing). I’d like to know if any of your readers have ever tried this idea and, if so, how it worked out for them. (Bob Byrnes, 1992 Hwy 7, Zin, Minn. 55799 ph 218 427-2634)

This is a treatement plan I made for my dairy farm to treat cows for various problems.

The four corner posts are 4-in. pipe set in the floor. The swing-open front and back gates are made out of 3/4-in. pipe. The sides are made of 3/4-in. pipe and they swing open at each end, which makes it easy for treating animals. Very handy and time-saving for us. (L.C. Finkbeiner, 5873 Austin Rd., Saline, Mich. 48176)

These tough feeders work great for hoppers and calves. We put rubber pans inside car tires by cutting out the top bead and then wiring the pan to the tire. Then we chain the wheel to a post. Keeps them from dragging the away or tipping them over. (Hy Johnson, 1994 Fort Hood, Texas 76513)

I made this mounting bracket for our satellite dish that bolts to a rail post on our deck.

The dish rests inside a piece of pipe held by two large bolts that run to a pair of clamp on brackets on the deck post. This setup gets the dish up off the ground, makes it easy to make adjustments, and puts it above the level of trees and shrubs. I also made a pivot irrigation track collector from a small, unused tandem disk. I simply reversed the movement of dirt by the