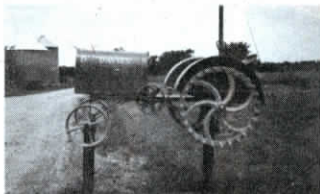


Reader Letters



We make these mailbox mascots out of plate steel. They make an eye-catching display that people notice and enjoy. The mascot in the photo is an Iowa Hawkeye, painted red, yellow and black. (Russ Keast, Rt. 1, Hendersen, Iowa 51541)



My son David made a tractor mailbox for me. It was modeled after his grandfather's John Deere "D" that we still own. The rear wheels were made out of old cultipacker wheels and the front wheels came from an old buck rake. The rear fenders were fashioned out of a 50-gal. barrel and the seat was salvaged from a toy tractor. The flywheel and belt pulley were taken from miscellaneous old equipment and he made the steering wheel out of steel rod. The body of the tractor consists of a large mailbox. (Diane Daines, Dawn, Mo.)

I was reading an article in a back issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 12, No. 6) about a pto adaptor that lets you use a car wheel as a pto to drive grain augers. Back in 1955 my Dad used our 1950 Chevrolet pickup to run our corn elevator. In those days most corn was picked and put in cribs. Dad just jacked up the back wheel, took the tire off and bolted a plate equipped with a pto knuckle to the hub. Then he set the hand throttle, put the truck in low and let the clutch out slowly. We used the truck this way till I went in the army in 1960. (Delaine Bleich, Torrance, Calif.)

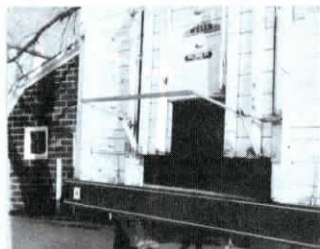
We mounted a discarded coffee maker on our shop wall over the sink. It provides a cheap, quick source of hot wash water for cleanup. (Lindahl Gleason, Anoka, Minn.)

Here's an idea we came up with that makes fencing easier. If you slip a length of plastic pvc pipe over steel corner posts, it'll help stretch wire. The pipe turns as you stretch and no insulators are needed. (George B. Heuer, Cape Girardeau, Mo.)

An article in one of your recent issues stated that the CBT Brazilian-built tractor is the world's best-built tractor dollar-for-dollar. We sell Belarus tractors and would like to disagree. Belarus is the world's largest tractor manufacturer. They build diesel tractors from 31 hp to 300 hp and sell tractors in 70 countries world wide. Belarus tractors are rugged, with more built-in weight than most similar powered machines and surpass most of the competition in fuel economy and ease of maintenance. The cost of a Belarus is certainly lower than a CBT. Here's a sample of retail prices. Model 505 (70 hp, 2-WD, weights) \$11,150; Model 802 (85 hp, 2-WD,

cab, A/C, weights) \$16,370; Model 1770 (165 hp, 4-WD, articulating, cab, A/C, 3-pt., 540 & 1,000 pto) \$43,311. All tractors come equipped with radial tires, front fenders, high/low beam headlights and many more features. Belarus has been selling tractors in the U.S. for 15 years. (Harry Harkey, Rangeland Tractor Co., P.O. Box 279, Dobbin, Tex. 77333 ph 409 597-5537).

I am a long-time subscriber to your magazine. One good idea more than pays for a subscription. My problem is getting these ideas going before the lady of the house sends the issue out to the dairy barn where it's torn in quarters and used for udder towels. I'm writing to ask if you could send me a copy of the last issue? A quarter of the back page of the issue is enclosed to verify the correct issue. (Eric Howard, Rt. 3, Woodstock, Ontario)



I enjoy FARM SHOW very much and look forward to every new issue. I'd like to pass along a simple device I made to raise my truck's endgate for faster unloading at elevators. Using some 1/2-in. rod and 1/4-in. flat irons, and bending them as shown in the photo, I made an easy lift. I slipped a piece of pipe over the rod before I finished bending them to make a more comfortable handle. I also installed some lightweight slide irons for the door to slide against and I use a little oil to help it slip. (Roger Hagemann, Rt. 3, Box 51, Wells, Minn. 56097)

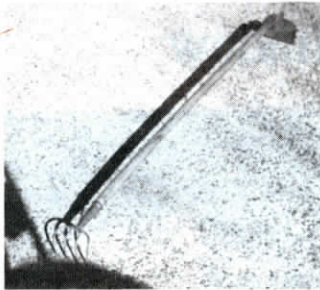
I would like to point out to Thermal Fluid Start, Inc. of Joliet, Ill., (Vol. 14, No. 1) that up here in the land of cooler-than-average winters we've been using their engine warming idea for over 20 years. I wouldn't want to guess how many units I've set up for customers. As the company said in the article, the idea really does work well. In my opinion, though, they are going to a lot of trouble and expense with their "dependable low-volume pump". We've never put a pump on any unit. We simply let engine's water pump move fluid from the warmed-up engine to the engine that won't start. We use a pair of brass female quick couplers (if you use regular hydraulic couplers they will leak after a couple years) on the hot engine (use female on your warmed-up engine because they cost more and the cheaper male tips on the cold engines). They are installed by simply teeing into the existing heater hoses on your pickup or car. On some newer vehicles, such as Chevy or Ford pickups, you need to install a gate valve to stop coolant from circulating through the heater core of the hot vehicle. On older vehicles, you simply put the temperature control on the dash to the cold position during the time you are using the engine to warm up the engine that won't start.

On the cold engine, you simply hook into any convenient coolant fittings on the engine. It's best to put one fitting near the top of the engine and the other near the bottom. Don't hook up on opposite sides of the thermostat because you'll be recirculating through the radiator. Be sure to put 10 to 12 ft. of heater hose on the hot vehicle so you

can reach your cold engine when it's parked up close to a bin or in the shed. For some farmers we have set up systems with male connectors on both the hot and cold engines and then made up a set of transfer hoses with female quick couplers on both ends. That way you don't have to have the hoses coiled up under the hood of your hot vehicle all the time. (Richard J. Barnsley, Box 625, Balcarres, Sask. Canada S0G 0C0 ph 306 333 4400)



I mounted a 12-volt electric winch at the front of my pickup box to load bales, feeders, garden tractors, etc. To load a bale I wrap a chain around it and slide it up a ramp made out of a 16-ft. steel gate that's fastened to the back of the pickup so it won't move when the bale is pulled up. The winch is powered by a 12-volt battery in the box. It'll load two bales on one charge. (Fabian Schaaf, 1800-145 North East, Foley, Minn. 56329)

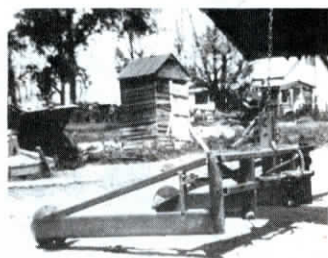


I had several broken hoes laying uselessly around the garage until I came up with this idea. I welded a hoe and a spading fork to either end of a 5-ft. length of steel pipe. I can now hoe and weed the garden with one tool. I've redone several old hoes that would otherwise have gone to the junk pile. I hope others can use this simple and useful idea. (Jim Kotowski, 405 Edgemont, Bossler City, La. 71111)



We'd like to tell FARM SHOW readers about our circle-cutting tool for plasma cutters. It lets you cut perfect-size holes from a couple inches diameter up to a couple feet. Sells for \$16.95, tax and postage included. It works great. (Wayne Steinke, PCV Co., Inc., Rt. 2, Box 8, Hope, N. Dak. 58046)

Regarding your article in Vol. 14, No. 2 about the "Up & Down" drawbar hitch from Europe, please advise your readers not to use this hitch or any hitch that is above the pivot point of the rear axle. This is very dangerous and often results in serious accidents because the tractor can rear up and overturn backwards. I personally know of two men who were killed as a result of hitching with a chain to the rear axle, and one other who survived. No matter what your age, your wife is too young to be a widow. (Ralph Ester, Alledale, Mich.)



I built my own 3-pt. round bale carrier because I couldn't find any commercial-made unrollers that I liked. They were all too complicated or too flimsy. I copied my design from a pickup-mounted unit my neighbor owned, modifying it a bit and adding 3-pt. mounts. I have made four and sold them to local ranchers for \$750. They've been in use from 3 to 8 years and only one has needed repairing and that was the operator's fault. I use mine on a 50 hp. tractor in the summer, carrying one with the bucket and the other on the 3-pt. To feed in the winter I put it on a 100 hp tractor. I will build units on order or sell plans with templates. (Don Fleharty, P.O. Box 52, Grass Range, Mont. 59032)



My simple puller for steel "T" posts is a simple device that works like a jack. A hook catches studs on post and you simply jack it out. It has 7 to 1 leverage which easily pulls most posts. If they are partially frozen it helps to drive post down a little to break frost loose before pulling.

We make post pullers in our shop for \$35 to \$40 (postpaid), depending on what postal zone you live in. (Charles Wehling Mfg., Rt. 1, Box 35, Broken Bow, Neb. 68822 ph 308 872-5515)



I painted the cutting table on my Deere Flexhead yellow. Now I can easily see and remove rocks and debris before they damage the combine.

Another idea that worked well was on my grain bin unload auger. I reworked the original frame and installed wheels. Lets one person easily move it from bin to bin. It's also much easier to store in the machine shed. (Leslie C. Nelson, Hartland, Minn.)