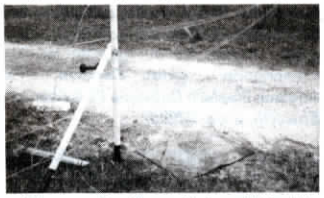
Reader Letters

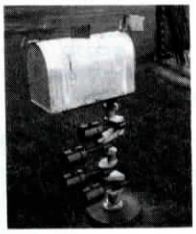
I sell and install hi-tensile electric fence and needed a way to install ends and corners without the use of expensive heavy equipment. That led to the invention of my new "Screwner" fence system. These self-insulated screw-in posts make setting corners easy, eliminating heavy, cumbersome posts



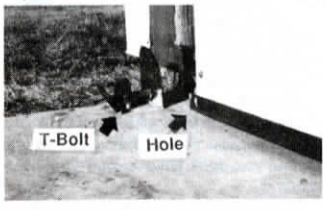
and the need to dig postholes. Using this system, I can install a complete corner in approximately 15 min. by hand.

We make three models to support fences from 1 to 10 wires. The same components are used interchangeably for the corners, ends and bracing, greatly simplifying inventory. Once installed there is no possibility of the post shorting out the fence as is common when steel posts are used.

The metal auger anchors are set into the ground using a hand-cranked ratchet. Once anchors are in the ground, you slip the fiberglass posts into them. The system is also ideal for non-electric fence. ***(Willy Kilmer, 4730 Antioch, Meriam, Kan. 66203 ph 913 262-1118)***

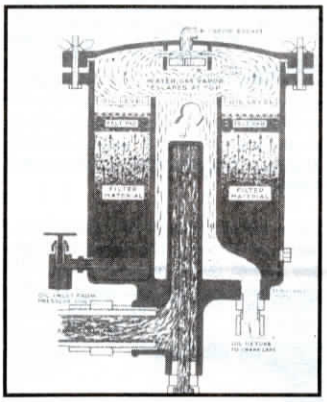


I call this my "50-Horsepower Mail Box" since I made the post out of a UC Allis-Chalmers crankshaft with the pistons attached. It attracts a lot of attention. ***(Burdette Priefert, Belvidere, Neb. 68315)***



FARM SHOW readers may be interested in how we latch our sliding barn doors. Most people just drive a pipe or wooden post into the ground to hold the door shut but these soon rot off or bend. I decided to use old moldboard plow shares, setting them in concrete with the back, rounded side toward the door. On one end of the door (not shown) I set a share in concrete so that the door's bottom guide slides along it. At the other end of the door (see photo), I set two pieces of share in the concrete and fitted them with a large, spring-loaded T-bolt. When the door is shut, I tighten down the T-bolt and it fits into a hole on the door's bottom guide. This system holds the door tightly even in our strongest Oklahoma wind storms. ***(Bill Crain, RR, Box 126, Helena, Okla. 73741 ph 405 626-4766)***

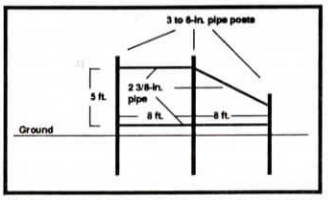
I'm writing about a "Reclaimo" oil filter I had on a 1965 White tandem truck. I drove the truck 60,000 miles without changing oil, just replacing the filter element. I could have gone further but the engine's head gasket started leaking so I was afraid antifreeze had gotten into the oil. After fixing the gasket



I installed new oil. I stopped using it soon after.

Now I would like to find one of these filters again. I still have a piece of literature which states that it could be used on tractors, combines, trucks and any other gas or diesel equipment. Since oil never wears out - it just gets dirty - the Reclaimo had sophisticated filter elements that kept it clean. It connected to the exhaust manifold which provided heat to boil off water and gas vapor as oil was filtered by dense fibrous filtering material.

I tried to contact the company in Lansing, Mich., where the filters were originally made but with no luck. I would appreciate hearing from any readers who know if the company is still in business or if there is a similar product on the market anywhere. ***(Bernard J. Cochran, Rt. 1, Templeton, Penn. 16259)***

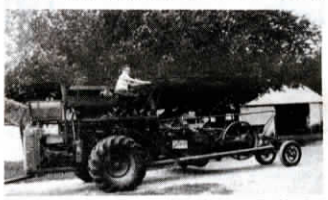


I have found this fence brace to be the most dependable I've ever used, especially in deep soils. The posts are made from heavy-duty 3 to 6-in. pipe and 2 3/8-in. heavy-duty pipe is used for the crosspieces. I hope this design will help those who are having trouble keeping a brace from pulling loose. ***(Arthur V. Jennings, Rt. 2, Coleman, Tex. 76834)***

Here's an idea my husband Lynn came up with for keeping track of oil changes on cars, trucks, tractors and other powered equipment. He simply scratches the date, type of oil put in, and the mileage (or engine hours) onto the new filter when he puts it on using a pocket knife or a nail. That way he doesn't have to keep track of a notebook or other maintenance list. The information is always right there when we check the oil. ***(Heather Thomas, Box 215, Salmon, Idaho 83467)***

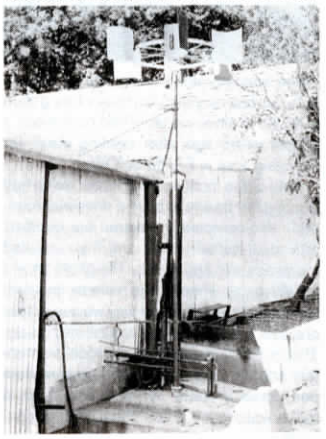
We use rubber tarp straps to keep electric fence wire tight around our feed lots and small pastures. It really works great. I've never seen the idea in any magazine and nobody around here has ever heard of the idea. I thought of it while fixing fence last fall when I ran out of insulators. I had a tarp strap in my hand at one point and the idea just came to me. ***(Clarence Niemerg, Rt. 1, Teutopolis, Ill. 62467)***

I built this fenceline mower in the 1950's to fit International M & H tractors. It mounts on the right side and runs off the belt pulley. It uses two V-belts - one runs from the tractor pulley to a double pulley on the mower frame and another runs from the double pulley to the top of the shaft that runs down to the cutter blade. The blade is made out of heavy metal with four mower sections attached to it. When they get dull you knock them off and attach new ones with rivets. I built this rig after years of using a sickle mower to mow under fences. Clutching the tractor that much was hard on my legs and on equipment. This mower mounts on a spring-loaded arm and has a large circular guard above the circular blade. It bumps against posts and other obstacles, allowing the mower arm to bend back out of the way and then automatically folds out again under the fence once you're past the post. ***(John Harp, Easton, Ill. 62633 ph 309 562-7457)***



We used this home-built self-propelled baler from 1960 to 1980. It consists of a 1953 Long square baler mounted on an IHC combine chassis. It loads bales out onto a wagon that it tows behind. It's been the pride of the farm ever since we built it. Now it's in one of our sheds but is in good condition and still works. I'm considering selling it.

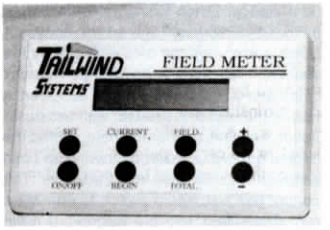
Another old-time project that I'm proud of is a 16-ft. trailer house I built in 1946 which has two full beds, a table, closet and cabinets. It's mounted low to the ground on a welded frame covered with corrugated aluminum sheeting. It's lightweight and streamlined. I still have it on my farm.



One innovation we came up with years ago is a way to keep rain water fresh in a giant cistern. I rigged up a "winged" windmill above the cistern that drives a shaft that runs down to about 1 ft. above the bottom of the underground tank. A Maytag washing machine flywheel mounts on the bottom of the shaft. Everytime the wind blows, water gets churned up, keeping it fresh and sweet-smelling. Never turns putrid. ***(William K. Ehm, 7356th St., Phillipsburg, Kan. 67661 ph 913 543-5721)***

I have come up with a simple design for a round bale trailer. Most any good shop man could build one. I got the idea because we have a lot of used oil field pipe in this area and I've been building trailers of all kinds for over 40 years. The trailer consists of pipe, channel iron and a small amount of plate steel. I think it's the best I've ever built. The thing people like about it is that it will dump one bale at a time. Most of my customers are small operators and this lets them haul hay to several pastures for feeding, making just one trip with up to 10 individual stops. A 1-ton truck can handle the trailer. I've also built 8 and 6-bale trailers that can be handled by smaller trucks. There's a ratchet handle on either side of the front of the trailer and, as you turn the handle, it works a cam that unlatches each bale in turn. There's also a safety catch that holds all bales while transporting.

I've been building these trailers on order or I could draw up plans if there's enough interest. ***(E.E. Middleton, Rt. 1, Box 11, Pleasant Hill, La. 71069 ph 318 796-3852)***



We've started a new company here in Eastern Washington that designs and manufactures electronics for farmers. Our first product is a Field Meter that's unlike anything on the market. It's built rugged - comes with a 2-year warranty - and resists dust, vibration, water and temperature extremes. In addition, it can be fitted with an external sensor that can be used to check rpm's of any shaft (pto, pump, drill or planter drive shaft, etc.). While the display tells you field speed, total acreage covered, acres per hour, etc., the monitor also keeps track of the shaft, setting off a warning if rpm's suddenly drop off 50 percent or more. Our customers have found this option to be especially handy on planters - lets them know if they ever forget to engage it after making a turn or an adjustment.

The meter comes with one reed switch sensor that mounts on one of your tractor wheels. It sends a signal to the meter on each revolution, calculating speed and distance based on the revolutions and circumference of that wheel. To calibrate it, you