

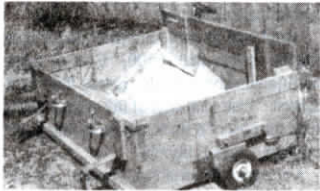
# Reader Letters



The date published for the Northern Farm Show in the Vol. 13, No. 6 issue was wrong. It should have been November 29-30 rather than November 27-29. I'm a part-time beef farmer so I took off work to attend the show and it cost me plenty. (Richard Gerald Biebl, 480 West Maple Drive, Barnum, Minn. 55707)

There was a complicated diagram in the Vol. 13, No. 5 issue that showed how to set up a system of switches for doubling the current to a starting motor by using two batteries. Years ago when I did a motor job on my 1946 Studebaker truck and found it too tight to turn over when warm with only a 6-volt battery, I simply set another battery under the hood, took off the cable from the starter button to the starter, and ran a cable from the button to one post of the second battery and then a cable from the other post of the second battery to the starting motor. That way the voltage was not doubled to anything till the starter button was pressed and then only to the starter. No need for switches to open and close and no new procedures to learn and remember. (Roswell Humphrey, Rt. 2, Consecon, Ont., Canada K0K 1T0)

My portable auger hopper box is 4 ft. 4 in. by 3 ft. and is fitted with wheels so we can move



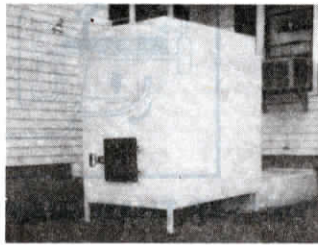
wherever needed. Boards can be added to the sides according to the type of wagon it's to be used with - I have two sets of side boards. The hopper is fitted with offset axles. When I slip wood blocks in over the axles it raises the box so it'll roll around. When I pull the blocks out, the box rests back down on the ground. (Ernest Marolf, Rt. 1, Box 263, Muscatine, Iowa 52761)

I'm sending a photo of a 3-pt. boom that I built for less than \$20. It consists of a 4-in. "H" beam 11 ft. long. The beam is bent



slightly about 4 ft. down from the upper end. It's welded to a base plate that fits between the tractor hitch arms. A length of lift chain runs from the 3-pt. top link to a spot about 4 ft. up from the bottom of the beam. It's simple but effective. I used it to change a combine motor and it worked well. (Kenneth Stahlschmidt, Rt. 1, Box 205, New Douglas, Ill. 62074)

My thermostatically controlled outside furnace burns old tires, scrap wood, coal and just about anything else. It holds temperatures from 65 to 190°, depending on how you set it, and you only have to fire it twice a day. The frame of the furnace is made out of 2-in. steel tubing. It has two 5-ft. long steel tanks mounted horizontally, one above the other, inside the frame. The tanks are "studded" at various intervals all around the outside with 2-in. dia. pipes, 18 in. long with caps over the ends. These pipes hold additional heat. The inside of the frame of the furnace is insulated



with 6 in. of fiberglass and 6 in. of sand. The furnace has an 8-in. flu pipe with a damper. The pipe is 8 ft. tall. Fuel is fed into the bottom tank through a door at one end of the furnace. Hot air is pulled off from the dead air surrounding the burning chamber tanks. Operation is controlled by electrical controls with limit switches that automatically shut everything down if anything ever goes wrong. It has a motor to control forced draft. It's very efficient and safe and keeps the mess out of the house. (Gary Baker, Rt. 1, Box 16A, Gilliam, Mo. 65330)

Here's a gardening idea that really works well to clean up viny crop residue and work it back into the soil. We pile up frost-killed garden plants and use our lawn mower to



chop up and bag the piles. The chopped-up vegetation takes up less space than whole plants when composting and there are no stems or vines to wind up on the tiller shafts when the compost is spread out during the growing season. We pile the vines up on a 3 by 8-ft. sheet of scrap plywood because it keeps mower wheels from digging into the ground and picking up dirt or rocks. It also makes it easier to pick up the residue after it's chopped. (Alice & Robert Tupper, Canton, S. Dak.)



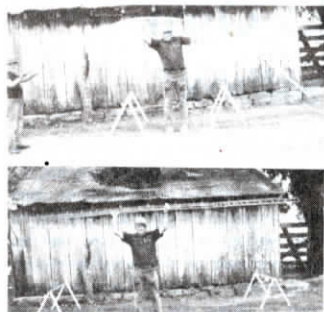
We built this mobile backhoe from scratch. It mounts on its own wheels and can be pulled by a small garden tractor. Every piece was made out of sheet steel except for the hydraulic controls. It works as well as any commercial rig. (Clarence & Bruce Cole, 7 Fallon Dr., Westport, Mass. 02790)

Our line of abrasive cords and tapes make it easy to work on contour parts. They're ideal for removing baked-on carbon from pistons, valves, and other engine parts. The strings



are impregnated with aluminum oxide, silicon carbide, or crocus abrasives for ultrafine polishing. Packaged on 25-yard spools, the cords come in 0.012-in. to 0.150-in. dia. sizes. Tapes come in widths from 1/16-in. to 1/4-in. Both tapes and cords can be cut to length with a heavy shears. Prices start at \$10.50 per spool. (Everett Mitchell, E.C. Mitchell Co., Inc., 88-90 Boston Rd., Middleton, Mass. 01949 (ph 617 774-1191)

I have come up with a livestock panel bender that will stiffen up livestock panels by bending ridges into the panel. We use livestock panels everywhere around the farm from gates to lot fences, partitions in barns, to

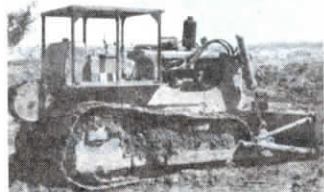


make a quick fence around a calf hutch, and so on. They're cheap and you can get them anywhere. The big problem is that they're so flimsy. They flop around and the sharp edges scratch you and tear your clothes.

I have a lot of gates on my livestock farm that don't get used very often. Rather than buy a commercial gate for \$60 to \$70, I can just use a livestock panel for only about \$15. I got the idea for the panel bender as I watched a cow stick her head in through the bottom of a panel and push. The panel was wired at each end and when she pushed, the panel flexed up and she crawled right under it.

My panel bender requires no electricity or hydraulics. I'll send them anywhere for \$20 plus \$5 freight (\$10 in Canada). (Vic Stratman, HCR 71, Box 54, Argyle, Mo. 65001)

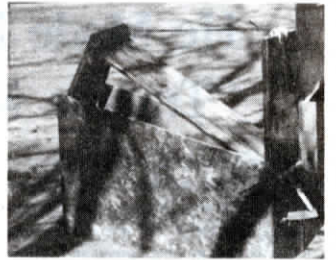
I converted a D6B "Cat" to a "high wheeler" for about \$1,750 in parts and welding rods. The conversion idea had been in my head



for 20 years since the early Cats were built low to the ground which made them rough riding when rollers and rails became worn. The low sprockets were subjected to shocks, damaging bearings, bull gears and pinions. It was not until Caterpillar came out with a "high wheeler" that I decided to build my own version. My converted tractor has at least 5 to 6 teeth pulling on the tracks versus just 3 teeth as designed by Cat. The A-frames were lengthened and extra carrier rollers were installed. A box frame was constructed 31 in. long and 3 in. wide and 1 ft. high at the rear of the A-frames for the new position of the sprocket bracket. The underneath A-frame bracket and bearing were cut off and repositioned 1 ft. higher with plenty of gussets and bracing to take care of the extra

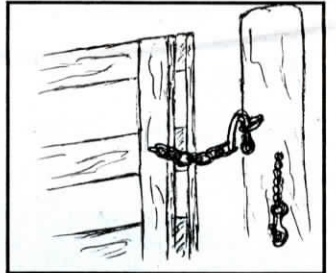
strain. Three extra links were added to the track. The tractor now rides on 9 rollers on each side. The hydraulic cylinder mounting brackets on the C-frame of the dozer blade were extended to compensate for the amount the tractor was lifted. We've used the modified machine for over 100 hrs. with no problems. Visibility is greatly improved and it easily travels through boggy mud we would have avoided before. Dirt no longer builds up between the sprocket and rails when making 180° turns and access to the underside of the machine is greatly improved. (George D. Pemberton, Rt. 2, Box 186, Eldorado, Illinois 62930)

My father first made these traps more than 85 years ago for weasels, skunks and other pests. Consists of a rectangular wood box (32 in long, 8 in. wide and 12 in. tall) standing on one side with a lid that hinges upward. A string runs from the top of the lid, over a spool, and down to a trigger at the back of the trap. The string is tied to a short stick



that's held in place by a notched stick that runs into the back of the box. Bait is attached to the trigger stick inside the box. When the animal pulls on it, the short trigger stick is released, letting the box fall. (Laurence Lingrell, 6015 51st. Ave., Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L2 Canada)

My one-handed gate latch is easy to make and is horse-proof. I bend 1/2-in. bolts to make the hook and weld 1/4-in. chain to it and to a straight bolt long enough to go through the gate. The eye on the end of the hook allows you to use a rope snap to keep



a horse from picking the hook out of the screw eye on the post. (Roy Ketcham, Battle Lake, Minn. 56515)

I was interested to see the story in your Vol. 13, No. 4 issue about the hydraulic 3-pt. top link with a cylinder that forces the 3-pt. hitch top arm up or down causing the hitch to pivot back and forth. I think that inventor went to a lot of work to put that cylinder on that category hitch frame. I simply put a hydraulic cylinder between the tractor and the hitch, eliminating the top link arm. It's a whole lot simpler and anyone can do it. I use it to tilt a rear-mounted blade and to hook up plows, cultivators, and other implements. (Paul Ford, 1554 Cty. Rd. TT, Hammond, Wis. 54015)

Thank you for your story in the Vol. 13, No. 5 issue about my "beer keg" foam marker. Your readers might be interested to know that there are now foam marker plans available that would be of help to anyone interested in building one. We charge \$15 for the plans. Also, you printed the wrong phone number with the original story. The correct