

# Reader Letters



(Continued from previous page)

it. Then he built the hay wagon. I found other John Deere material and made a PVC structure to serve as a backdrop. We also dressed two dolls in green Deere clothing. The miniature square bales give it an extra touch. (**Gail Streitenberger, Box 956, Washington Court House, Ohio 43160 ph 740 335-6962**)

A metal bracket welded to a float valve, as well as to a vise grip welding clamp, makes it easy to move the float from tank



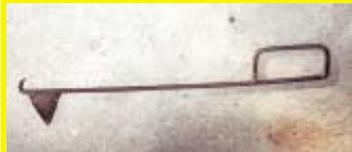
to tank in freezing weather when you can't leave hoses and hydrants on all the time. Just hook the bracket to the top of the tank and come back in a little while when the tank is full, then shut off the water and take the hose and float with you. It keeps the tank from running over.

An L-shaped steel bracket welded to the bottom of a gate post keeps the gate



from sagging and makes it easy to keep it closed when there are no animals inside the pen. The bottom of the gate post simply slips over the top of the bracket. In addition, the same bracket can be welded to a "T" and driven into the ground to keep gates open and prevent sagging.

A length of 3/8-in. dia. rebar - a small electric fence post works great - bent into a loop on one end and with a small hook and a sickle section welded opposite the hook on the other end - is an excellent



way to remove strings from round bales. Make sure the loop is big enough that you can put a gloved hand into it. It eliminates the need to take your gloves off to get strings off bales and saves many cold fingers during the winter. The sickle can be used to cut the twine or net, then the hook can be used to pull the strings out so you can grab them with your other hand. I carry one of these on each of my tractors and also in my pickup. They work great for other things, like cutting thistles, grass, or twine wrapped on a bale roller, pulling a plug out of a combine or baler. If the sickle section is good and sharp it will easily cut through the outside layer

of a frozen, ice-covered bale of hay. (**Don Raucstadt, Rt. 1, Box 1968, Seligman, Mo. 65745 ph 417 662-3340**)

I designed and built my own top link mounting assembly for the 3-pt. hitch on



our Deere 70 tractor. I also built a top link assembly for another person's International Super A tractor. "A" frame stabilizers are used on both hitches. If there's



enough interest I'd consider making bar stabilizers for the Deere tractor. (**Bob Himmerich y Valencia, Box 1269, Pena Blanca, New Mexico 87041 ph 505 438-3159**)

Our Bag-A-Nut is designed to pick up nuts off the ground and dump them into a box on front. To dump the box you sim-



ply pull on a rope attached to the front side of the box. It's equipped with 22 independent rubber wheels and "ejector fingers" that comb the nuts out into the box. There are 74 ejector fingers per wheel. It'll work on any kind of nut crop. Models are also available to handle golf balls, tennis balls and baseballs. There's even one that'll pick up shotgun hulls at trap ranges. (**Bag-A-Nut Inc., 10601 Theresa Dr., Jacksonville, Fla. 32246 ph 800 940-2688 or 904 641-3934; fax 904 645-5918 or Shannon Oliver, 7411 B. Highway 84, Shallowater, Texas 79363 (ph 806 786-1120)**)

When my husband Randy recently bought an International 1440 combine, he had a local machine shop convert the



844 corn head into a 6-row narrow model. I had been begging him for years to let me paint the sides of the header, and since now he had to repaint the header anyway, he finally gave in. The design I drew looks like a crow with big

eyebrows and crocodile teeth. To make it, first I drew a pattern on paper and placed it on one side of the header to see how it would look. Then I started painting. I did both sides. Our combine now looks like a mean eating corn machine! (**Pat Domeyer, 27430 State Hwy. 91, Adrian, Minn. 56110 ph 507 483-2478**)

I'm the high school ag teacher in Fromberg, Montana. I wanted to thank you for the copies of FARM SHOW you sent us last year. My students enjoyed the many ideas in the magazine and it has helped to spark creativity on their part. One student built a potato digger to pull behind a 4-wheeler ATV. As a class we're about half done building our own concrete mixer out of scrap metal, tractor gears, and a 35-gal. drum. (**Daniel Miller, Agriculture Educator, Fromberg, Montana**)

We converted an old 1985 Ford F-600 school bus into a low-cost bale hauler. The modified bus pulls a 36-ft. trailer that can haul up to 18 big round bales made by a Case-IH 8465 baler.

We bought the bus for \$900. We cut the body off behind the first row of seats, leaving one seat behind the driver's seat. On the other side, we made a work bench and bolted a 6-in. vise onto it. A six-



drawer toolbox is bolted to the bottom side of the bench. We cut off the last two feet of the bus and, with the help of a couple of neighbors, moved this 2-ft. section forward and then welded it onto the back of the front section. We bolted a steel plate on back for pulling a fifth wheel trailer and wired it for lights. We also painted the bus Case-IH red and added two white strips. (**Larry Rodgers, Box 14, Lavenham, Manitoba, Canada R0H 0P0 ph 204 252-2120**)

I built this steel-roofed shelter to reduce evaporation loss from my gas and diesel fuel tanks. It measures 30 ft. long, 15 ft. deep, and 10 ft. high at the front and has a cement floor. There's room for three tanks - a 1,000-gal. diesel tank, a



300-gal. gas tank for my farm trucks, and a 500-gal. gas tank for my car. I have two gas tanks because the gas I use in my car isn't tax deductible. A big overhead light makes it easy to fill up at night. (**Dwight Colson, 860 Spruill Road, Caledonia, Miss. 39740 ph 601 356-6631**)

My grandfather, Earl Rockwell, built this articulated 4-WD tractor back in 1957 by combining two F-30 Farmall rear ends with a 105 hp, 471 cu. in. Detroit diesel engine. The result was a 4-WD tractor that steered hydraulically and was hinged in the middle for turning. He named the tractor "The Beatal", after someone came by his shop, took a look at the rig, and said "Well, if that don't beat

all!" Grandpa used the tractor to pull a 21-ft. tandem disk as well as a 6-bottom moldboard plow. His home-built tractor was way ahead of its time. International Harvester sent three engineers from Chicago down to take a look at it. It wasn't until a couple years later that IH and Deere came out with their own 4-



WD tractors.

When Grandpa retired in 1971 he sold the tractor to another farmer, John Simousek of North Judson. Grandpa still has the letter John sent him two years later in which he stated that "The Beatal was the best tractor he'd ever owned", and that he'd yet to have a single breakdown with it.

In 1991 - 20 years after he sold The Beatal to Simousek - Grandpa and I bought it back. I'm now the proud owner, and Grandpa and I spent quite a bit of time restoring it to like-new condition. It still runs great.

Grandpa is now 89 years old, and he still loves to tinker. I enjoy giving him a hand with his projects. (**Scott Wuethrich, 9157 S. 1400 W., Francesville, Ind. 47946 ph 219 567-2102**)



Thanks for featuring our add-on fuel tank for Axial Flow combines in your 2001 Edition of Best of FARM SHOW. Unfortunately, the price listed was wrong. The tank actually sells for \$365 U.S.

I came up with the idea because I was tired of running out of fuel before the day was done. The 36-gal. tank worked so well we decided to put it on the market.

The add-on poly tank fits any self-propelled Axial Flow combine ever built. It's designed to slide in next to the original fuel tank under the outer shell of the combine and adds 30-40% capacity.

A metal frame bolts to the left rear side and to the underside of the cat walk. The auxiliary tank kit comes with all mounting hardware, fittings and instructions and takes 2-3 hours to install. The tank parallels the existing fuel tank utilizing the factory fuel gauge and filter, requires no wiring or extra pumps and uses mostly existing bolt holes. (**Richard Foisy, Prairie Innovations Inc., Box 464, Cut Knife, Sask. S0M 0N0, Canada ph 1-866-360-6900; E-mail: rn.foisy@sk.sympatico.ca**)