

Reader Letters



I made my own Skottle Grill (Vol. 46, No. 1) using a salvaged turkey cooker. The burner was still good, and I thought I could use it at my deer stand.

The burner had a short stand under it, so I bolted wooden legs to the stand. That raised it up to working height.

I threw out the cooker and replaced it with a cast iron pan. It fit on the top collar just fine. I should have used an old disc blade, polished it up and welded the shaft hole shut. Then, it wouldn't have cost anything. (John Humeniuk, Baudette, Minn.)



I'm the son of Ron Peterson and grandson of Darwin Peterson who were in the 1993 Vol. 17, No. 6 issue of FARM SHOW for their Bridge Hitch Fertilizer Cart, which is pulled behind a planter. My grandpa is now 90 years old and he's still farming, driving tractors, and doing field work like he was still that young man back in 1993. From being a Marine to having six sons to more recently losing his wife, he still maintains his day-to-day routine and shows no signs of slowing down any time soon. (Seth Darwin Peterson, Alden, Iowa)

I had an 8 by 8-ft. opening in my shed that I needed to cover, and I didn't want to build a permanent door. Instead, I took an 8 by 12-ft. eyelet tarp and nailed the 8-ft. wide end to the top of the opening. At the bottom, I wrapped the tarp around a 5-in. dia., 8-ft. round post, pulling the tarp around the post until it was tight. Then I put a cement block on each side of the

tarp and one in the middle. It makes a tight cover and is easy to open and close. (Dick Carey, Shell Rock, Iowa)



I am looking for any additional information or background history on the Allis-Chalmers subsoiler that was featured in Vol. 46, No. 3, on page 4. If anyone has any information on it, please let me know. (Leonard Seltzer, 16040 Manhattan Rd., Manhattan, Ill 60442 (ph 779-279-5116).

I've got a Cub Cadet zero-turn mower. I kept bumping into the bolts on the steering handles, so I simply flipped them around, so the smooth head of the bolts faces me. A simple solution. Why wouldn't the company figure that out? (Jack Griffith, Venus, Texas)

I built a pto power unit out of a 1958 Chrysler with a stick shift transmission and a 318 engine. I removed the body of the car and moved the rear axle right up under the transmission. I welded the spider gears together and put a 540 pto shaft on one end and use this unit to power my silo filling blower. There's plenty of power to blow corn silage or haylage into a 50-ft. silo at 2 tons a minute. I kept the speedometer hooked up and at about 55 mph it ran the pto at 540 rpm's. The power unit has also been used to power a standby generator during power failures. (Carl Schultheis, Caro, Mich.)

I have found that cinnamon works great to deter ants. Just sprinkle it around wherever you don't want them, and it will keep them away. (Dale Fisher, Jackson, Mich.)

I have a crushed 1-in. limestone driveway and use a 21-in. snow blower to clear it in winter. The problem is that rocks end up on the lawn and bending down to pick up a bunch of rocks was difficult. So, I took the caps off a couple of dishwashing liquid bottles and screwed them onto the tips of a 26-in. long household grabber. The caps worked great to pick up rocks and put them in a pail. Made a tough job easy. (Larry L. Schmidt, Fairbury, Neb.)



I bought a receiver hitch with a mounting plate to mount on the front of my skid steer. Then I adapted a quick disconnect hitch off an old corn picker and fit that to the receiver hitch. I use this to move equipment around - augers, hay racks, etc. - without having to get off the skid steer. Very useful. (Richard Rosener, Vail, Iowa)

Clear, flat-sided half-gallon juice bottles, the kind that grape or cranberry juice comes in, work great for baiting mice with cube-type poisons. Pets can't get at it, and you can tell at a glance how much poison is left. If you want, you can stake them to the ground. (Larry Vevang, Hudson, Wis.)



I discovered my hay hooks work great for carting around sheets of plywood by myself. Just reach down to slip the hook under the center of the sheet and you'll be able to handle 3/4-in. plywood with ease. These hooks have a lot of miles on them from stacking thousands of bales above our dairy barn. Now that I have a new use, I can keep putting them to work. (Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.Dak.)



Our 7-year-old grandson came up with this labor-saving idea for raking sticks in the yard. We have a fairly large yard with cottonwood trees scattered throughout. Every year before mowing season, I have to rake up all the sticks that fell during the winter. It usually takes about 6 hrs. I complained to my grandson, Oliver Case, about the task and he said, "Grandpa, why don't you mount a rake on front of your mower?" So, we modified a bar to fit on the mower that already had hay rake tines on it. We added a stop to prevent the tines from digging too deep into the ground. Now we can clean up the whole yard in less than one hour. It takes less than 5 min. to mount the rake. A side benefit is that it detaches the yard while raking up sticks. (James Case, Delaware, Ohio)



I have a small pull cart that I pull behind my garden tractor. The 2-wheeled cart is awkward to move around when it's empty and not hooked up to the tractor. I have to bend over all the time to pull on the tongue. I made it a lot easier by attaching a walking cane to the front corner of the cart, drilling holes and using zip ties. Now I can easily walk the cart around using the cane as a handle. The cane pivots as I walk around. It just makes life a little bit easier. (Grant Francis, Hartland, Mich.)

Here's proof that even when you're 77 you're never too old to learn. I was talking to my wife's 90-year-old uncle. He told me how he glues a peanut to his mousetrap trigger. It can't be licked off like peanut butter and always catches them when they start chewing on the nut. Works great. (Roger Braddock, Dyer, Tenn.)

I got tired of having to unhook the blade behind my tractor whenever I wanted to tow a wagon. So, I welded a 2-in. receiver hitch to the top of the blade and now I just insert a ball hitch or flat hitch into the sleeve when I need to pull something. (Bill Stowe, Essex, Ontario)

I picked up an arbor press for a song. I made a plate for it and used a 1-in. drill to make a small seat for black walnuts and other nuts. Then I use the press to crack them. Wow! Really makes it easy. (David Simpler, davidsimpler@yahoo.com)

We had a rat problem in our feed storage house. To keep them from chewing through the wood to get in, we nailed hardware cloth screening to the floor and walls of the building. It worked great. (William C. Vance, Greenwood, Miss.)

My son Dan took advantage of his garden's slope to irrigate some early plantings when it's dry. He just digs a ditch alongside the row and the water flows down. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)

Don't throw away old window weights. If you tie pairs of them together with a nylon cord between them, they are good for holding down covers over equipment. I like tarps made of old rubber roofing. You can get all you want from roofing companies, especially if you go to job sites to pick it up. My window weights make it easy to wrap them around equipment and hold them in place. (Gary Meeks, Verona, Va.)

Easy Way To Send Your Ideas

How often do you see an idea when you're out and about and say, "Hey, that should be in FARM SHOW"? Next time that happens, just take out your phone and send us a photo or two. Just text them to us at 952-465-5019. If you want to leave a voice mail explaining what you're sending, this phone is dedicated to FARM SHOW stories so it's on and available 24/7. No need to worry about disturbing anyone. Call or text day or night with your ideas, comments, or suggestions.



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