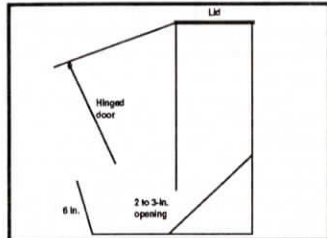


Reader Letters



Continued from previous page

It comes by first class mail and, like FARM SHOW, contains no advertising. Send a self-addressed stamped business size envelope for a free copy. (Mike Kane, Editor, Farm Finance Review, 12340 North Granville Rd., Mequon, Wis. 53097)



I made a bird-proof feeder for my dogs and cats that eliminates problems with magpies getting into the food. I made it big enough to hold about 5 gal. of food, although you could make it to any size. It consists of a food hopper with a 2 to 3-in. opening at the bottom leading to the feed trough. A slanted rod covers the feed and supports a hinged door. You can make the doors to whatever size you need for your pets. Both dogs and cats soon learn to push the door open with their heads to get food. (Claude Peel, Box 33, Brownlee, Sask. S0H 0M0 Canada ph 306 759-2620)



I saved the cost of a new grain drill by "modernizing" an antique steel-wheeled, horse-drawn drill. It does the job of a conventional grain drill at a fraction of the cost. I bought the 10-ft., Van Brunt ground-driven drill equipped with wooden seed boxes from a neighbor for \$400. I replaced the steel wheels with 15-in. wheels fitted with ribbed front tires off an old Ford tractor. The wheels chain-drive the drill's seed metering system. I also added a hydraulic lift cylinder on the tongue of the drill.

It works great and my total cost was only about \$500. I used it this spring to sow 20 acres of oats. The ribbed tires leave a mark that's easy to see in disked corn stalks. It seeds much more accurately than the endgate broadcast seeder I had been using. I removed the steel wheels and mounted the new wheels on hubs and spindles from an old manure spreader. I mounted steel brackets and a hydraulic cylinder on front of the drill so I can raise or lower it from the tractor.

I also made a backhoe attachment for my skid steer loader that I now manufacture for



sale. The backhoe quick-taches to the loader arms and is available with an 8 or 15-in. bucket. Bucket position can be changed by adjusting a pin in the linkage that controls the angle of the bucket.

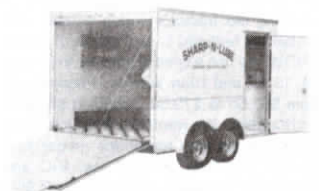
It does a super job for relatively little cost and fits any skid steer loader on the market. I built it because my skid steer loader doesn't have auxiliary hydraulic outlets. The 8-in. bucket has a straight edge and works great for digging tile lines, utility lines, etc. It sells for \$654. The 15-in. bucket can be equipped with teeth and a hydraulic cylinder (not supplied). It works great for removing packed manure and for doing general work. Sells for \$684. The teeth sell for an additional \$100. (Randy Lackender, 4645 Naples Ave. S.W., Iowa City, Iowa 52240 ph 319 351-4415)



Thank you for the story on our miniature farmstead that's an exact copy of Ray Klein's 1930's Iowa farm (Vol. 18, No. 2). I thought your readers might be interested in seeing what the trailer-mounted farmstead looks like when folded up into transport position. (Glen Foss, 14808 Hwy. 218 S., LaPorte City, Iowa 50651 ph 319 342-2482)

I make round bale plastic wrapping that's black on one side and white on the other side. The black side blocks sunlight. You can use the black side on the outside for dry bales, or the white side on the outside for silage bales, which you want to keep cooler (white reflects sunlight). Makes inventory control a lot easier for anyone who makes both kinds of bales. (Ted Gerber, International Plastic Products of America, Inc., Box 861, Newark, Ohio 43055 ph 800 323-4031 or 614 345-4540)

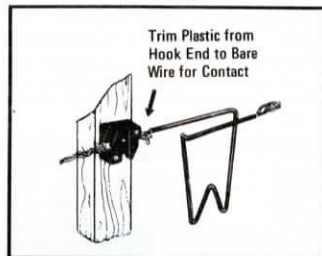
I wonder if any of your readers know how we can more efficiently harvest and thresh shelling beans that we grow in our market garden. We seed single or double rows spaced 11 in. apart, with 48 in. between row centers. Our methods parallel ancient practices. We hand pick the beans, spread them in our greenhouse to dry, and then stomp on them and crack them by hand. We separate the beans from the chaff by repeatedly transferring the beans from one container to another until the wind blows all the chaff away. We grow about 20 different varieties of beans on a 2-acre plot. The varieties have to be kept separate during the threshing process so we can't use a large combine to harvest them. Any suggestions on how we can reduce our labor requirements? (V. Bretin, RR 2, Leduc, Alberta, Canada T9E 2X2)



We've started a mobile lawn mower service. All work is done in our "Sharp-N-Lube" trailer unit so there's no mess. We offer both 12-point standard service and "mini" service. Under the 12-point service plan we sharpen blades, service air filters, change the oil, balance the blades, check the spark plug, check the belts, oil the wheels, grease all



Our new electric fence gate handle makes it easy to open or close electric fence gates and always keeps the wire tight. It consists of a plastic-insulated handle that connects the electric wire to a wire connector that mounts on any wood, steel rod, or steel post.



You trim the plastic from the hook end of the handle to bare the wire for contact. It's trouble-free and unbreakable and sells for only \$1.99. (H.G. "Hank" Schneider, Inc., 14091 Flay Ave., P.O. Box 16, Hugo, Minn. 55039 ph 612 426-3902)

lube points, check the tires, clean the engine, top deck, and underside of the deck. Standard service price is \$25.95 for a walking mower, \$29.95 for a riding mower equipped with a rear-mounted engine, and \$39.95 for a tractor (up to 18 hp) equipped with a front-mounted engine. The 3-point "mini service" includes sharpening and balancing the blades and cleaning the underside of the deck. Mini service price is \$15.95 for a walking mower and \$17.95 for a riding mower or tractor (one blade). Price for service on each additional blade is \$3.00. (Sharp-N-Lube, P.O. Box 87, Orient, Ohio 43146 ph 614 877-1013)

Years ago I would have made headlines in your magazine with some of the contraptions I built. When I was 18, I made a tractor using a 1928 Chevy truck frame, engine and front end. I turned the exhaust manifold upside down and also turned the front axle upside down for added clearance. I kept the 3-speed transmission on the 4-cyl. engine and then put a 1936 4-speed Chevy truck transmission in back of the 3-speed. I went to a junkyard and got a 1920 Model T Ford worm drive rear end and then ordered two 9.00 by 24 tires with rims to fit an A Farmall tractor and welded these rims to a pair of dual type Ford truck rims. I could turn them out for 2-row planting or turn them in to straddle one row. I then put a power take-off on the truck transmission to get the proper speed out of the pto. I had to run the front transmission in high gear.

This tractor was great for pulling sweet corn. I would tow a 10 by 40-ft. sled on back of it and put the tractor in one of the real slow creep gears so it didn't need a driver. We also used it to pull a horse-drawn rake that I fitted with a pto, and a 2-14 IH plow. It was much handier than our 10-20 McDeering tractor, especially since it would go down the road as fast as a car. We used the tractor till the summer of 1952. Currently, I have 15 older model Allis Chalmers tractors, two Oliver Super 99 GM diesels and two 1130 Massey Ferguson diesels. I guess from an

airplane it looks like I have a junkyard, but they get the job done. (Miles B. Slack, 2224 Forest Grove Road, Furlong, Penn. 18925)

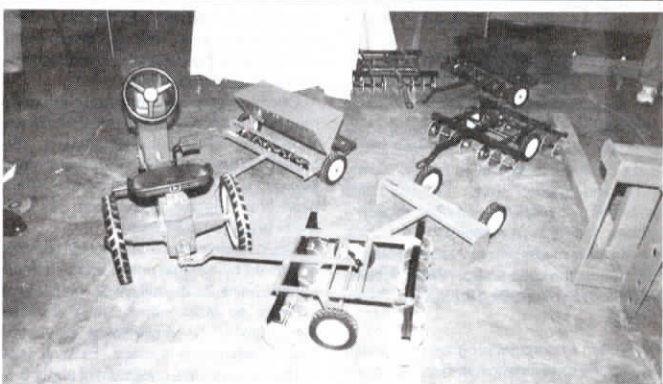
I'm sending a check to give a gift subscription to a friend. I've been sending my old issues to him but that gets expensive and I hate to give up my copies.

Back in 1940, I bought an old horse-drawn corn binder and removed the "bull wheel". I coupled a 1935 Ford axle up to the bull wheel axle and put a universal joint on it and then hooked up to my Minneapolis Moline "Z" tractor. Unfortunately, when I put it in gear, it ran backwards. Then I had a dream that if I turned the car rear end upside down and reversed the stub axle, it would work. That's what I did and it worked great. I used it for several years until I got a field chopper made from a Papec silo filler, driven by a Case engine mounted on a homemade trailer. (James E. Remus, 4115 Gurr Rd. N., Merced, Calif. 95348)

FARM SHOW should be commended for helping farmers exchange ideas and develop new products. I often meet farmers using ideas and products that were first featured in FARM SHOW.

I am a manufacturer who also sometimes works as a consultant in defense of farmers involved in liability lawsuits related to highway accidents involving transport of farm equipment. My advice to farmers is to take time to learn local laws about lighting and warning regulations, which are becoming more restrictive but vary from state to state. Keep all original equipment lights working per your state regulations. Slow Moving Vehicle signs must be visible to people approaching from the rear. Keep that in mind when transporting round bales with a rear-mounted, 3-pt. hitch spear. Following state laws will help if you get sued after an accident.

Avoid moving tractors with duals at night and don't ever take a tractor with triples on the road. It's difficult for motorists to see the dark tires at night and they don't expect them



Our new pedal tractor implements are built to scale for most pedal tractors and are painted in standard industry colors (blue, green, and red). Grain drill and disk each sell

for \$85. Scraper (yellow) sells for \$50. (Chardanathan, Inc., 55 Brookwood Ave. N.W., Concord, N.C. 28025 ph 800 854-4818)