

Reader Letters

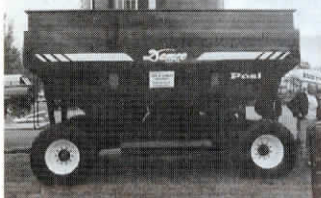


Your article on snail "ranching" (Vol. 19, No. 4) really caught my interest. I studied French in Paris in the early 1950's and acquired a taste for escargot. When I tried to call U.S. Snail I got a message informing me that their answering service was having problems. I still want to find out all I can about snail "ranching" from the company, but don't know what to do next. (Ernest Johnson, R.R. 1, Box 279, Austin, Minn. 55912)

Editor's Note: Shane Farnsworth, founder of the company, called FARM SHOW in late September to apologize to readers for delays in responding to inquiries. "We weren't prepared for the tremendous response we received from all over North America," says Farnsworth, who assured us that all inquiries - previous and future - will be answered as soon as possible.

Thanks for featuring the 3-pt. hitch I designed for older Allis-Chalmers tractors in FARM SHOW (Vol. 19, No. 5). I made it because I didn't like the original 3 pt. the tractors came with. However, the telephone number you printed was wrong. The right number is 319 849-2013. (Paul Theisen, 3430 Central City Rd., Center Point, Iowa 52213)

It seems everybody wants bigger grain haulers these days, and we're certainly as qualified as any manufacturer to build them.



That's why we recently unveiled our prototype Demco "Posi Flow" 650-bu. gravity wagon at the Clay County Fair at Spencer, Iowa - the world's largest county fair. The GF 650 sports a new paint job but maintains the same side and end pitch as our smaller boxes, which farmers have dubbed the "best unloading boxes on the market." The 24-ton running gear is fitted with 22.5 by 13.5-in. 10-bolt wheels and 4 wheel brakes. We had several of the 650's in the field this season and expect to be in full production with them next season. They'll list for under \$10,000. We're also field testing a new 750-bu. box for possible introduction in 1996. (Tom Sheffield, Dethmers Mfg. Co., P.O. Box 189, Boyden, Iowa 51234)

We think our business is unique and one that some FARM SHOW readers may be interested in. We design and build prototypes for inventors, designers, engineers, and manufacturers. We specialize in short runs with fast turn-around for the inventor who wants maybe 50 copies - not 50,000 - of his/her prototype. For example, we once had a customer who designed an electric junction box for his tractor cab so he could wire in a guidance system and some other equipment with greater ease. We produced six prototypes for him and, after he'd made his selection, we delivered the finished product to him within 24 hours. If the product can be made out of plastic we can manufacture it. Ballpark price for a simple plastic proto-

type no bigger than a breadbox is \$350 to \$650. Obviously, the larger, more involved projects cost more. (Ken Cooley, B.C. Plastics, P.O. Box 372, 108 E. Main, Ogdon, Ill. 61859 ph 800 779-6925 or 217 582-2638; fax 2639)

My dad, John Wolf, has had a lot of inventions featured in FARM SHOW over the years. He was as thrilled as I was when a utility trailer I built took top honors at the FFA



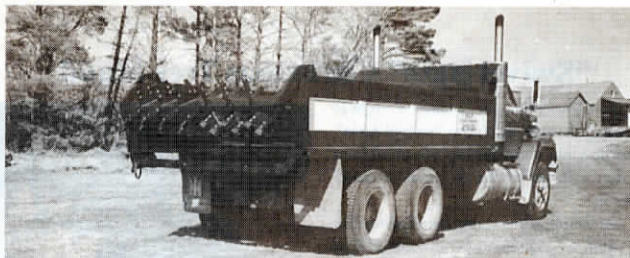
"Gadgets Contest" at the recent Clay County Fair at Spencer, Iowa. My trailer is designed to haul ATV's and lawnmowers. It's built out of angle iron and mesh and measures 5 ft. wide by 7 ft. long. It has 13-in. wheels fitted on stub shaft axles. It features a height-adjustable hitch that adapts to whatever you pull it with. There's also a 3-ft. high ramp/gate on the back for easy loading and unloading and to help secure what's being hauled. Maximum hauling capacity is 1,000 lbs. (Sean Wolf, 4569 370th St., Hospers, Iowa 51238; ph 712 324-3844)

Here's a photo of a square dance "float" I put together to ride in the back of my 1950 Chevy pickup. I drive the truck in five parades a year and everybody seems to have



a lot of fun with it. The two pairs of dancers are 30-in. tall dolls my wife, Corrine, and I had around. The fiddle and guitar player are old department store mannequins we came across. I use three windshield wiper motors powered by a 12-volt battery mounted in the pickup bed to bring the party to life. Activated by a switch in the cab, one windshield wiper motor controls the fiddle player's bow. Another controls the guitar player's strumming hand. A third controls the two pairs of dancers, which rotate in opposite directions on disks in the plywood dance floor. We have loudspeakers mounted on each side of the bed, and a tape loop of "Achy Breaky Heart" provides music everybody can kick up their heels to. Young kids especially seem to love the 'show.' (Sonke Petersen, 2207 12 Ave. NW, Stewartville, Minn. 55976-9701)

To stop beavers from plugging up large farm culverts, you can place a pair of large bed springs in front of the culvert with fence posts holding them in place. I've found that you can also scare them away from culverts by hanging old sweaty clothes over the ends of the culverts. The smell seems to slow them down, at least until it rains. (Stanley M. Maxwell, 3613 La. Hwy. 569, Ferriday, La. 71334)



FARM SHOW readers might be interested in an "apronless" manure spreader box we built two years ago. It mounts on a GMC Brigadier 5-ton truck and is used just about every day from spring thaw to winter freeze up. What distinguishes our design from other truck-mountable spreaders is that the entire front panel of the 16 by 8-ft. box moves backward to push material out instead of using apron chains to pull it out, greatly reducing repairs and maintenance. The panel is pulled back by two chains operated by a

hydraulic drive. Just before the front panel reaches the beaters, it trips a hydraulic lever that automatically returns it to its original position. Cost of the custom-built rig, which we could produce if there's interest, was \$26,000 (Canadian). It's virtually trouble and maintenance-free compared to any of the truck box spreaders we've ever seen. (Doug Finlay, D K Manufacturing, Box 176, Rapid City, Manitoba, Canada R0K 1W0; ph 204 826-2226)



I came up with a handy Hitch Pin Caddy for my tractors that really saves time and aggravation. It's designed to hold all kinds of hitch pins on back of a tractor.

It fits all tractors and carries hitch pins in one convenient location. It has openings for several of the most popular sizes of pins so you've always got whatever you need at your fingertips when you need it. It also holds safety clip pins. Sells for \$19. (Rick Mabeus, 22419 60th St., Winfield, Iowa 52659 ph 319 257-6779 or 6764)

Upon reading the last issue of FARM SHOW I came across the letter from Jacques Tetreault regarding "Big Roy", the world's largest farm tractor. There were a few mistakes in his information that we'd like to clear up since we have the tractor on display at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum in Austin, Manitoba. Big Roy has only one engine - a Cummins KTA 1150-600 - and it's located at the rear of the tractor. The front half of the articulated tractor houses a 550-gal. fuel tank. The prototype tractor was donated by Versatile to our Museum in May, 1987. The only time the tractor operates is in our annual Vintage Parade during the Manitoba Thresherman's Reunion and Stampede in July. It's just one of the many tractors, both gas and steam, that we have operating at that time.

We invite your readers to write or call for more information. (Kellie Smith, Manitoba Agricultural Museum, Inc., P.O. Box 10, Austin, Manitoba, Canada ph 204 637-2354)



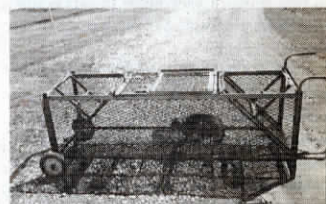
In response to the letter from Jacques R. Tetreault's in Vol. 19, No. 5 on the world's largest tractor, I'd like to point out a couple errors. Big Roy is not in California. It's in

the Manitoba Agricultural Museum. I've driven the tractor and worked on it and I can guarantee that it has only one engine, not two. Among its unique features, it's equipped with a video monitor focused on the back of the tractor. I'm sending along a photo of the tractor in the annual Museum parade. (Ray Tolton, Box 810, Carberry, Manitoba R0K 0H0 Canada)

I have several pieces of original literature on the Big Roy 8-wheel drive tractor which is now in Manitoba. A larger tractor than the Big Roy was built in Havre, Montana, by Big Bud Manufacturing. This 1978 4-WD model was equipped with a V-16 Detroit engine and was dubbed the 747 because of its large size. The pumps were originally tuned down to 760 hp but were later reset to 980 hp. It was originally sold to a California farm but has since found a new home in Florida.

To my knowledge, the only 4-WD twin engine tractor in this class was made for a farmer in northern Montana. It used two 330-hp. Detroit engines coupled individually to Allison automatic transmissions. But that tractor has since been dismantled. (Martin Fast, Frazer, Mont. 59225)

Three years ago you ran a story on my 6-ft. long large animal live trap (Vol. 16, No. 4). I had calls and letters from all over North America from people wanting more informa-



tion. I wanted to let your readers know that I can now make plans and a parts list available for a fee to anyone interested. The trap works great for raccoons, ground hogs, wild dogs, and I'm sure would even trap coyotes. It isn't much different than commercial live traps except that it's built heavy so powerful animals can't work their way out. It's mounted on wheels and has handles so you can move it around like a 2-wheeler. (Paul Rauch, 1941 Riggs Road N.E., Newark, Ohio 43055 ph 614 366-5477)

We were recently shown a copy of an article in FARM SHOW's Vol. 18, No. 6 issue about the stripper harvester built by one of your readers. There is insufficient information in the article for us to determine whether the home-built harvester infringes our U.S. patent on the stripper harvester. However, anyone considering building their own strip-