



Photo courtesy Plainview Daily Herald

Tractor Rims Make Inexpensive Culverts

You can make low cost road culverts by simply welding tractor rims together.

Henry Reiff, the county commissioner for Hale County Texas, thought up the idea and now has the county's road maintenance crews welding rims together and installing the culverts.

Reiff notes that welding 18 36-in. dia. rims together produces a 24-ft. long home-built culvert for a total cost of \$20--

a substantial savings to taxpayers over the \$700 price of a new "store-bought" 24-in. dia. corrugated steel culvert of comparable (24-ft.) length.

Reiff figures that the homemade culverts, made of a much heavier metal, will last "at least twice as long as commercial made culverts".

The county gets most of the rims from local farmers and tire dealers.

Manure Flush Pit

Peter Jusczak, Moose Lake, Minn., designed a "no power" flush pit for his calf barn that he says works great and eliminates the need for other expensive equipment.

Jusczak built a pit 3 ft. by 3 ft. and 4 ft. deep in the barn with a drain hole at the bottom. The drain is covered by a heavy stopper that's attached to a chain.

"We sweep manure into the hole and then wash down the floor with water. When the hole is full, and the manure is

mixed with the water, we pull the plug and it flushes down like a toilet. It all goes out to the lagoon through a big pipe we installed below ground. Saves lots of time and effort over other cleaning methods," says Jusczak, who notes that a slotted grate mounts over the top of the pit for safety when not in use.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Jusczak, 1599 "W" Road, Moose Lake, Minn. 55767.

Stop Hayrake Tooth Loss

"I came up with this idea because the rubber-mounted teeth kept breaking off my 660 Deere hayrake and damaging my chopper and baler. It'll work for any rake with rubber-mounted teeth," says David Germain, New Richmond.

Germain says most teeth break off when the rubber breaks where it's bonded to the U-shaped mounting bracket. His hold-down attachment consists simply of a small piece of 1/2-in. dia. pipe with small hold-down straps on either side that slip over each tooth and bolt into place over the U-shaped mounting bracket.

"It'll hold the tooth in place even if it's broken. You can even reattach and reuse completely broken teeth with success. I've used these brackets on my hayrake for nearly 2 years with no problems. I made them from scrap pipe and steel around the farm but I believe they could be made commercially from plastic or teflon," says Germain, who's looking for a manufacturer to market the product.

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"Bruise Buffers" Prevent Injuries To Livestock

To help prevent bruising injuries to livestock as they're moved through handling pens and yards, Charles Beresford, of Queensland, Australia, places smooth, curved sheets of galvanized steel around corners, and in any other areas where animals could be bruised or injured. The curved "bruise buffers" (3 ft. high and 6 ft. long) are "maintenance-free and totally effective," according to Beresford, who has patented the device which is available commercially in Australia for \$200.

Another "bruise buffer" idea, developed by Russell Osborne, also of Queensland, involves replacing the last 2 ft. of gates with a hanging strip of rubber. "I wouldn't expect the rubber flap to keep livestock contained indefinitely. It's intended for use in yards where animals are held for short periods before being moved on," he points out. He plans to add a small hinged "wing" to the gate to give it extra security when cattle are held in the yard for long periods.

Photos courtesy FARM Magazine



Gopher Gasser

"It works for me," says Art Breid, Wadena, Minn., who gasses pocket gophers with tractor exhaust.

Breid first bent a 4-ft. length of rigid exhaust pipe to fit over the exhaust manifold and extend down toward the ground on the left side of the tractor. He then attaches a 4-ft. section of flexible tubing to that pipe and slips the other end into the gopher burrow. After sealing the opening with dirt, he runs the tractor wide open for about 5 min. He says it works best during the times of the year when gophers are less active and more likely to be in their burrows.

FARM SHOW

"Best Ideas"

Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Combine Clean-Out Made Easy

"These modifications make it easier to perform routine service on my Gleaner. They'll work on other combines, too," says Ron Ball, Menlo, Kan.

Ball's first modification involves removing the body panel at the very rear of the combine behind the straw walkers and above the straw choppers. Substituting the pop rivets on the panel with bolts makes it easier to perform several routine chores including cleaning cobs out of walkers, replacing sensor wires, cleaning out plugged chopper hammers, and replacing chopper hammers and straw walkers.

He first removed the pop rivets on the panel. Then he remounted it on a frame made from 1 1/4-in. angle iron, and bolted that in place with four 1 1/4-in. bolts. To gain access now he simply re-moves the four bolts and lifts off the entire panel. Ball says he's tried hinging the

panel but notes that the bolt-on method is the most secure.

Ball also modified the bin auger drive chain inspection door that's inside the bin. "I removed the two sheet metal screws that are on the door, which always seem to get lost when you take them out, and replaced them with two heavy snap-locks. Now, instead of crawling into the bin to undo the screws, we merely flip the snaps to fold out the panel."

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