Reader Letters

My brother Bryan and I designed and built this self-propelled snowmobile hauler to move sleds around our shop and garage. It's unlike anything we've ever seen on the market.

It consists of a 6 by 8-ft. frame built out of 1 1/2-in. dia. round tubing and fitted with two feet or pickups on front that act as a pair of pallet forks to slide underneath the skis to lift the sled. It rides on two 8-in. lawn mower tires

and is powered by a 3.5 hp Briggs and Stratton lawn mower engine coupled with a lawn mower transmission. The transmission chain drives a sprocket that powers the left wheel, making it effortless to move the snowmobile forward and backward and to turn it with the handle mounted on back.

The machine is counter-balanced so it remains stable when a sled is pulled up onto the machine's feet with a chain on the rear of the mover. Length of both the chain and pickups is adjustable so it easily accommodates any snowmobile. **(Troy Flundra, Box 1195, Russell, Manitoba, Canada R0J 1W0; ph 204 773-2911)**

We were disappointed with the way the story about our White Galloway cattle appeared in FARM SHOW (Vol. 22, No. 6).

Summer Coat

For example, we referred to two photos showing the breed's summer and fall coats. But only one photo, of our heifer with her shorter summer coat, was printed. That makes it nearly impossible to tell any difference between our Galloways and, say, Brit-

Fall Coat

ish White Parks. There are many differences.

We hope you'll still print the "summer" and "fall" photos of our heifer to better show your readers how unique our breed really is. **(Patricia Pruitt, 28289 Norris Road, Bozeman, Mont. 59718; ph 406 587-3031)**

After reading about America's "Singing Farmer" in FARM SHOW (Vol. 22, No. 4), I ordered all three of Bob Parrish's cassette tapes for my Dad's birthday.

I ordered them around Labor Day and understood delivery would take three or four weeks, plenty of time before my father's Dec. 6 birthday. However, the tapes still hadn't arrived at Thanksgiving and Parrish's toll-free number has been disconnected.

My credit card wasn't charged for the tapes but I'd still like to get them for Dad's birthday. **(Donna Gudex, West 2561 Sunset Drive, Campbellsport, Wis. 53010; ph 920 533-8020).**

Editor's note: "I canceled my 800 service because it turned out to be unreliable," Parrish told FARM SHOW, apologizing for the inconvenience and speculating that the Gudex order may have fallen through the cracks when he discontinued the service. He mailed her tapes out free-of-charge the same day we spoke with him.

In the future, orders will be handled by mail: P.O. Box 121, Stitzer, Wis. 53825. Tapes - oldies, gospel and patriotic - are $7.75 apiece plus $4 S&H, or all three for $20 plus $4 S&H.

Meantime, since our story, America's "Singing Farmer" sang at the World Dairy Expo, has been invited to appear on a couple of TV shows in Texas and has several New York talent agents interested in handling him.

I just wanted to remind my fellow farmers about the potential dangers of pressurizing tanks not meant to handle it. I learned the hard way last Oct. 25.

I was using a converted metal hand-held garden sprayer to apply a mixture of chassis lube, drain oil and kerosene to our corn sheller to keep it from rusting between uses. Thirty years ago, I took the hand pump off the sprayer and welded on a 2-in. dia. pipe coupling, plug and valve so I could pressurize the tank with air. I'd used it like that since then, usually filling it with about 50 lbs. of air. This time, however, I must have used a faulty tire pressure gauge and accidentally pumped it up to 80 lbs. or more. As I was carrying the sprayer across the yard, the bottom of the tank blew out like a rocket. The tank fractured bones in my left hand and made hamburger out of the middle of it. Luckily, my son got me to the nearest emergency room in four minutes. Any longer than that and my hand would have had to be amputated, a specialist at the hospital told me.

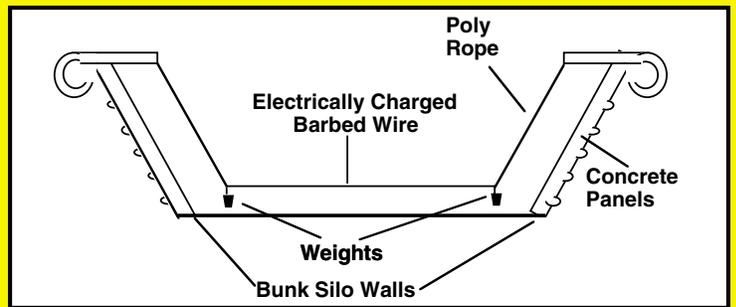So I consider myself lucky. Things could have been much worse.

Again, please use extra care when working with air-pressurized equipment and pressurized tanks. I'm 74 1/2 years old and never thought I'd have a problem but I did. **(Miles B. Slack, 2224 Forest Grove Road, Furlong, Pa. 18925; ph 215 794-7702)**

Hanging gates single-handedly can be a big chore, but I devised a system that lets me put up gates by myself whenever necessary.

To begin with, I build my own gates out of 3/4-in. dia. sucker rod. And I weld a piece of sucker rod vertically on one end so it extends 3 to 4 in. above and below the top and bottom cross members.

Then I make a U-shaped top hinge out of flat metal. I make a bottom hinge out of oil well stem pipe or any other heavy-duty pipe I have around, welding a cap on bottom to form a cup. The hinges weld to 3/4-in. pieces of redi-rod fitted in holes I drill through the fence post with nuts on each end.

To hang the gate, you set the sucker rod

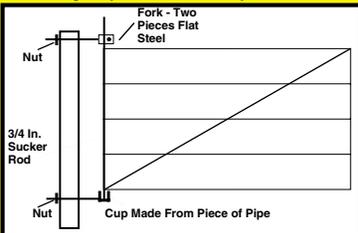Poly Rope / Electrically Charged Barbed Wire / Concrete Panels / Weights / Bunk Silo Walls

FARM SHOW readers might be interested in my "self-feeding" concrete bunk silo.

It's 8 ft. high by 118 ft. long by 50 ft. wide, and I used to haul silage from the silo to my cattle before I came up with this idea. Now, they come to the silo and get it themselves.

I made a pair of hooks out of 1/2 by 2-in. flat iron that fit over the top of each side. Then I ran a length of poly rope down from each hook, weighting them down on the ends with heavy oil well drill bits (any heavy object would do). Then I stretched electric fence wire between the two poly ropes to control cattle as they feed off the silage. The fence wire is about 2 ft. off the ground so they can easily

extension on bottom in the cup hinge and maneuver the top extension into place in the fork hinge by hand or with your front-end

Fork - Two Pieces Flat Steel / Nut / 3/4 In. Sucker Rod / Nut / Cup Made From Piece of Pipe

loader, depending on how heavy the gate is. Then you simply secure the gate by placing a bolt through pre-drilled holes in the sides of the top hinge.

I came up with this idea a year ago when I was trying to hang a 25-ft. gate by myself. I've since hung two other gates using it and it works like a charm. You could probably use the same system to hang commercial gates, too. **(Steen Frederiksen, Dane's Pride Dairy, Box 865, Redwater, Alberta, Canada T0A 2W0; ph 403 942-2959)**

FARM SHOW readers might be interested in this loader-mounted saw that I built to cut trees. It's ideal for quickly ripping through trees 3 in. in dia. and less but works on much larger trees, too.

It consists of two 6-ft. long by 4-in. wide, 1/2-in thick blades I cut out of hot rolled steel. Forming a V in front of the tractor, they weld to a 4-pin mounting frame that quick-taches to the front-end loader on my Deere 5200 series 40 hp tractor, which is equipped with front wheel assist. You need FWA to use this tool. The blades are braced by two center ribs made of 2 by 4-in. box steel.

To use, you simply drop the blades to ground level and drive forward into the trunk

reach over or under it. (When a cow gets a shock, she simply takes a step back and goes right back to feeding).

As cattle feed at the silo, all you do is periodically move the fence backwards.

The only thing you have to watch is that overhangs don't develop that could fall onto the wire or even bury some cattle.

The system saves so much time and effort I plan to continue to use it even after I cover the silo with a Cover-All canvas shelter this winter. I'll have to install some sort of track along the walls in place of the hooks. **(Helmut Luethi, Box 628, Breton, Alberta, Canada T0C 0P0; ph 403 969-2151).**

Here's a hose holder for stock watering tanks that keeps cattle from knocking the hose out of the tank.

I welded an ordinary cable clamp to a curved "saddle" I cut out of a 2-in. section of pipe that fits over the lip of my tank. I welded a nut to one side of the saddle. A bolt screws into the nut to hold the hose securely to the lip of the tank.

I came up with the idea a year ago and haven't had a hose knocked out of the tank yet. It completely solved the problem. **(Fred E. Davison, R.R. 1, Box 37, Highwood, Mont. 59450; ph 406 733-5031)**

of the tree. You can "cut" down a tree measuring 3 in. in dia. in one pass. For trees measuring 6 in. in dia. or more, you have to make several swipes.

You can cut down 300 to 400 smaller trees a day with the rig, which cuts through trunks in about a minute. The ripping action of the saw helps prevent regrowth of root stock.

I've got about $100 in materials in the rig, compared with a well-known manufacturer whose commercial models start at $1,200. Because I've finished most of the tree clearing I needed to do, I'd be willing to sell the saw if there's interest. **(Paul Ezra, 9341 S St. Rd. 39, Winamac, Ind. 46996; ph 219 278-7219)**