

Reader Letters



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My wife Betty and I made this display a couple of years ago. It generated so much interest, including a front page photo in our local newspaper, we decided to make it an annual "fall display" at our farm.



It consists of a pair of corn stalk horses pulling a two-wheel cart that we filled with produce from our garden.

The horses are about 4 ft. high and 7 ft. long and each is constructed out of a hundred or so corn stalks. I built wooden frames for the horses, then simply nailed the corn stalks to the frames. I made bridles and harnesses out of black vinyl, the kind used for upholstery, and stapled it to the horses.

I built the cart, which measures 8 ft. by 4 ft., out of plywood and 1 by 6's. It rides on two old hay tedder wheels. We filled it with small square straw bales, pumpkins and gourds. The "driver", incidentally, is a pair of old stuffed coveralls onto which we fixed a head. (Charlie Gaerke, 2936 Philothea Rd., Fort Recovery, Ohio 45346-9519; ph 419 678-8129)

Two years ago, my Dad and I spent over \$8,000 to have chemicals commercially applied to our 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans. That's when we decided there had to be a cheaper way to go.

So last spring I converted a pickup into a sprayer. I started with a 1986 Toyota 4-WD



pickup equipped with a 22R fuel injected engine and 5-speed transmission that had about 200,000 miles on it. I bought the truck especially for the project. The only modification the truck required was adding air bag suspension, the kind used on RV's, to the rear axle for extra support.

I mounted a new 250-gal. saddle tank on it along with AgChem manual-fold, 40-ft. booms, foam marker, Raven monitor, 5.5 hp Honda motor with hydro pump and a drive shaft speed sensor to track acreage.

I sprayed approximately 2,000 acres with the rig last year at speeds up to 16 mph. I ran around 50 to 65 psi and 10 gal. to the acre with excellent coverage. One of the things I particularly like about the sprayer is being able to maintain a road speed of 55 mph with no problems.

Best of all, cost of the sprayer was about \$6,500, including the cost of the pickup, substantially less than we paid for commercial application in one year alone. (Mike Immel, 3387 Thrush Avenue, Anita, Iowa 50020; ph 515 742-5002)

Thank you for featuring our add-on products for Deere planters in the 1999 Edition of Best of FARM SHOW. Unfortunately, there was an error in the price for our Deere 7000 Marker Hinge Kit, which is all-hydraulic with electric valve controls. The correct price is \$1,695.

Our other products include a Deere planter Chain Release, a Chain Release for Deere 750 Drills, Deere 7200 Fold-Down markers, Finger Pickup test stands, etc. Contact us for more information. (Jackson-Lee-Pearson, P.O. Box 27, Flora, Ind. 46929 ph 219 967-4164).

Thanks for featuring our business in the 1999 Best of FARM SHOW. We make wiring harnesses for older model tractors and business is booming. Unfortunately, our E-mail address was wrong in the article. Our correct E-mail address is: Agriserv@Gateway.net. We make harnesses that are exact matches for the original wiring. They're available for many makes, with Deere harnesses starting at \$25. (Jim & Sue Guarino, Agri-Services, 13899 North Road, Alden, N.Y. 14004 ph 716 937-6618; E-mail: Agriserv@Gateway.net)

I use old manure spreaders as wood trailers. The beaters are removed and the apron chain used to unload. They're nice and narrow for use in the woods. I also use old spreaders as feed bunks. Just remove the chains and the wheels. (J.A. Wein, 19591 Big Stone Lake Rd., Hersey, Mich. 49639)

I needed a way to vacuum out tires before mounting them. I didn't want to have a shop vac around all the time so I just took a 2-ft. piece of 5/8-in. heater hose and cut a hole about 1 ft. from one end. I just insert my blow gun into the hose and blow away from the tire. This creates a vacuum on the end of the hose inside the tire so I can suck out dust, small pebbles and other debris. (Joel Rosenau, 11162 SD Highway 73, Lemmon, S.Dak. 57638)

I have a small farrow-to-finish hog operation and use a lot of electric fencing when I put hogs on pasture. To keep from having to drive fenceposts all the time, I weld 16-in. long pieces of metal T-fenceposts to worn disk blades. The portable posts make it easy to put fence wherever I need it. I just pick up the posts and move them. (Otto Laas, 4136 S. Brownhill Rd., Brookville, Kan. 67425 ph 785 225-6858)

We've had tremendous response from FARM SHOW readers interested in our compost turning machines. We wanted to let everyone know that we're putting on a comprehensive workshop on profitable composting on February 18th and 19th, 1999, at the University of Southwest Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana. The workshop will focus on using compost for disease, weed, and insect suppression and on turning all kinds of organic wastes into valuable, nutrient-rich compost. Louisiana is a long way to go for many of your readers but it's a great place to be in the winter. For more details, call 1-800-335-8501. (Dawn Angarone, Midwest Bio-Systems, 28933 35 E. Street, Tampico, Ill. 61283 ph 815 438-7200)

In regard to the article in your last issue on the farmer who mounted gas storage tanks on skids near his machine shed, I'd like to point out that it's not a good idea to plan on pulling the skids away in the event of a fire. He said the electric wires running to the pump would just break.

There is no way to predict what will break first, the wires or some other part of the electric system. Or the fuel pump might be running when the fire starts and the excited operator would not turn it off before pulling the tanks away.

There are a large number of safety require-

ments for running electricity to a gas pump. If these requirements are not followed, will your insurance still be good?

Why place the tanks where they are a danger to the buildings when it would require only a little work to run electricity to a more remote location? (James F. Jackson, 6216 E. County Rd. 750 S., Carlisle, Ind. 47838 ph 812 659-2706)

Our Roll Away™ Mailbox Post is the best and easiest way to avoid having to replace your rural mailbox every winter because it has been damaged by passing trucks or snowplows. It rolls out of the way manually or automatically



via a remote control device (similar to a garage door opener). The mail box sits on a unique sliding arm that is retracted by spring after mail is placed in the box, or after a snowfall. Because the mailbox is on a long sliding arm, the post can be placed up to 4 feet from



the edge of the roadway. Thus the post and the mailbox are out of the way of vehicles that may cause damage.

Our mail box post is free standing or it can be designed with a sleeve which will slip over a standard mailbox wood 4 x 4-in. post. The design meets all postal regulations. The mailbox is constructed from high quality steel. A patent has been applied for and we hope to have units on the market by spring. The price will be \$350 to \$400. If you are interested in licensing, distributing or manufacturing, please contact me. (Cay Villars, Market Value Concepts, 6202 Rivercrest Drive, McFarland, Wis. 53558 ph 608-838-6533; fax 608-838-6281; E-mail mvc@biotactics.com)

I notice that every once in a while a farmer-inventor featured in FARM SHOW is looking for someone to manufacture and market his idea. We own a small machine shop and are looking for products, preferably ag-related, that we could manufacture or produce parts for on a custom basis. We have a variety of equipment and resources and can offer engineering and design, prototyping, and production. (Jim Hefner, Diamond Machine & Mfg., Inc., 1361 E. Hawthorn Rd., Lima, OH 45804 (ph 419 222-7100; fax 419 222-7117)

Your story on using our lightweight "punched out" half tires to cover bunker silos generated a lot of response. I've found that half tires can also be used as a landscaping tool for plants that allows a slow release of water and fertilizer. I cut 20-in. bias ply tires in half and re-



move a 4-in. wide strip of tread. Then drill small holes into the remaining "halves". I dig a shallow circular trench and place the tire in

it at ground level. Then I fill the tire with rubber nuggets and spray paint them. The nuggets serve as a mulch and the holes in the tires allow for a slow release of water and fer-



tilizer. Each tire can hold about 3 gal. of water. The photo shows an elephant leaf plant growing out of the middle of the tire. It makes a nice border or edging and it saves water and fertilizer because it's self watering and fertilizing. Other advantages are that the tires won't decompose and can be moved.

The tires can also be placed on top of the ground. I sell the tire halves for \$5 apiece and the rubber nuggets for 50 cents per pound. (Ed Brownlee, Box 389, Ravenel, S.C. 29470 (ph 800 440-9617)

A couple years ago you did a story on our 4-WD Unimog (Vol. 21, No. 3). Made in Germany by Mercedes Benz, the Unimog has a 3-person cab and a cargo platform that

doubles as a side-tilt dump box. It's equipped with front and rear 3-pt. pto, and remote hydraulic outlets as well as a rear hitch. It can do the work of both a truck and a tractor which is why we think it's the most versatile tractor in the world



and has a great future in North America. We now offer models ranging from 100 to 240 hp. At recent farm equipment shows we've equipped our 1600 model with a front-mounted Ag Crane which works like a forklift and also works great for moving round bales. We can equip our smaller models with Matt Tracks for improved traction, and in the future we may offer Gilbert & Riplo tracks on our higher horsepower models. (Kelvin Kurkowski, Uniquip Ag, Rt. 1, Box 403, Grant, Neb. 69140 ph 308 352-4676 or 4098; fax 4031)

Your readers may be interested in my ornamental iron work that I do commercially. One of my most popular designs shows the



customer's cattle brand inside the shape of his home state. The rancher's last name is in 10-in. high red letters on top of the state. The profile of a steer's head is also displayed inside the state. We can also make the profile of a semi truck, horse head, pig head, and whatever else the customer wants. The state outline is made out of 1 1/4-in. sq. tubing while the steer head is made from 5/8-in. dia. steel rod. The 1 1/4-in. wide letters are made from 1/8-in. thick flat steel. A 5-ft. high model like the one shown sells for \$135 plus S&H. Add \$5 per letter for the ranch name.

I also custom build other designs including a heart-shaped flower pot holder. It sells for \$23 plus S&H. (Harold Klasna, Harold's Hobbies, Box 264, Spencer, Neb. 68777 ph 402 589-1228)