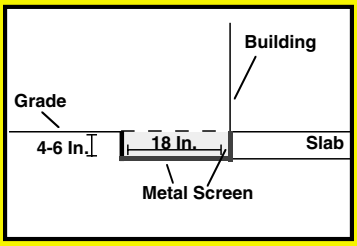
they're already buried.

Using C02 has been especially effective for me to kill rats that have burrowed under concrete slabs around buildings. After gassing I just cover up the holes and then check back later to see if the hole remains closed.

Another good way to stop rat infestations on existing buildings that do not have concrete rat barriers is to dig a 6-in. deep trench, 18 in. wide, next to the foundation of the building. Make a 90° bend 4 in. from the side of a



22-in. wide strip of metal screen, or hardware cloth. Lay the screen in the trench and then cover with dirt to grade. Rats like to dig right next to the foundation so when they hit the screening they do not know enough to move back a couple feet.

Another method is to spread a 2-ft. wide strip of crushed rock, 6 in. deep, around a building. They can't dig through small sharp stones. ***(Roger Puetz, Box 1897, Humboldt, Sask. Canada ph 306 682-3520)***

The American Farm Bureau Federation held a Watershed Conference in June that dealt with manure management, including composting.

The subject generated a lot of interest among the 105 farmers who participated. So much, in fact, that we plan to reprint and distribute a recent article in FARM SHOW, "Owner's Report On 'Making Compost'" (Vol. 22, No. 3). We'll send it, along with a conference update, to all the participants.

We're certain they'll be interested in the article. Thanks for permission to reprint it. ***(Jim Porterfield, American Farm Bureau Federation, 225 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, Ill. 60068; ph 847 685-8782).***

FARM SHOW readers might be interested in the second round of improvements I've made to my Deere Gator ATV (Vol. 21, No. 4).

As you may recall, I stretched the wheelbase on the Gator out to 76 in. for spraying

38-in. rows, which was something my dealer told me couldn't be done. And I added a 50-gal. spray tank and 15-ft. spray boom.

Recently, I also added galvanized sheet steel fenders over all six tires to keep mud off the driver. I also added a 1,000-lb. winch on front to pull the vehicle out of the mud.

Like the earlier modifications, these were done by Ray and Frankie Hosselton (Ray and Frankie's Machine Shop, R.R. 1, Box 77A, Louisville, Ill. 62858; ph 618 665-4114). Cost was about $1,600. ***(Joe Burt, R.R. 1, Box 232, Flora, Ill. 62839; ph 618 662-4040).***

We wanted to update FARM SHOW readers on our shop-built 4-WD crab-steer self-propelled sprayer (Vol. 20, No 2).

The sprayer is built from a Case 2470 tractor and equipped with a modified Great Northern spray tank.

Since building the sprayer, we've used it on more than 15,000 acres of corn and soybeans.

The convenience of being able to go to the field with a 1,600-gal. tank is great, as is the ability to spray at speeds of up to 10 mph in the field. We used a pull-type sprayer before, which was equipped with a 500-gal. tank and

had a top field speed of 7 mph behind a tractor.

Increased speed means we're able to cover up to 300 acres a day and increased tank capacity means fewer stops for refilling.

Crab steering also makes the rig exceptionally maneuverable, permitting extremely tight turns. ***(George Freise, Jr., Deerpass Farms, 4804 Deerpass Road, Marengo, Ill. 60152; ph 815 568-6820 or 6809).***

I remember reading some years ago in FARM SHOW about a farmer who was using a special concoction of natural ingredients to control weeds. He claimed his low-cost mixture kept his fields as clean as herbicides with none of the negative side effects. What ever became of him and his special weed-killing recipe? ***(Dennis Brown, 289 Co. Rd., 550N, Neoga, Ill. 62447; dbrown@rr1.com).***

Editor's note: Herbert Nordeen of Clayton, Wis., is the farmer you're thinking of (Vol. 15, No. 3). He used a recipe he found in a 1923 edition of the Old Farmer's Almanac that consisted of vinegar, mustard oil and apple cider. At the time, he hoped to bring his weed killer to the market.

We checked with Nordeen recently to see whatever happened to his promising product. He said he still uses it on his own farm but he's given up hope of ever getting an EPA permit to market the stuff in the U.S., even though he received a patent for the product in 1994. Instead, he's hoping to market it in Europe and Australia and expects the product to be used in Russia, Germany and France on an experimental basis for the first time next year. Since he can't market the concoction in the U.S., he requests no letters or phone calls about the product.

Here's a barbed wire unroller I made to take some of the work and frustration out of un-

rolling wire with a stick, shovel handle or rod.

It consists of a 4-ft. long handle, with top loop handle and bottom flare, that I bought from Northern Hydraulics for $20. I then took two scrapped 16-in. dia. disc blades and bolted a length of 3/4-in. dia. galvanized pipe flanges to the inside of each blade. I screwed two pieces of 3/4-in. dia. pipe into the pipe flanges to act as an axle.

The disc blades keep wire from getting messed up as it's unrolled. A "keeper" on the lower part of the handle allows you to spread the wheels when putting in a new roll of wire. ***(Harvey Malon, 635 Westwind Drive, Rapid City, S. Dak. 57702; ph 605 343-2349)***

I built this covered bale feeder to feed six 5 by 6-ft. round bales at a time along with grain.

It's 6 1/2 ft. wide by 30 ft. long and has a metal roof to protect bales from the elements. The steel frame is constructed of 1 in. sq. tub-

ing while a wooden floor is built of treated 2 by 6's or 2 by 10's. You can easily move it to new locations around the farm with bottom runners, which are constructed of 4-in. dia. pipe turned up on each end so you can pull or push the feeder with a 4-WD pickup.

Both ends of the feeder open so you can push new bales in and bad hay out with a front end loader.

To feed grain, I turn a 2 by 6 or 2 by 10 up on its side about 18 in. in from each side so cattle can't push grain toward the middle. The turned up lumber also makes good runners to guide bales into place as you push them in.

I've built three of these feeders in the last four years and they work great. Cost to build one is about $2,500. ***(Leonard Weidinger, Running W Ranch, Highway 63 South, P.O. Box 129, Vienna, Mo. 65582; ph 573 422-3691 or 3689)***

The special stickers we make and sell honor-

ing the service of U.S. veterans to their country are really catching on fast.

"VetSignia" window stickers are 2 by 4-in. in size with black on shiny silver film on an American flag background. Twenty-six different stickers are available: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Peacetime and include the five branches of the service, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

Most vets display the stickers on the rear windows of their vehicles, although we've seen some displayed in the windows of businesses as well.

We make no profit from selling the stickers. Our only interest is in recognizing the service of U.S. veterans.

Sticker requests should include name, address, war served in and branch of service. Stickers sell for $4 apiece or three for $10 (S&H included). ***(Bob Kline, VetSignia Group, Box 382, Blue Bell, Pa. 19422)***

Here's a portable wood box I made about a year ago to save time and labor when mov-

ing wood into the house.

It consists of a 60-bushel hog feeder from which I removed the bottom. I then cut an 8 ft. railroad tie in half so it fits between the 34-in. wide hay tines on my front end loader. I

laid the hog feeder on its side and bolted it to the railroad tie and used 2 by 6's on the side of the tines to hold the feeder in place.

The wood box holds a full pickup load of wood. Works great and didn't cost more than $10 to make.

I also made a low-cost dog house for my Blue Heeler and German Shepherd. It's a plastic 50-gal. barrel. I cut 2/3 of one end out

with my grinder. I bolted a 14-in. wide piece of plastic belting I had lying around over the cut-out end, overlapping it by about half the width, to keep rain and snow out. My dogs don't drag out the straw bedding. Cost nothing since a neighbor gave me the barrel. ***(Beverly Vilander, 7839 NW 35th St., Silver Lake, Kan. 66539; ph 785 582-5849)***

With harvest underway or fast approaching through much of the Midwest, we wanted to remind FARM SHOW readers how crucial safety is during this extremely busy time of year.

That fact hit home recently when a 50-year-old farmer died in a freak accident in our part of the country. Authorities believe he was attempting to back down a fairly steep grade with his combine when he struck several limbs of a tree. The limbs apparently stopped the top of the machine while the bottom kept moving. The combine flipped over backward on its top killing the farmer instantly. Authorities said they'd never seen a roll-over accident with a combine before.

Again, please make safety your first priority this fall. ***(John and Clara Schaneman, 601 Valley View Dr., Scotts Bluff, Neb. 69361; ph 308 632-2888)***

We were pleasantly surprised by FARM SHOW's article on the "Check Planter" built for a 1935 F-20 tractor (Vol. 22, No. 4). We

purchased one of these tractors and planters from my uncle in 1995 to show at Prairie Vil-

(Continued on next page)