Reader Letters

The last issue of FARM SHOW carried a story about Elwin Harder's conversion of a Gehl silage blower into a ditcher. Although we applaud Mr. Harder's ingenuity, we cannot condone such substantial modifications to equipment. Although Mr. Harder may have had no problems with his "invention", he and your readers should appreciate that silage blowers are not designed or intended for such use. For this reason, Gehl Company does not approve of this modification. It is possible, for example, that someone could be struck by a flying rock, or that the paddles could hit a rock and be damaged, which could result in injury to the operator or bystanders. The silage blower shown was not guarded for such an application. Nor are its warnings and instructions applicable to such a use. Progress requires innovation, but safety must be an integral consideration of every new design. ***(Lance Henrickson, Product Safety Engineer, Gehl Company, P.O. Box 179, West Bend, Wis. 53095)***

Some years ago I was having a hard time keeping the bottom leaves on my tomato plants from turning yellow. No matter what I did, I couldn't solve the problem. Finally I discovered that I had white flies. They are very small.

I use an inexpensive system to get rid of them that's environmentally safe. I put soft drink cups upside down on stakes between the plants. Each cup is about 6 in. off the ground. I put a nail through the bottom of the cup into the top of the stake to hold them in place. I cover the cups with mineral oil. As they fly around in circles, they stick onto the oil. I'm sure cooking oil would also work. ***(J.P. Walsh, 34 Locust St., Merrimac, Mass. 01860)***

I think your readers would be interested in our new no-fade snagless livestock

identification tag. This new tag was invented by a rancher in Montana and has a proven retention rate of over 99 percent. Because of the unique design of this product, it promotes a faster healing time and reduces hole growth in the ears over a lifetime.

Heartland Plastics Inc. is producing the tags and we have a state-of-the-art printing system that allows us to provide our customers with an unlimited diversity in custom-printed tags, logos, brands, etc.

Despite all these advantages, our tags cost 30 percent less than most other tags and we also have a much faster turnaround time. You can get complete information at our web site or you can write or call us for details.

(James P. Minehan, Heartland Plastics, Inc., 2201 6th Ave S.E. #19, Aberdeen, S.Dak. 57401 ph toll-free 877-289-8247; E-mail: jim@heartlandplastics.com; Web site: www.heartlandplastics.com)

I had this 3-pt. hitch accessory made by a local welding shop to solve the problem of backing up my 5th wheel trailer into a storage shed. This makes it much easier to maneuver.

The base is made up of a piece of 3-

in. sq. steel about 30 in. wide with 3-pt. hitch pins attached. A 4 1/2-in. pipe is welded in the center to accept the king pin on the trailer. To make it more versatile, I added a hitch to the bottom center which can be used to pull a piece of equipment with a clevis hitch or you can mount a ball hitch on it. I made it open on top to pull my trailer with a king pin but you could bolt a plate to the top with a ball for gooseneck trailers. This hitch works especially great for moving trailers around through mud and snow. ***(William Turnbull, Box 758, Grassy Lake, Alberta Canada T0K 0Z0)***

I made this small round feeder, which is big enough to take care of a few head of livestock. I took an old combine wheel, and made two rings 3/16-in. thick by 3

in. wide and 27 1/2 in. in diameter. Those rings formed the top and bottom of my feeder. I made uprights out of 1/2-in. conduit, which I flattened at each end and welded in place 5 in. apart. I made an extra support for each side out of 3-in. strap iron, and mounted a chick brooder on top to keep rain off the hay. I put a steel cover from a 50-gal. barrel on top of the wheel to keep hay from dropping down through.

The feeder works great and is strong enough to last a long while. I left the tire on to keep animals from getting bruised against the feeder. ***(Loyal Hanson, 1584 Hwy S, Sturgeon Bay, Wis. 54235)***

Adding a pair of push mowers to the sides of a riding mower helps cover a lot more ground, saves wear and tear on the main mower, and works as well as bigger commercial mowers at a much lower cost.

Here's how I did it. I welded an eye to the front corner of each push mower deck and used a piece of strap metal to run from the back of the main deck.

In order to be able to back up, I ran a metal rod from the back of the mower to the back outside corner of each push mower deck. The rods pin in place with a couple pins. The unexpected beauty

of the arrangement is that the little mowers flex up and down. You can buy used push mowers for $50 apiece and toss them when they wear out. They unhook in seconds and you can still use them as push mowers. If you take the push mower handles off, they'll mow under trees and fences.

Everyone should take a look at this idea as an inexpensive way to add up to 3 ft. of cutting width to any riding mower. ***(Roger Kuntz, 5251 County Rd. X, Grainfield, Kan. 67737)***

When you need to put in a post that has to stand strong, the best time to do it is when the soil is dry. Dig the hole so there's several inches of space around the post and fill the hole with water. Come back the next day and plumb and brace the post. Then fill the space around the post with dry cement mix. Water will come out from the wet ground around the post and you will have very hard concrete. ***(Charles Poole, 1805 N. 31st Rd., Ottawa, Ill. 61350)***

As a fun project, I recently built a miniature oil well pumper. So many people have stopped by to look that I thought

your readers might be interested.

I've always wished I had an oil well on my farm. Who wouldn't? After I retired, I decided the only way I was going to get one was to build it myself. All the parts I used came out of my scrap pile. It looks and works like the real thing and has been quite an attention-getter. It's powered by an electric motor that powers an offset crank. ***(Vincent Kramper, 498 190th St., Dakota City, Neb. 68731)***

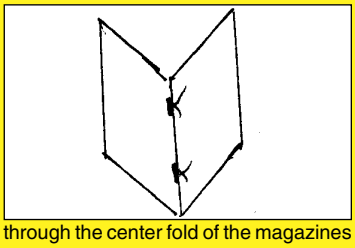
While our whole family was sitting around talking in the dining room, my 22 month old son Teddy picked up a copy of FARM

SHOW and looked at it for a long time. He loves to look at all the pictures of farm equipment. The only thing he loves more is being out on the tractor with his Dad and Grandpa. So you not only give us good ideas but great memories, too. Here's the photographic "proof". ***(LeeAnn Fake, 1399 Manor Rd., Windsor, Penn. 17366)***

I'm sending along a photo of a truck I put together in my farm shop. It's a 1984 Dodge D-50 crew cab 4-WD dually with a turbo and a 5-speed. The front cab

and motor are off a 1983 Dodge. The rear cab and box came off a 1985. The running gear is 1984. In all, I used parts from five different D-50's. It's a great truck that gets a lot of attention on the highway. ***(Bill Cruff, Rt. 1, Box 12, Rogers, N.Dak. 58479 ph 701 646-6013)***

Here's how I hold my issues of FARM SHOW together. I put two "stitches"



through the center fold of the magazines using a large needle and string that I save from feed sacks. I keep all my issues and this holds the pages together well. ***(Bill Reeks, 7014 B U.S. Hwy. 231N, Cromwell, Kent. 42333)***

I really enjoyed your recent article about the Grandoni Brothers of Niagra Falls, Ont., who still use antique Allis-Chalmers Roto-Balers (Vol. 24, No. 3)

My father used the same model of baler on the family dairy farm from 1954 to the mid 1970's. The Roto-Baler and the Cockshutt 40, with its live pto, made a good team. We never developed a