

# Reader Letters



I have a lot of duplicate antique hand tools so I put some of them to use by making a one-of-a-kind mailbox stand. I welded them together between a couple sets of chains. **(Elwood Patterson, 724 6th Ave., Claremont, S.Dak. 57432)**

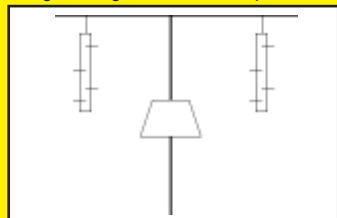
Thanks for sending me all that information on the 1995 Ford Windstar head gasket problem. I wish I had read all of that before we bought the van.

Our van had 96,000 miles on it when the head gasket went out. The dealer recommended a new engine at a cost of \$3,700. We chose to put that money into a different vehicle. The van now sits in a Ford garage while I pursue having Ford fix the defect. So far I have gotten nowhere. **(Jackie L. Reils, Ontario, Wis.)**



I converted a small trailer made by Country Manufacturing, Fredericktown, Ohio, into a hydraulic dump trailer. I bought a hydraulic cylinder and hoses and hooked up to auxiliary hydraulics on my 445 Deere tractor. It works just great. We use it a lot. **(William Gustafson, 4726 Cooke St., Duluth, Minn. 55804)**

I made a squirrel-proof bird feeder by using the large aluminum lamp reflector



off a shop light. I turn it upside down on the welded pipe. Squirrels can't get past it. Works great. **(Ralph Greenfield, P.O. Box 211, Lignite, N.Dak. 58752)**

Your article in the last issue (Vol. 26, No. 4) on my hand-operated clutch contained a big error. I made the clutch because I broke my ankle and couldn't operate the clutch with my foot. It had nothing to do with operating the clutch from the ground, as the article stated. It was simply a way to let me shift by hand. **(Jim Schreifels, 64893 375th St., Watkins, Minn. 55389)**

We tried the mosquito-killing idea that was in the last issue of FARM SHOW. We put a white plate out on the deck with a thin layer of water and a few drops of lemon-scented Joy dishwashing liquid. Our deck was so infested with mosquitoes that we had given up trying to sit out in the evening. I let the plate sit until the water had evaporated, but not a single mosquito took the bait. Not one. We did have a dead fly and a moth, but no mosquitoes. I think this was a hoax. Just thought you'd like to know. **(Joy Roberts, Deer Park, Wash.)**

Last year you ran a story on a guy who turned a school bus into a mobile chicken coop. I wanted to let you know a schoolbus works great on a small horse outfit, too. I use one as a truck, hay hauler, and storage shed for hay. I just park it alongside the barn and feed out the back. Also makes a great place to take a nap when the relatives arrive in droves. **(Fred Nelson, HC-30, Box 8061, Miles City, MT 89301 ph 406 232-6530; E-mail: funefarm@mcn.net)**

We've developed a profitable sideline to our farm operation buying buffalo calves



and fattening them to slaughter weight. We try to keep about 20 on hand. Most are sold off the farm in quarters and halves. We kill them on farm and slaughter at local lockers. They sell for \$1.20 hanging weight plus packaging. So far, we've been doing quite well. **(Don Bless, 8186 377th Ave., Blue Earth, Minn. 56013 ph 507 526-5274)**

I just got back from 10 days in Alaska with my wife. I thought about FARM



SHOW when I saw this unusual double deck motor home made from a schoolbus. Comes complete with wood siding, a master bedroom loft, and even a 6-ft. wide back porch.



The other photo shows what a 2-hour salmon catch looks like from Resurrection Bay outside Seward, Alaska. Five of us caught 17 fish weighing a total of 98 lbs. **(Lorn Manthey, Northfield, Minn.)**

Note orange paint spots under marker.



Here's a new idea I call a Firewood Measure Marker. It's adjustable from 14 to 26 in. long and helps cut firewood to uniform lengths, which makes stacking and storing easier. With a slight touch it leaves a small spot of paint on the wood so you know where to make the next cut. We've made up a prototype and the tool is

We have tried many methods to protect our blueberry crop from birds. We only have four bushes so we hate to lose them. We've tried netting, hanging pie



pans, and a plastic hawk. Our best idea so far is an oscillating electric fan with colored streamers blowing out front. The movement, purring of the fan, and streamers are far more effective than the hawk. After we set the fan up, only a robin or two dared to go after the berries.

Here's another gardening idea that has worked out well for us. It's a homemade



kneeler that protects your knees when you're on the ground and helps you get up. It consists of a square of plywood covered with a piece of white Styrofoam (held in place by tape). A riser made from two short 2 by 4's and a 1 by 4 crossbar makes it easy to push yourself up. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

My husband and I were reading your last issue and saw the story on a spring-loaded flagpole that automatically rolls up the flag (Vol. 26, No. 4). It prompted us to send you information on our new musical desk flag. The 4 by 6-in. flag is made from rayon and mounts on a brass-plated staff with gold spear. When you push the staff down gently into the base it plays the National Anthem. Sells for \$11.95.



We have more than 5,000 other top

patent pending. I think it would be best made out of molded plastic. I am looking for a manufacturer. I had help from Bob Henninger in building this. **(Bob Nesselrotte, 1320 1/2 Lincoln Ave., Plattsmouth, Neb. 68048 ph 402 296-2576; E-mail: bnessel@am-media.com)**

quality flag-related products. All our US flags are made in the USA and are sold at discounted prices. We do business through our web site: [www.ssflags.com](http://www.ssflags.com), and by phone at 1-800-942-1740. **(Carrie Scheiding, S & S Products, 8516 Graw Road, Arcanum, Ohio 45304)**

We give FARM SHOW a lot of credit for the growth of our company. We estimate that 60 percent of our sales are due to



the publication of stories on Reel Enlargement Kit and our Adjustable Slip Clutch in your magazine.

We have discovered in the last few years that our Reel Kit and Slip Clutch can do more than we previously knew. So we have put together a video which is available to any earlier buyers. We feel getting a "perfect" setting will make our Reel Kits work even better. In addition, we have learned of many other ways to adjust grain headers from Deere, IH, New Holland and Gleaner. In many cases there are adjustments for the headers that are not shown in instruction books provided by the companies.

We are very proud that more than 50 percent of our kits go on brand new headers. We had made many improvements to the kit in recent years.

Any grain that does not get into the header is lost profit. No matter how many grain-saving devices your combine has, the grain can't be saved until it's inside the combine. For most operators, the greatest crop loss occurs at the header. **(William J. Roth, Reel Manufacturing, Inc., 2025 N 1700 E Rd., Stonington, Ill. 62567 ph 217 325-4006)**



Thank you for the write-up in your recently-published publication "25 Years of Great Shop Ideas". As the article states, we sell high quality rust replacement patch parts for domestic and foreign