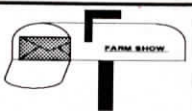


# Reader Letters

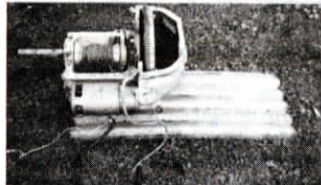


I have talked to other women who run their own farms or ranches like I do and we all agree that the most frustrating thing about working with tractor-powered equipment is hooking up the pto. A woman's hands are generally smaller and not as strong as a man's. I have to block up the shaft and straddle the darn thing to wrestle the wiggly, ornery varment onto the tractor. Sometimes after hours, I may have to call my next door neighbor who can put it on in 5 sec. I usually feel like crying by then but if I did I'd get grease in my eyes.

Surely there must be men out there with arthritis in their hands or other problems who have come up with a pulley system or other method of grabbing the pto shaft and easing it on. If there isn't, get busy boys! I'm ready to buy one! (Sandra Traweek, Rt. 1, Box 1280, Bryan, Tex. 77803)

I am interested in hearing from anyone who may have adapted a salvaged truck or other gearbox to use with a rotary mower. The mower company tells me it would be cheaper to buy a new mower than to replace the gearbox on my existing mower. I'm hoping one of your readers has made a successful conversion. (Kirk Baker, 605 Wilcox, Fairbanks, Ark. 99709)

**Editor's Note:** Here's a photo of that home-built winch made out of an old engine made by Joe Halvorson, Eleva, Wis., and featured in the last issue of FARM SHOW. The photo was not available when we took that issue to press.



Halvorson cut the engine block off behind the flywheel and welded a square shaft to the end of the crankshaft along with a drum to wind up cable. A 6-volt starter motor provides the power, belt-driving the crankshaft the way it would if the engine were still in use. Halvorson says the heavy-duty bearings on the crankshaft, and the power of the starter motor, make for a powerful winch that he can use for any heavy lifting or towing job around the farm.



I attached an extra metal ring around the outside of my big bale feeder to keep small calves from crawling into the feeder. It hangs about 6 in. below the top ring on the feeder on three metal hangers that attach to the top ring. Works great. (K. Stickfort, Rt. 2, Box 3, Garnavillo, Iowa 53049)

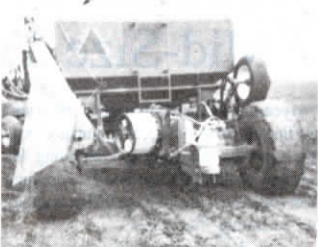
I have an idea that has added safety in an easy way to dangerous objects around my farm. We place a small bit of silicone sealant on sharp screws that protrude through walls on metal sheds to prevent nasty scrapes when walking or working close to the walls. We've used the same idea on sharp edges

of projects that come out of a welding shop. A small mound of silicone gives a protective barrier which prevents injuries. (Roger Kuntz, Rt. 1, Box 69, Grainfield, Kan. 67737)

Here's how I sharpen wire buffing wheels. Turn on the motor and hold a medium grade emory rock against the buffing wheel and apply a little pressure. Hold the rock on the wheel for 15 to 30 sec. and watch out for sparks. Stop the motor and take the wire wheel off the motor shaft and turn it 180° and replace on shaft. The sharpened wire will cut better than a new wheel.

I can't remember where I originally learned this method but I'm amazed how many people have never heard of it. (Lloyd R. White, 3617 Northwood Dr., Memphis, Tenn. 38111)

Maple Grove Plastics has acquired the manufacturing rights for the Screen-O-Matic rotary cleaning screens designed to keep dust and chaff out of radiators on tractors,



combines and swathers. In addition to the models manufactured previously, we now make an air seeder fan for use where there's lots of straw and chaff. For example, on no-till ground. We have an oil cooler on the fan inlet on our air seeder and we had trouble with it plugging with straw and chaff but since we installed a rotary cleaner, it stays clean. The body, blades and front cover of the Screen-O-Matic are constructed of high impact ABS plastic while the frame of the unit is made of aluminum. The only wear parts are the bearings, which are standard and can be replaced at any supply house. Prices range from \$216 to \$600, depending on the application. (Zach Waldner, Maple Grove Plastics, Lauder Manitoba, ROM 1C0 Canada ph 204 858-2661).



We'd like to tell FARM SHOW readers about our first-of-its-kind calcium/methanol farm tire pump. The air-operated, 10-lb. twin diaphragm pump is strictly non-metallic and is impervious to calcium chloride corrosion. This American-manufactured pump is self-priming, operates on a one-to-one ratio, and comes with a 5-year warranty. It'll last much longer than existing pumps do to the lack of exposed moving parts, it cannot overheat, no lubrication required, it can run dry without damage, no electrical hookups required, and no pump freeze-ups or stalling. It easily out-performs its bigger, heavier, more expensive competition. (Tom Welchel, Sooner State Tire Co., 2205 S. Robinson, Oklahoma, Okla. 73109 ph toll-free 800 654-4967 or 405 631-7551).



Our new "Spout Line Buster" is a grain distributor that attaches to the end of the spout on an unload auger to distribute foreign material and dockage throughout the grain in a load. As the flow of grain enters into the unit, it's split into two streams and passes over a series of specially designed screens and baffles that remove a portion of the foreign matter and then distributes it throughout the rest of the load.

The problem is especially bad at when filling top-load box cars with limited access. Country elevators have difficulty load hopper cars and maintain grade because of foreign matter buildup directly in the probe pattern. The Spout Line Buster loads out grain with less than .3 or 1% variance from the original grain. It's approved by the Federal Grain Inspection Service. (Marvin Willis, Willis Distributing Inc., Rt. 4, Box 98, Hwy. 37N, Benton, Ill. 62812 ph 618 439-4783).

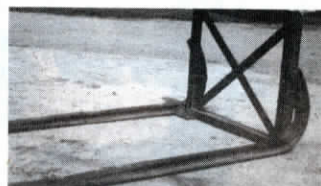
Old cowboy boots make good gear carriers to hang from your belt. I just cut off the foot of a boot and then lace the shaft together at the bottom and hang it from my belt with a strap. I carry fence staples, nails and other gear in them when checking fence or doing other chores. Works especially well on horseback. (Robert Peralta, Crowheart, Wyo.)

In regards to your voltage doubler for farm trucks in your Vol. 13, No. 5, issue, I've got a few suggestions. If grounding start buttons are used, solenoid no. 1 should be a 12-volt solenoid, and no. 2 a 6-volt. If start button no. 1 is a 2-lead button, the second terminal of start button no. 1 should be connected to the positive terminal of battery no. 2. Then both solenoids could be 6-volt. Both switches in your diagram need fuses. You could also replace the two switches and two start buttons with one start button and a double pole, double throw relay and no fuses would be needed. The relay (6-volt DC double pole 25 amp relay - Potter & Brumfield #PR11DYO-6), with a dust cover, will cost about \$30 from a refrigeration or radio wholesale house. (Perry W. Oliver, Oliver Enterprises, Rt. 3, Stop 19 Road, St. Joseph, Mo. 64505)

In one of your recent issues a reader wrote that he was not satisfied with the Red Ball monitor on his sprayer because it leaked. I had the same problem but found a simple solution to the leaks. Use regular garden hose washers in the hose barb nuts. They stop the leaks with no problem at all. (Martin Riggie, Gnadenhutten, Ohio)

I made a manure pit stirring device by using a hydraulic motor and a prop made out of three 14-in. lawn mower blades. I made a guard to protect the prop on the sides and bottom and used 3-in. angle iron to make three 14-ft. extensions so I can extend it 14, 28 or 42 ft. to stir my entire 64-ft. long pit. I power the prop with a Farmall 560. It requires a 2 by 2-ft. sq. opening in the pit. (Dean Durt, Rt. 3, Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126)

I built this heavy-duty forklift in 1965 and it's still going strong. It easily handles 6-ft. dia. round bales and I also use it to haul a



livestock box filled with a single sow and litter or up to 25 50-lb. pigs. I built it using steel beams off an old plow. I cut the curved beams into several pieces which I then rearranged and welded back together as two long straight lines welded to a channel iron frame. The fork has been sprung or broken at times but I've never bent the plow beams. I use it on 35 to 100 hp. tractors. (James R. Brown, 3450 Mason Rd., Jamestown, Ohio 45335)

Old side delivery rakes make good fence-mounted hay feeders. I turn the curved carriage guide bar sections upside down and mount them on a horizontal fence rail. I attached some old chicken wire to the bottom of the curved rake tines to keep most of the loose hay from falling through. The



straight bars and tines mount above the side of the feeder against the fence. Animals reach through to pull hay out. (Jerry Coonradt, 13731 Pineview Lane, Dayton, Minn. 55327)

Here's an idea that works well with an auger that has a damaged gearbox or a broken driveline. All you need is a good pto shaft and you can direct drive the auger with your tractor by raising the lower end of the auger up. You also weld a hopper 2 to 3 ft. from the lower end. Once mounted on the tractor, you can move the auger from one bulk bin to another. (Leroy D. Mabeus, Rt. 1, Box 21, Wever, Iowa 52658)



We bring calves back to the barn in the back of our Deere AMT which is closed in with widely spaced side rails. If we drive slow, the mother follows us right home. (E.J. Flinchum, Christianburg, Va.)

Our new mailbox indicator lets you know at a glance when your mail is delivered. The device is painted bright orange and attaches



to the front of the mailbox. The indicator is held in place by a protruding armrest attached to the side of the box. When the mail carrier opens the lid, the indicator drops down, signaling that the mail's been delivered. Although there are other "mail's here" indicators on the market, I think that mine is simpler to use and easier to see than most signals. I developed it because our carrier arrives any time from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Paul L. Witt, Rt. 1, Libertyville, Iowa 52567)