

Reader Letters



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and Roebuck in about 1925. It was originally powered by a Deere hit and miss engine.

The old mill sat unused for 30 or more years with the building falling down around it. When I needed a way to grind ear corn for my small beef herd, I took another look at the old mill. It was still in working condition, but it was designed to be belt-driven and I didn't have a tractor equipped with a belt pulley.

I attached a pto shaft to a small rubber tire and then attached the wheel to a shaft and mounted the shaft, with pillow block bearings on it, to the frame of the mill. The tire rolls against the pulley that the belt used to run on. I put just enough air pressure in the tire to keep it from slipping. I use my small IH 140 tractor to pto-drive the mill. It really works well. (Michael Young, 1920 Hurricane Church Rd., Clinton, S.C. 29325 ph 864 833-4461)

Here's a photo of a semi truck being hauled home with a "retriever" hitch that fits over the fifth wheel plate on another semi. I made the retriever to help a friend



get his truck home. He's used it twice now, so it's saved him hundreds of dollars in towing fees.

I started by making a plate similar to the one from a semi-trailer and then made a bracket on top of it to hold a 6 by 8-in. steel tube. I used an 8-ft. length of 6 by 8-in. heavy-walled tubing, with additional pieces of similar tubing cut and welded together at the back to make a gooseneck boom. The boom sits in the bracket, extends back and attaches to a saddle between a couple of uprights made of 4 by 4-in. by 1/2 in. angle iron. There, two hydraulic cylinders - one either side - raise or lower the boom. The boom is drilled through every 6 in. so it can be adjusted in 6-in. increments and a pin used to hold it in place.

At the bottom of the back end of the boom is a 3-ft. long cross bar, made of heavy-walled 4 by 4-in. steel tubing. It's attached on a swivel made from a 2-in. bolt. A piece of 4 by 1/2-in. angle iron is welded onto each end. At each end of each angle iron is a hole large enough for the chain to go through, with a slot to fasten a link.

I added a self-contained hydraulic system, powered by a 12-volt motor. I used all salvaged parts which kept my total cost at less than \$50. (Gerald Green, 20134 Superstition Drive, Queen Creek, Arizona 85242)

I made a two-wheeled cart to roll up barbed wire as I build fences. It can be towed behind an ATV or tractor. By pulling a 5/16-in. pin, I can remove the tongue and pull the cart by hand for use in tight places. The cart mounts on two wheelbarrow tires and is constructed mainly of 1 1/2 and 1 3/4-in. sq. tubing. The wire roll is sandwiched between two wooden discs. One disc is fixed to the



spool axle, which I made from 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe, and the other is fixed to a removable bushing which locks in place by tightening a 1/2-in. lock bolt. The top half of the yoke supports are hinged to open up so I can remove the wire spooler. My total investment cost was less than \$75. Most of that was for the tires. (Marlin Mullins, Hammond, La.)

At the recent Ohio Farm Science Review Show we displayed a new grain bin fan cover which drew a lot of interest. The



cover is made out of 18-oz. vinyl-coated nylon and keeps dust and bugs out of the fan. It also keeps the wind from blowing into the housing which keeps the fan blades from turning on their own and eventually burning out the starter.

Our fan covers are available in a variety of sizes. A 36-in. dia. model sells for about \$65. (Rainbow Industries, Inc., Box 506, S. Vienna, Ohio 45369 ph 800 388-8277)

As a member of the Providence Bay Agriculture Society, I enjoyed reading your article, "Tractor Races Fun Way To Raise Funds" (Vol. 26, No. 3). Our group has held a Fall Fair for the last 118 years on the third full weekend in August. The fair is located in Providence Bay on beautiful Manitoulin Island, Ontario. We're always on the lookout for new and interesting events. After reading the article, I took it to a board meeting and the board decided to set up similar races at this year's event. We were able to attract three tractors over 30 years old, and the owners were willing to allow experienced drivers to use them. We had eight contestants for this first-time event and quite a few spectators.

The object of the first race was to drive the slowest tractor over a 60-ft. long straight course, running two tractors in two lanes at a time.

In the second race, the driver was blindfolded. We started the drivers one at a time about 75 ft. from the original track. We encouraged wives or close family members to be the guides. The tractors were started in the opposite direction to the original track, and the driver had to weave between posts. The guide could only tell them to go left, right, or straight ahead.

For the third race we used the same course used for the second race, except that drivers were not blindfolded and had to carry a wine glass filled to the brim with water. The driver had to carry the glass by the stem while negotiating the

course. The winner was the one who had the most water left in his glass at the end of the race.

Interest in our tractor races has grown. People are already trying to figure out how they're going to get their tractors to the Providence Bay Fair next year. (Doreen Campbell, 147 Perivale Rd. W., Rt. 1, Spring Bay, Ontario, Canada P0P 2B0; E-mail: dwitty@amtelecom.net or glore@vianet.ca)

Two years ago (Vol. 24, No. 6) you published a story on the luxury console seats that Emerson Seating makes for pickups and vans. Over the past year we've added many new models to our seating line. Farmers want something more comfortable than the original bench seats.



They like our center seat consoles and the independently adjustable driver and passenger seats. We're able to fit seats into most full size pickups ranging from the early 1960's through model year 2001. We can fit some mini pickups, too.

Prices for our top-of-the-line seats are around \$550. Our Rodeo series for 1991 and older pickups, which was featured in your article, is still available at the originally quoted price of \$379 (plus S&H). (Al Thomas, Emerson Seating, Box 283, Hyattsville, Md. 20781 ph 301 864-1079)

I had a problem in my tie-stall barn with cows pushing hay and silage away from the bunks. Cows tended to move forward to get the feed, which often caused their



manure to fall into the stall instead of into the gutter.

I solved the problem by building a 50-ft. long movable wooden wall that mounts on barn door tracks that bolt to the ceiling. Pulling on a rope causes the entire wall to move back against the barn wall where it stays whenever it's not needed. (Gabriel Verleun, Upper Montague, RR 3, P.E.I., Canada C0A 1R0 ph 902 838-4658)

My homemade, two-wheeled "scaffold trailer" is designed to be pulled by my riding mower and really comes in handy around our farm. I used 1 1/4-in. dia. steel pipe, which I got free at work, to build a frame that supports wooden planks at various levels. An adjustable stand at each corner can be used to help level the stand on uneven ground. The axle and



wheels are off an old hammermill.

I made my own "tip-down" TV antenna that's easy to work on. The antenna mounts on top of a 28-ft. pipe that stands on a 5-in. dia. pipe, buried in cement about 5 ft. deep in the ground. The 5-in. dia. pipe is filled with sand to compensate for the weight of the pipe that holds the antenna. The top part of this pipe has a short length of 7/8-in. dia. shaft welded into it, and the pipe that holds the antenna is connected to this shaft by an angle iron and bolt that forms a hinge. To lower the antenna to the ground, I remove the bolt and give the pipe that holds the antenna a slight push, then slowly let it down.

It eliminates the need to use ladders or to crawl up on top of the house. (Lyle Torstenson, Rt 1, Box 106A, Dawson, Minn. 56232 ph 320 769-2295)



I needed to carry a few hand tools on my loader tractor, so I bolted an old surplus ammunition box onto the loader's support frame. I simply drilled holes through the bottom of the box and bolted it on. It holds all the hand tools and supplies I need to make emergency field repairs. (Terry and Debbie Benoit, 1077 Bobcat Circle, Orange, Texas 77632)

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