

Reader Letters



Editor's Note: Last issue's article about low-cost Agracat ATVs from China caught the eye of thousands of readers. Unfortunately, as the magazine went to press a larger company bought out Agracat. As a result, the toll-free phone number was out of order for a couple weeks during restructuring. The phones are now working and you can also find Agracat ATVs at many dealers across the country. (Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agracat, 2737 N. Thompson, Springdale, Arkansas 72764 ph 866 247-2228 or 479 750-0200)

In a recent issue of FARM SHOW you featured a powered fan that was built over a tractor to keep the operator cool in the summer (Vol. 27, No. 5). I have also built a fan over my tractor seat. It really cools you off on hot summer days. (Ken Freeman, Rt. 3, Box 156, Idabel, Okla. 74745 (ph 580 286-3509))

We got tired of looking backward when blowing snow so we came up with the idea of combining a Uni-harvester and a Minneapolis-Moline 705 to make a powerful snowblower.

The Uni had a Perkins diesel in it but we found that it was a little too short on power to pull the blower. So we used the



M-M 705 even though it had a bad rear end.

We took all the gears and front axle housings off but left the PTO shaft intact. All that was left was the engine and rear housing. That was then mounted on the side of the blower.

We use the uni-harvester for the 3-pt. hitch, turning the spout, and to put the clutch in and out of gear. All the gauges and controls are in the cab.

The 504 engine in the M-M 705 cranks out 130 hp for the snow blower. We can run the snowblower at full throttle and still creep the tractor. (Patty and Denny Kurtzbein, 2071 30th St. SW, Montevideo, Minn. 56265 ph 320 269-7029)



I wanted to use an old IH 10 "A" pull-type, 8-disc harrow. Then I realized that I needed a wide clevis for hitching. So I

thought, "Why not use the 2-in. ball on a 3-pt. hitch attachment? Now I just back under the hitch-ring, raise it up, get off the tractor and hook up the trip-rope, and remove the support block under the tongue. It is so much easier than having to build something else. (Wayne A. Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy., Lincolnton, Georgia 30817)

I converted a 3-pt. hitch post driver into a much more useful tow-behind unit. It can now be used behind an ATV, pickup, or tractor.

The frame is from an old, discarded



weed sprayer and a Honda gas motor drives the hydraulic pump. The driver itself can be tilted two ways as needed and is moved by one foot so you don't have



to drive too close to the fence.

The front of the unit can carry 25 or more posts depending on the size. (Bill Fardoe, Site 170, Box 1, RR 1, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 5Y1, email: fardoew@inetlinkwireless.ca)

When a family member gets sick in my house we give them a wireless doorbell to call for help when they need it. The chime is battery-powered and is very portable. It has a longer range than a traditional bell and the volume can be adjusted. (Jack O. Russ, P.O. Box 27251, San Antonio, Texas 78227)

For farmers who want a professional cleaning and packaging system on their



berry farm, A & B Packing Equipment, Inc. has just about anything you would need. We sell fillers, packers, cleaners, weighers, debuggers and all sorts of conveyor belts. The machinery can be used for berries, tomatoes and other small garden produce.

For a detailed brochure of all our equipment, contact: (A & B Packing Equipment, 67602 62nd St., Hartford, Mich. 49057 ph 888 269-8234; fax 775 766-6765; email: abpack@hartford.net; website: www.a-bpack.net)

I've come up with the ultimate lawn mower. I started with a C A 12 Allis-Chalmers tractor but added smooth truck tires so no marks would be left in the grass. I had to convert the rear wheels from 9 by 24-in. to 10 by 20-in. I did this by welding 4 plates onto the original truck

We got so many inquiries about our solar cat shelter featured in the last issue of FARM SHOW, that we have decided to start taking orders for them. We had calls and letters from people and even a pet store that wondered if we would make and sell them. So we started wondering if maybe we should.

We are charging \$150 (Canadian), plus shipping, for a unit that measures 28 by 24 in. by 37 in. high. It's painted white and has an angled, shingled roof. Because the front lift-up access door is a large pane of glass, it creates a greenhouse that heats the house on cold or rainy days.

In the summer you can prop open the window panel to allow more air circulation.

In situations where shipping is too costly, we will also offer the cat shelter without glass, making it possible for cus-



tomers to install their own. This incomplete shelter is priced at \$142 (Canadian) plus shipping. (Dwayne and Betty Stewart, Box 97, Busby, Alberta, Canada T0G 0H0 ph 780 939-6730)



rims with 2 bolt holes in each plate.

The mower is an adapted Woods belt mower that I attached to the AC's old cultivator lift. Instead of using the long, single "V" belt to run the blades, I used three smaller belts. They cost a lot less and do a great job. I welded a tightener pulley to the frame for each blade. (George Ribble, 25766 Mt. Ragan Rd., Hettick, Ill. 62649 ph 618 778-5752)



I live in China but have been selling tractors in the American market for many years now. I sell a model tractor that can be made into a garden tractor or used to pull a mini-train.

The locomotive-tractors are powered by a 3-cylinder, 4-stroke vertical, water-cooled, fuel injection diesel engine. They weigh about 3,400 lbs. and have a wheel-base of about 6 ft. The tractors have power steering, dual stage clutch and a (4+1) by 2 gearbox.

The 30 hp model sells for \$4,000; the 35 hp sells for \$4,200, and the 40 hp sells for \$4,400. (Edward Xia, Garden locomotive, 192 Beihai South Road, Weifang, Shandong Province, 261206 ph 86 563 763-8713/7608604; fax 86 536 760-3120; email: edwardka@163.com)

I coated the bottom of the mower deck on my zero turn mower with spray-on bed liner. It's the stuff you normally use to protect pickup beds. I cleaned the underside of the deck carefully and then sprayed on a light coating. It doesn't keep grass from sticking but it keeps the deck from rusting and stays on when I hose off the grass. (John Lindemer, Indiana)

I read with interest the stories on collecting rainwater in the last issue of FARM SHOW. If you want to find out more about collecting rainwater, you should go visit the islanders in Bermuda. Due to the small size of that island nation, any well drilled there would be salty. So all water

used is collected from rain water. Nearly every roof on the island is made of white plaster to channel water into gutters that direct water to cisterns under the houses. The government buildings are supplied with water from a similar collection system that is located on a mountain top near the capital city. (by email from Shardecept@aol.com)

I really smiled when I read the article in a recent issue on using a car tire to hold several chunks of wood together for splitting. I tried the same idea except that I bolted a couple 2 by 4's to the bottom of the tire to deepen the hole a bit so I could take longer pieces and keep them standing upright. The tire idea really eliminates a lot of stooping and bending and keeps all the split chunks together. I'm 81 years old so it really helps me get my work done. (Sheldon Card, 117 Fire Tower Road, Stephentown, N.Y.)

Since 1996, our farm shop has produced a line of magnetic tools. Our helpers are local high school students and young adults from foster homes. These young people enjoy the work study values that they learn from working in manufacturing.



Our product line has grown to include six different tools. One that may be of interest to FARM SHOW readers is our most powerful model called the "Retriever". It can lift a solid block of steel weighing 120 lbs. The short handle version is \$23 and the longer 2-ft. version is \$25 (includes shipping). You can order direct from us or get a brochure on our products. (Roger Kuntz, K-Tech, 5251 Co. Rd., X, Grainfield, Kan. 67737 ph 785 673-5560)

I recently received my first issue of FARM SHOW and it brought back memories of things I did years ago on the farm. At one point I needed a welder so I bought a used DC motor and rewound the armature and then powered it with a Ford model A motor. It made a good welder for many years.

I built the first rotary push mower I ever owned from scratch. I used a grain drill disc opener with four mower sections riveted around the edge for the blade, and I mounted it on a spindle off an old Model T Ford. The blade mounted on one end and a V-pulley on the other end, which I drove with a 1 1/2 hp Briggs and Stratton engine. (Theodore Haugen, 250 Central Ave. E., Plummer, Minnesota 56748)

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