

Reader Letters



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which is approximately 1/2 cord. That's about all my skid loader can safely handle. Makes the wood easy to handle and keeps it off the ground. Best of all, it's cheap. (Paul Klassy, W6701 Klassy Rd., New Glarus, Wis. 53574)

My son, Luc, and I built a tractor that looks like a true antique. We used steel wheels



off an old hay binder, miscellaneous steel, and a 3 hp Fairbanks Morse Z stationary engine. It's a lot of fun and a real eye catcher. (Albert Levac, 17426 Gravel Hill Rd., Monkland, Ontario K0C 1V0 Canada)

An electric fence I set up in the winter always seemed to work loose for various reasons. So I got the idea of just stapling it to wood posts at the corners I tied the wire with a couple long pieces of plastic baler twine that runs to an insulator. I tie a loop in the twine so I can very simply untie the knot and pull and stretch the twine when it starts to sag. I don't even have to turn the electricity off as the twine on each corner is about 6 ft. long. You just pull up some slack and you can see the difference right away. The tension seems to adjust the entire fence by the next day. Simple but it works. (Gary Malone, M-Bar Ranch, RR1, Box 46A, Palisade, Neb. 69040 ph 308 285-3440)

I was interested in the article in your last issue about the screw-type cone wood splitter that mounts on a hand drill. I had



a pile of oak that was so hard and knotty I could not split it with a maul and wedge. My neighbor had a cone-type splitter that he said I could use.

I made an adapter plate to mount the cone on my Troy-Bilt rototiller. That splitter will split anything, no matter how hard or tough. When I finish one pile of wood, I just wheel it to the next one. It's a fantastic splitting machine. (Jim Hill, 750 Cedar Valley Rd., Goldendale, Wash. 98620 ph 509 773-6010)

Thanks for your articles on Scale-Tec



add-on scale systems for grain drills and gravity wagons.

We'd like to tell your readers we're introducing a new scale package for

Deere's new 1790 planter with the Central Commodity bulk seed hopper. No modifications are needed for installation. Once installed, you always know how much seed you have. Makes it easy to keep the same amount of seed in each hopper and to know when it needs to be refilled. (Ken Von Muenster, 16027 Hwy 64, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 ph 319 462-2344; fax 319 462-4797)

I have a 7-ft. wide, 3-pt. mounted box scraper that I use to grade our lane. To help it do a better job, I added a support bar across the back - using angle iron mounting brackets - and gauge wheels from an old field cultivator. I can adjust cutting depth by turning two T-handles. It's easy to adjust and helps do a much better job grading. The entire assembly can be removed by pulling four bolts. (Fred Duling, 11653 S. 550 E, Fairmount, Ind. 46928 ph 765 948-3273)

The phone number listed with the article in your last issue on my new wedge-shaped windmill was wrong. My new number is 563 529-1679. (Fred Brammeier, Box 988, Wilton, Iowa 52778)

In the last issue there was a "best buy" from a reader who said that a penetrating oil called Five Star was better than anything else on the market. I do some restoration work and need a good rust buster. Could you tell us how to get more information on that product? (Larry Lindberg, Savonburg, Kan.)

Editor's note: You can contact Five Star Lubricants by calling toll-free 800 448-6639 or going to the company website: www.mwnet.com/fivestar/lubri.htm.

I enjoyed the report in your last issue on windmills but I was surprised that the oldest windmill firm in existence was not listed - Dempster. I worked for a company that sold and serviced Dempster windmills in 1940 and the company tells me today that not much has changed. They're still making and selling the same quality windmill. You can contact them at: Dempster Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 848, Beatrice, Neb. 68310 (ph 800 777-0212 or 402 223-4026). (Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.)

Your readers might be interested in the Aussie Rope Winch, which was invented in Australia. Since I started selling it a



little over a year ago, I can't believe how many uses there are for it and how much people like it.

There's nothing like it anywhere. It'll

replace any lifting, binding or pulling device you use today yet it's small enough to fit in your pocket. It works like a double pulley with tremendous mechanical advantage but there are no moving parts. There are many things it can be used for



but there are three jobs for which it is almost untouchable: 1. As a calf puller; 2. As a fence stretcher, and 3. As a tiedown for hay or straw.

There are two sizes - one that will take up to 3/8-in. rope and the other up to 5/8 in. A rope winch kit with two large units, two small units, and complete instructions sells for \$40. (Chuck Angier, 9312 Gibson Dr., Sutherland, Va. 23885 ph 800 237-4752 or 804 733-4361; E-mail: chuck@aussieropewinch.com; website: aussieropewinch.com)



I built this windmill out of old hay rake parts and an old real estate sign. Works great, and with the reflectors on the wheel it gives a great light show at night miles down the road for oncoming cars. (Neon Stewart, Gordon, Texas)

Anyone who has ever unhooked equipment from a 3-pt. hitch knows how unhandy the stabilizer bars can be: You have to remove the bars in order to keep them from digging into the ground as you



back up. I solved the problem by welding a 1 1/2-in. dia. steel ring to a bolt that I fastened to the tractor's fender. A short length of lightweight chain with a large snap on it fastens to the ring. I made this modification on both sides of the tractor. If the stabilizer bars aren't needed I simply snap the chain into the hole at the end of each bar to keep the bars off the ground. Whenever I use the stabilizer bars I fasten the snaps into the rings in order to keep the chains from hitting the tractor's rear wheels. (M. Hochstetler, 174 Vogel Rd., Cumberland, Va. 23040 ph 804 492-4295)

This homemade buckboard fits in the rear compartment of our horse trailer. In snow I can drop the wheels into cradles that I welded onto a pair of metal snowmobile skis, converting the buckboard into a sleigh. Cables go over the tires to hold them down. There's 15 in. of clearance under the axles so the sleigh will easily go through deep snow. The tongue hooks



up to a fifth wheel hitch, which is the rear axle spindle from a front wheel drive car. (Brian Dickinson, Box 36, Site 3, Rt. 2, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada T4T 2A2 ph 403 845-5259)

I'm putting together a scrapbook-catalog of photos of the Chicago Union stockyards. I would like to know if any of your readers can help by sending photos of the Chicago stockyards or the immediate area. I'll copy the photos and return them as soon as possible. (Leonard Seltzer, 16040 W. Elmwood, Manhattan, Ill. 60442 ph 815 478-3578)

I clip fishing bobbers onto electric fences so hunters who are riding 4-wheelers on my land can more easily see the fences at night. I use the bobbers mainly around gates and mount two or three bobbers next to gate handles so people will know whether the gate is up or down. Hunters usually come out of the woods at dusk with their lights on, and the bobbers reflect their light and show up good in the dark. I also mount the bobbers on temporary fences that use plastic wire. It helps keep deer from accidentally running through the fences and knocking them over. (Meldon Burnham, 531 Folsom Hill Rd., Marshfield, Vt. 05658 ph 802 426-3240)



I built a barbecue smoker out of an old 150-gal. butane tank and mounted it on a 2-wheeled trailer built out of an old model T chassis given to me by a friend. The driveline is solid. I can smoke a lot of meat on it. The smoker is equipped with double doors over the cooking area and has a firebox at one end. The top of the firebox can be lifted up to expose an expanded metal rack where I can cook up to 20 hamburgers at a time right over the fire. I often loan it out for community gatherings and for fundraisers at church. (Steve Devaney, 7312 County Road 454, Merkel, Texas 79536 ph 915 537-2303)



My heavy-duty vertical wood splitter makes splitting wood a fast and easy job. The splitter mounts on a tandem axle trailer and is powered by a small 2-cyl. Lister diesel engine. The engine powers a large capacity pump and a 5-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder. The unit is equipped with a 4-way wedge. A large table helps keep the split pieces of wood from falling to the ground. The splitter can be low-