

Reader Letters



(Continued from previous page)



welded on the cab and bed off a 1960 Chevy 2-ton shortbed pickup. It took about 100 hours to frame everything in. It worked out great. **(Robert Hittle, 1731 Road P, Liberal, Kansas 67901 ph 620 624-3112)**

The Deutsches Landwirtschaftsmuseum in Germany is the best farm machinery museum in the world, and it recently



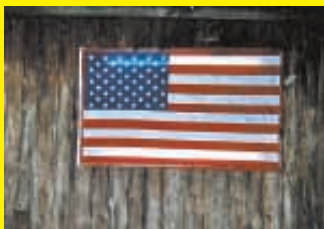
opened a new Harvesting Hall. The museum is located on the grounds of the University of Hohenheim near Stuttgart.

It's worth the trip to Germany just to see the museum's comprehensive collection. The energetic curator, Dr. Klaus Herrmann, organizes an annual field day every fall. The Hohenheimer Feldtag is held over a weekend around the second week of September each year. The event lets visitors see a wide range of working equipment, both vintage and modern. That ranges from two men actually pulling a plow to oxen plow teams to steam traction to modern diesel tractors at work.

The museum has the world's oldest surviving planting machine, made by a local manufacturer in 1823. It's constructed of wood, and it still works. The collection of models in the main machinery hall is stunning for its sheer range and number of models.

The world's oldest surviving internal combustion tractor is there. That's the Mechwart, built in Hungary in 1896. An original Lanz tractor is there, along with several in the Bulldog series and many original German tractors as well as others from all around the world.

For more information contact the Deutsches Landwirtschaftsmuseum, Universität Hohenheim, Garbenstrasse 9 and 9A, 70593 Stuttgart, Germany. Their office phone is 0711 459 2979. **(Dr. Graeme R. Quick, consulting engineer, Queensland, Australia; grquick@hypermax.net.au)**



I made this cedar framework from 1 by 3-in. board to display the American flag on front of my house. I split a shop light and rewired it, one on top and one on the bottom, so the flag stays lighted at all times.

This particular flag was flown on a mission over Iraq and sent to me by my nephew, Mike Zeigle. I'm proud of the U.S. and appreciate all that our service men and women have contributed to our freedom. **(Larry Zenz, 5779 E. Hwy. 28, Parks, Ark. 72950)**

I obtained a 1,500-gal. propane tank off an old propane delivery truck and use it to supply our home. I only have to fill it up once a year. The tank sits next to my



driveway and replaces a 500-gal. tank that I had been using. The tank mounts on its original frame rail supports, which rest on a concrete pad. Before installing the tank I sandblasted and painted the tank, removing the fenders. A big advantage of such a large tank is that I can buy propane in the summer when it's usually at its cheapest. **(Dwayne Lowe, 88 400th St., Chanute, Kansas 66720 ph 620 433-1559)**

I'd like to update your readers on my home-built front-mount mower (Vol. 27, No. 6). I made it by merging a pair of old



riding mowers - a 1967 Mustang riding mower and a 1970's Ford riding mower, both of which were originally equipped with belly-mount decks. The "hybrid" rig is painted Deere green and yellow and has a 36-in. Simplicity garden tractor deck on front. It works as well as anything on the market. **(Conrad A. Russell, Box 222, Plympton, Mass. 02367)**

Thanks for featuring our lightweight fiberglass gates in the Best of FARM SHOW. They're tough, won't rust, and will never need painting. The gates are made using 3-in. wide fiberglass rails with an exterior layer that protects against damaging ultra-violet rays.



Recently we've expanded our line to include several other products. They include multi-purpose pens, calf feeding panels, a custom cattle feeding panel with a 10-ft. feeder, a hanging gate feeder, trough feeder, and a goat/sheep hay and grain feeder. We can custom design any of these to your specs.

We even made a headgate for sheep and goats for one customer (see photo).

The fiberglass used in these products has a 20,000-psi tensile strength, so it's very strong. You can't dent it and if it gets bent, it will straighten back up. **(Polypride, Inc., 724-C South Columbus St., Lancaster, Ohio 43130 ph 740 681-1114; www.polypride.com)**

One of my favorite sections in FARM SHOW is the Letters section. Reading FARM SHOW is like going to a book store. You can always find something you like. **(George Schneider, Box 125, Pioneer, Calif. 95666 ph 209 295-7601)**



Thank you for the story on our farm in your last issue. The story mentioned our big 111-ft. wide no-till Multi-Planter, and



here's a photo of it. The machine can plant into all conditions ranging from conventional tillage to full trash cover, and even virgin soils that have never been touched by machines. It has a unique tine and press wheel system that results in precise seed placement and depth. **(Kris Trevilyan, Multi Farming Systems, ph 61 7 4995 7230; multifs@tpg.com.au)**

This portable manure cleaner was built by a neighbor of mine who operates a large feedlot. He uses the machine to



drag sludge out of a shallow, flat-bottomed lagoon on one side of his feedlot. It has a 10-ft. dozer blade on back that's raised and lowered by a hydraulic cylinder that operates off tractor hydraulics. A hydraulic-operated steerable semi truck axle on back makes it easy to position the blade. The frame is off an old A-frame type combine trailer.

The rig measures about 30 ft. long so the tractor driver can back it into a lagoon without getting stuck. To operate the machine, you back the blade down into the lagoon, keeping the tractor up on a hard surface. Then you let the blade down and drive forward to dredge the manure out. Once the manure is dragged outside the lagoon it can be hauled away or pushed into a field and spread out. Because of the rig's length the tractor driver can work the lagoon from all four sides without getting stuck.

Unlike a pump, this unit can be used to remove both wet and dry manure. My neighbor built this machine two years ago but due to wet weather it hasn't been used yet. His employees Dale Dickson, Richard Lincolnfelter, and John Annett helped build it. **(John M. Maxfield, 1407 Rd. 280, Admire, Kansas 66830 ph 620 528-3476)**

We currently have more than 200,000 troops in overseas theaters where they are subjected to subzero windchills during the winter. Our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and S. Korea need



wool headgear to keep warm next winter. The military issues synthetic fiber headgear, which isn't as warm as wool. Please help us supply a warm helmet liner for each one of these troops before next winter. If you can knit or crochet, please consider making helmet liners for our troops. You can go to our website and download the patterns. **(Linda Swinford, P.O. Box 13171, Springfield, Ill. 62704 ph 217 524-1494; helmetliner@gmail.com; www.geocities.com/helmetliner)**

The bottom of my grain leg, and the drive-over dump for it, sets at ground



level with a metal support under it so air can flow under it. Many conventional grain legs set down in a hole. But if water gets into the grain it can plug up. With my design, everything is above ground so there's no place for water to get trapped.

All my grain handling equipment operates on a 3-phase converter that I built from an old 3-phase 25 hp electric motor. I use an old 3-phase centrifugal



fan from a salvage yard to remove dust and other debris from grain as it's moved into storage bins. It's amazing how much red dog and dust gets discharged by the fan. I connect a length of 3-in. dia. flexible plastic hose from the fan's outlet to the edge of a field. The more of that you get out, the better the grain will store. When I'm done harvesting, I roll the hose back up and store it in my barn. **(William D. Riegler, 14241 TR 45, Findlay, Ohio 45840 ph 419 422-5889)**