

# Reader Letters



Squirrels were eating our bird seed faster than we could load the feeder. After trying red pepper, garlic, a BB gun, etc., I finally decided to hook up a fence charger to the feeder. The feeder is on a metal pole so I wrapped the staff with a piece of pipe insulation foam. Then I wrapped the charger's hot and ground wires around it, spacing the wires about 1/2 in. apart and taping them in place.

My wife and I then poured a cup of coffee and plugged in the charger to see if it worked. Warning - don't try to drink coffee when a squirrel hits the wires because he'll do some fantastic gymnastic moves that will make you laugh. We've had squirrels actually leave the area for several days, and most of them never again even dared to get anywhere close to the feeder. **(Arco Rosenow, Chillicothe, Ill.)**

Castrating ruptured pigs used to be difficult and risky. If the gut had extended into the scrotal sack, it could come out when you cut the skin to get at the testicle. If the gut came out, the pig would die. We always had to sew them up inside (the intestinal wall) and outside.

A guy who worked for me explained how to use zip ties to do the job. You just pull the testicle in the sack away until you can get the zip tie over it. Tighten it up real tight and then cut the skin over the testicle and remove it. The skin under the zip tie will seal up and heal over. **(Dale Dent, Brushwhackers, Inc., RRT, Box 43, Newark, Mo. 63458 ph 660 733-5555)**

A reader in your last issue reported in the Best & Worst Buy section that he was disappointed in a product called Sun Brite All-Purpose Cleaner. My concern is that this report could easily be confused with products from my company, Sun Brite Supply ([www.sunbritesupply.com](http://www.sunbritesupply.com)). We sell cleaners and tools all over the country and I know that many of your readers are also my customers. I do not have any relation to that product and do not know that manufacturer. Thank you for clarifying. **(Pete Marentay, President, Sun Brite Supply, www.sunbritesupply.com; ph 877 578-7759)**

Concerning a couple articles in your last issue, tell your readers not to spend much on putting nitrogen into their tires because it will not do much good. They run nitrogen in tires on high-speed race cars because pressure is important in how the car performs on turns. Pressure buildup in farm tires is not a problem.

Also, I recommend your readers have an electrician who is familiar with the National Electrical Code check the wiring in their barns in order to fight "stray voltage". The report in the issue on the "Ertimizer" seems like voodoo electricity to me. **(James F. Jackson, Carlisle, Ind.)**



My remote-controlled lawn mower was featured 18 years ago in FARM SHOW (Vol. 11, No. 2). I need to make room in

my garage and would like to see this unusual mower find a new home.

I think it would be fun for a Shriners, Lions or some other group to use in parades. Therefore, I would like to give it away to the first volunteer organization that writes me and assures me it would be put to good use. Whoever takes it would have to pick it up. No phone calls please. **(Roger Meihak, 10150 223<sup>rd</sup> St. No., Forest Lake, Minn. 55025)**

With the kind of loader that is on my 4010 Deere tractor, I could not use a Deere cab so I put a cab off a New Holland 1500 combine on it. You have to put the cab



on backwards to make it fit. I took the glass out of the front of the cab which is now facing the back of the tractor. Then I framed it so I could put on a door and enclosed the rest of it. I fixed the floor and put carpet in to keep it warmer. I could put a heater in it if I had to. It works great and provides great visibility. I bolted the cab to the fenders so I can take it off pretty easily. All the controls are in the cab. **(Eldon Harvey, 26173 Link Road, Ft. Pierre, S.Dak. 57532 ph 605 567-3647)**



I use cultivator gauge wheels to support gate ends. The shanks fit into the bottom of the pipes on the end of the gates. Rolls easy. **(Kendall Upchurch, US Hwy 65, Zearing, Iowa 50278 ph 515 487-7476)**

I am writing to warn your readers that subsoilers should be used with extreme caution if your fields are tilled. I grew up in the field tiling business back when we still laid clay tile in the Midwest. We once had to charge a farmer \$20,000 to repair the damage he did to his field tile system with a subsoiler.

You should be especially careful on newly acquired ground when you do not know the history. In my experience, most farmers would be very surprised to know just how shallow tile is on sidehills after one or two decades of topsoil loss. **(drperkins@highstream.net; ph 515-202-9090)**

I make things out of old wood pallets such as fencing, chairs, planter boxes, trellises, dog houses, and more. I paint



them with free paint I get at a local recycling center. My only investment is a few nails and screws. It's a great pastime for a retired person. **(Henry Ford, 680 East Hwy 20, Upper Lake, Calif. 95845 ph 707 275-0173)**



I built a 1/2 scale Ford 8N. I got the hood, grill, and fenders from Don Krasel who makes a mini Ford kit ([www.awesomehenry.com](http://www.awesomehenry.com)). I built the little tractor from a Cub Cadet, adding a Ford 8N seat and a cutdown dash. It has a 16 hp engine. It took about 2 months off and on to build it. **(Stanley R. Wolf, 714 Black Horse Tavern Rd., Gettysburg, Penn. 17325 ph 717 334-2444)**

My brother and I have developed two outdoor boiler accessories. The first one is a Flow Alarm that alerts you if the water in the system stops flowing due to pump failure or power outage. This gives you valuable time to correct the problem before the lines freeze.

The other new product is temperature display that can be mounted in the house to show you the temperature of the lines coming in from your boiler. It has a built-in alarm that will alert you if the temp gets low, meaning that the fire needs attention. Both of these items will work with any non-pressurized outdoor stove burning wood, corn, etc.

For more information on either of these products, please contact us. **(Jim Burns, 15230 Co Rd 20, Watertown, Minn. 55388 ph 651 255-5764; jim.burns@cit-net.com)**

We use old chest-type freezers to store feed bags. You can pick them up for nothing and they keep mice and other pests away from the feed. **(Debrah J. Carr, Clinton, Ill.)**



I found a way to use my garden tractor's trailer as a greenhouse so I can grow small plants for transplanting into a garden after the danger of frost is over.

I simply put the small plants in it and covered the entire trailer with storm

windows. I heated it with a 60-watt bulb attached to a bulb socket attached to an extension cord strung from the house.

When weather reports say frost is coming, I cover the glass with a Masonite sheet or plastic tarp.

Although I haven't tried it, you could also insulate the inside of the trailer with Styrofoam. **(Jim E. Dale, 721 Hillside Dr., La Cygne, Kansas 66040; ph 913 757-2084)**

To neatly bundle up kindling, I cut an old 55-gal. barrel in half, cut the bottom off and cut it again in half lengthwise. I just



lay two baler twine strings about 6 ft. long in the open half barrel and pile wood in it until level. Then, I use a piece of wood to twist the two strings tight. This gives me a neat bunch of kindling that's easy to handle.

I also had problems with raccoons and bears eating the birdseed in my feeder. I solved that problem by putting an electric fence around the bird feeder and connecting it to the electric fence that surrounds my horse pasture. Most of the time I don't even need to keep it hooked up because once the raccoons have been shocked, they don't go near it again. It works very well. **(Harry Wright, HC 50, Box 5565, Red Lodge, Mont. 59068; ph: 406 425-2832)**

I just read an article in FARM SHOW's Vol. 29, No. 6, issue about a "virtually indestructible mailbox". It sounds like a wonderful idea except for the fact that in Minnesota and many other states, it's illegal to have a heavy post or "damage-proof" mailbox because if accidentally hit by a vehicle, the box could become a projectile, going through a windshield and killing or injuring someone. It's better to replace a few mailboxes than to cause a serious mishap. **(Don from Minnesota)**

**Editor's Note: The story in our last issue on Albert Collins's chore tractor contained an incorrect headline. The story told about Collins's "Little Red Horse", a 3-wheeled, 2-WD tractor and showed a photo of that machine. Unfortunately, due to a production error, the headline was incorrect.**

I use a golf cart to pull this homemade 4 by 6-ft., 2-wheeled trailer. Works great for hauling buckets of feed to cattle and for hauling wood and fixing fence, etc. It



saves a lot of wear and tear on our tractor. The trailer rides on a pair of 16-in. motorcycle wheels, with a long threaded shaft serving as the axle. The bed is made from 2 by 4's mounted on an angle iron frame, the floor from expanded metal, and the tongue from lightweight sq. tubing.

We use an outdoor wood burning stove to heat our house and haul and stack the wood in wooden boxes that we set **(Continued on next page)**