

Reader Letters



My son, Jerome turned an old schoolbus into a nifty flatbed hauler for our Minneapolis Moline UDLX tractor. We recently used it to go to the 25th Annual Minneapolis Moline tractor show held in Washington, Kansas. There were 6 other UDLX tractors at show show. We've been fixing, collecting and selling Moline tractors for 40 years. (Edward Welters, Verona, Mo. 65769 ph 417 498-6496).

We mounted a homemade fifth wheel dolly on front of a 30-ft. semi trailer so we can use our Belarus 1770 tractor to



haul cows between pastures. The dolly consists of the rear end and axle off a 2 1/2-ton truck and is connected to the frame off an old truck. We bought the fifth wheel hitch at a junk yard and mounted it on the dolly's frame and tongue. The tongue is made from strap iron that we bought at a salvage yard. It was a lot cheaper to build than buying a new stock trailer. (Charles C. Hardenburger, Jr., 1995 Concord Rd., Haddam, Kansas 66944 ph 785 778-2962)

I used the cab roof of an International Harvester 503 combine to make a shade roof for my IH 706 tractor. The roof is supported by lengths of heavy angle iron



that bolt onto the tractor's fenders. The angle iron was salvaged from the water drive off a Valley center pivot irrigator.

A heavy steel cross beam located behind the seat provides additional stability and is bent into a 'U' shape to surround the seat. I welded all the joints except where the angle irons bolt onto the tractor. My only cost was 3 lbs. of welding rod and some acetylene gas. (Charles Schilling, Frazee, Minn. ph 218 334-5633)

I converted a Sears drop spreader into a seeder-dethatcher that I pull behind my MTD riding mower. A homemade hitch bolts on under the spreader's handle and



has bolted onto it a series of metal teeth off a Deere hay rake. The teeth break up the thatch and scratch the soil just ahead of where the fertilizer and grass seed is

applied. I still use the spreader's original controls. Works great. (Steve Wilberding, 1177 Sequoia Rd., Naperville, Ill. 60540 ph 630 717-6223)



I came up with some new uses for a pair of old grain storage facilities on our farm.

We weren't using our corn crib any more but it still had a good roof and a cement floor. So I converted it into a general storage building. I cut out 6 ft. in order to lower the roof, then wrapped sheet metal around the crib and added a door to one side.

The second project involved an old feed bin, which I converted into a portable unit. I removed the top ring and then bolted the roof back onto the bottom ring. I shortened two of the legs and mounted

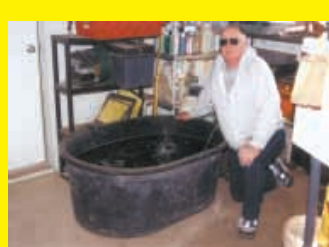


an axle under them, then added some square tubing to support the other two legs. Then I installed a hitch on the tubing.

The bin's auger was rusted out, along with the sheet metal at the bottom of the bin so I cut it back to good metal. I also cut out a round piece of 3/4-in. thick plywood to fit 2 to 3 in. above the good metal. Then I cut a notch into the metal every 2 in. and folded it under the plywood, so that I could screw it in place all the way around. I also added a slide gate. The bin holds about 2 1/2 tons or 60 bu. (Ken Kortering, A-5892 W. 141st Ave., Holland, Mich. 49423 ph 616 396-8982)



I used 1-in. thick Styrofoam insulation covered with Masonite to build this solar heated dog house. A partition keeps out the wind. The roof is hinged on the south side. (Ralph R. Reeves, 361 N. 3rd E., Soda Springs, Idaho 83276)



Tom Stockstill and his wife of Mt. Olive, Ill., use this half size livestock tank as winter quarters for some goldfish they keep in an outdoors mini pond during the summer.

They bring the fish inside a building whenever the weather gets colder, usually in late October, and keep them there until about mid March. Then the fish are returned to the pond. An aerator inside the tank adds oxygen to the water. The water is periodically changed in order to keep it from getting stagnant.

Originally the fish that the Stockstills purchased were about 1 1/2 inches long but have grown to about eight inches long. (Tom Stockstill, 310 S. Elder, Mt. Olive, Ill. ph 217 999-7610)

I'm proud of my "made-it-myself" horseless carriage. I started with a 1973 riding mower, keeping the mower's 8 hp



electric start engine and transaxle. The rig has three speeds forward and one reverse. I used about 30 ft. of 1-in. sq. tubing to build the frame. It rides on heavy duty spoke wheels and has a buggy spring suspension system. The body is made from 3/4-in. thick pine lumber. To make the buggy top I covered 1/2-in. electrical conduit with vinyl. Top speed is 10 to 12 mph. (Wally and Lola Miller, 579 20th St., Co. Rd. P, Clayton, Wis. 54004 ph 715 948-2813)

I made this buddy seat for my rare 1959 Farmall 340 row crop tractor. It lets my wife, grandchildren, or friends ride with me whenever I go to tractor shows and



parades. The seat is off a riding mower and is equipped with a safety belt. I store things inside a large trunk that mounts under the seat. The trunk slides out to open. I mounted a second canopy above the buddy seat to provide shade and protect the rider from the weather.

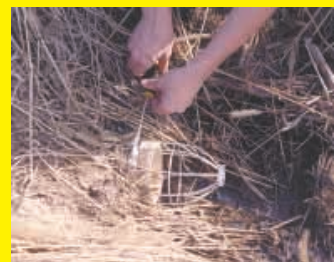
Long tractor rides are a lot of fun, because you get to see things that you wouldn't normally notice when driving. You also meet new friends, and it gets your mind off everyday life. (Herb Thompson, 321 Main, P.O. Box 162, Kensett, Iowa 50448 ph 641 845-2425)

I thought your readers would like to know about my website, www.VegdVW.com, which I started up after many people commented on my vegetable oil-powered car. The website provides a "hands-on" view of problems you can expect or avoid based on my experiences. I'm not selling anything, just telling everyone how to use waste vegetable oil in vehicles equipped with diesel engines. Waste vegetable oil works great in field tractors. (Dave Viksna, ph 218 372-8143; dmv1859@frontiernet.net)

Here are two ways to get rid of ground moles using a pint of gas and a small funnel. Stick your finger in the mole run to make a small hole, then place the funnel in the hole and pour in about an ounce of gas. Then cover the hole back up.

Moles don't like castor beans so we plant some in our garden to keep them out. We plow the plants under whenever we till the garden. We also put a few

caster beans in the mole runs. (Alfred V. Wilson, 96 Wolf Pen Branch Rd., Annville, Ky. 40402)



We needed something to keep small animals from clogging up a field drain and happened to see this guard for an electric light drop cord. It fit just right. To make sure the guard stayed in place, we tightened a spiral clamp around it. It works great. (C.F. Marley, 26288 Oconee Ave., P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 ph 217 563-2588)

This cupola was made into a flower holder. A series of potted flowers simply hang from the top edge of the cupola. (Maxine Christensen, 311 S. Carthage St., Exira, Iowa 50076)



My hay field is on top of a steep hill and the access road to it is too narrow for my swather. In the past, I always had to use a chain to tow the swather behind my Cat dozer to go up the road. On the way down I'd have to put the Cat behind the swather and let it down slowly to keep it from running away. I had to ask one of my neighbors to either drive the Cat or ride in the swather and steer it. It was often hard to find someone to help, plus it was somewhat dangerous.

To make the job easier, I recently built a towbar which lifts the swather's rear wheels off the ground. It provides positive control going both up and down the hill. (Jim Olson, 80840 Dufur Valley Rd., Dufur, Oregon 97021)



I spent all last winter wondering what to do with a 1948 Continental 4-cyl. gas engine that I had in my shop. Finally I decided to build a "fun tractor" around it.

The engine came off an asphalt trailer where it was used to operate a big asphalt pump. The axle, transmission and driveshaft are from a 1979 Ford 3/4-ton pickup. I mounted a V-belt pulley on the engine and another pulley on the transmission, allowing the engine to belt-drive the transmission. The engine didn't have a starter so I made one out of a 12-volt motor, which is used to belt-drive the pulley on the engine crankshaft.

I give our grand kids rides at our cabin and they really enjoy it. (Gerald Kroh, 4649 Bald Eagle Ave., White Bear Lake, Minn. 55110 (ph 651 429-3439)