

Reader Letters



Editor's Note: A shop idea from "Anonymous" in the last issue regarding an electric clutch fix on a 1974 Deere 112 lawn mower was sent in by Dan Bjorkman, Beecher, Wis. His name was inadvertently separated from the idea during the editing process. Thanks, Dan.

I had a 200 sq. ft. area in my yard that was badly infested with weeds and thistles. I didn't want to use chemicals so I mowed them down and covered the area with a 10 by 20-ft. tarp for a couple weeks. Presto! They were totally gone.

Also, with the heat this summer, flies and mosquitoes have been hanging around the back door. So I drove in a fence stake and put a few worn-out shirts on it soaked with diesel fuel. The bugs all disappeared from the area. I touch up the shirts every couple weeks with a spray bottle of diesel. Works 24/7. (Subscriber, Lakeland, Fla.)

If you've got a field disk sitting around where people can bump into it, you can fit a 1/2 plastic barrel over the end of each gang to avoid injuries. (Lewis Dick, Mount Hope, Kan.)

The article in your last issue, "How To Set Up Your Own On-Farm FM Station", was disturbing. Setting up your own FM station without a license is illegal and anyone doing so could be subject to a \$10,000 fine. It's also a violation to broadcast music over the airwaves without paying royalties. The accepted range of a non-licensed station is 61 ft., nowhere near the 15 miles mentioned in the article. (Don Jaster, Broadcast Engineer, k9yli@aol.com)

I read in the last issue about a reader who was disappointed with a product that was supposed to repel rodents from his RV. It reminded me of a time when I was working for a car dealer and one of the mechanics was repairing a car with wiring that had been chewed through by mice. He sent me out to get a couple cans of Aquanet hairspray (no other brand would do) and he sprayed this all over the wiring under the hood. He said it would keep all rodents away. I'm curious if any FARM SHOW reader has ever tried this idea. (Steve Nichols, Stevelola77@gmail.com)

When the nearby town of Zeating, Iowa, embarked on a beautification project, one of the ideas they had really caught on. Literally. They planted Trumpet Vines on light and power poles. Planted at the base of poles, they climbed right to the top with beautiful green foliage and red flowers. Really provides some color to the town. The vines can be purchased at many nurseries across the country. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)



Thank you for the article about me in a recent issue ("The Pickle Lady" - Vol. 36, No. 2). The article mentioned that I was creating a cookbook. Many people from across the U.S. and Canada contacted me about it. So, I wanted to let you and your readers know that the book is out and contains nearly 500 recipes, all of which have been used by myself and my family. Included are all the pickling recipes that I use. Thanks again from this 91-year-old "pickle lady". The cookbook sells for \$26.20 including S&H. (Henri Truh, P.O. Box 153, Carthage, S. Dak. 57323, ph 605 772-5491)

Modified 20 or 30-lb. propane tanks can be mounted on a trailer hitch to store straps, chains, and tools. I wash the



bottle out with a steam cleaner and cut a lid in the side, using a 3/8-in. dia. pipe to make a hinge. The tank bolts to a flat bar that bolts onto the trailer hitch. (Brenden Janssen, P.O. Box 75, Vega, Alta., Canada T0G 2H0, ph 780 674-5920)



I wanted to share a picture of my completed barn that I made out of a low-cost carport (FARM SHOW Vol. 36, No. 2).

I wasn't sure the end product would meet what I had envisioned, but it did. The best part is that my wife and daughter are already getting good use out of it. (Stewart Kunkel, 15728 153rd Ave. S.E., Yelm, Wash. 98597; ph 360 701-1177; kskunkel@fairpoint.net)

I used the running gear off an old 66-passenger bus to make this copy of a 1923 Autocar truck. It's 22 ft. long and weighs 9,060 lbs., with an 8 by 12-



ft. flatbed on back. The track is street legal and powered by a 366 cu. in. big block Chevy engine with an automatic transmission, power steering and power brakes. The rear wheels are off an old Redimix truck but the front wheels are original.

I've driven my Autocar truck in local parades. People really get a kick out of it. (Bill Swets, 4801 E. Harmony Rd., Fort Collins, Colo. 80528)

This year a huge amount of algae formed in my stock water tank, and the water



also got warm. To solve the problem I cut a piece of reflective insulation - the type with aluminum foil on both sides - to fit the tank. The insulation floats on the water and is very flexible. It cleared up the water.

The metal frame that supports bulk chemical tanks works great as a small hay feeder. There's very little waste as



the animals' heads stay inside the feeder, and the frame's rounded corners keep the animals from getting hurt. I think this feeder would work for any animal with a small head and no horns. I paid about \$60 for the tank and frame. The tank can be slipped back into the frame if I ever need it to haul water. (Owen Rogers, P.O. Box 680188, Franklin, Tenn. 37068 ph 615 791-9224)

Our simple rolling nut gatherer picks up pecans fast. The basket is made with wire that's twice as thick as the wire



on other nut gatherers so it stands up better to hard use. Another advantage is that our nut gatherer is repairable and replacement parts are available. It comes with an emptying bracket that can be attached to the side of a bucket to help you get the pecans out of the basket and into a pail. (John Cole, www.nuts-about-pecans.com)



Our hands-free log splitter, designed for skid steer and mini excavators, is available in 3 different models that can split any log from 30 in. to 24 ft. long. All models operate off a hydraulic power head. The H.F. 100 can split a 30-in. long log of any diameter and sells for \$3,995.



The H.F. 200 is designed for logs up to 8 ft. long and any diameter and can also handle tree stumps. The power head can also be used to operate other attachments such as a stump grinder, post hole auger, cement mixer, and pto shaft. It sells for \$6,995.

The H.F. 500 can split logs up to 20 ft. long and is designed for the industrial chipper and grinder industry. It sells for \$19,995.

The stump grinder is reversible and has replaceable cutting teeth. It comes with an outer ring that measures 14 in. and a replaceable pilot bit. You can watch a video of all our products in action at www.usprideproducts.com or call 715 246-9237 for a dealer near you. (Charlie VanDusartz, 1516 110th Ave., Hammond, Wis. 54015, ph 715 246-9237; Charlie@usprideproducts.com)

I operate an organic beef farm with rotational grazing and have about 20 different pens separated by electric fence. I needed a way to mow underneath the



fences so I mounted a 19-in. push mower alongside my Deere Gator. The deck is suspended by 4 lightweight chains to a hinged metal frame. I can raise the mower deck up to 10 in. off the ground by pulling back on a lift handle that was already on the Gator. The design allows the deck to flex up or down on uneven terrain. I can remove the metal frame on the Gator by removing 4 bolts. A plexiglas panel installed on the driver's side of the vehicle keeps the mower from throwing grass clippings on me. (Jerry Whitsitt, 2057S 600W, Huntingburg, Ind. 47542)

I clamped a 5-gal. plastic bucket to a hydrant near my garden. I drilled 2 holes



through the bottom of the bucket to bolt to a piece of strap iron.

The bucket forms a sort of hose reel so I don't have to drag a garden hose around all the time. It's a cheap way to coil a garden hose off the ground and makes a great place to store rubber gloves, hose nozzles, Miracle Gro, and garden tools. (John Hull, 25799 Bethel Ln., Dow, Ill. 62022, ph 618 885-5372; edwhull@gmail.com)

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