

Reader Letters



Here's a tip for killing flies: Put an inch or so of dishwashing soap in a good quality spray bottle and fill with water. Spray flies on windows or around the house. Most will die in a minute after one shot. No smashed flies on the wall or glass. Just wipe off any spray that hits the walls or windows. (**Art Steeves, Palatine, N.Y.**)

The last issue of FARM SHOW showed a picture of what was called the "World's Biggest Spray Boom At 150 Ft.". Just wanted to let you know that wasn't so new. My son has been running two sprayers with 150-ft. booms built by Marflex for several years. Marflex makes unique sprayers that really work well. (**Ray Swenson; swenseed@gvtel.com**)

My husband, John, is an avid FARM SHOW reader but was often frustrated in trying to find a comfortable position to hold the newspaper steady while reading and then finding his place when he comes back to it.

After scanning an issue and realizing that most articles are complete rather than continued on another page, he now removes the centerfold. After reading it in detail, he places it at the front of the paper. This process is repeated until he has read every article and all pages are back in their original order.

He eagerly awaits each new issue and tells others about the articles he has read. (**Trishan Kelso, Prescott, Ontario**)

A large nearby resort seems to replace refrigerator units nearly every season so I use the old ones on my farm to store feed, as nesting boxes for hens, and many other things.

I use stacked tires filled with soil to grow potatoes. And I put two tires filled with straw over my well's hand pump. I was able to pump water all this past winter without any freezing. (**Joan Beard, Tofta, Minn.**)

I recently bought a very large quantity of 2-in. dia. schedule 40, sunlight-resistant, electric grade pvc pipe in up to 19-ft. lengths. I'm offering it for sale at 30 cents/ft., less for large quantities. There are many uses such as water lines, electric lines, greenhouse framing, tool storage, fenceposts and more. Just let me know if you're interested. (**Jerry Bardson, 32024 Sand Lake Rd., Albany, Minn. 56307 ph 320-845-7049**)

I enjoyed the story in your last issue about English farmer Malcolm Metcalfe, who wraps straw bales in plastic to keep the straw in better condition.



Last summer, here in Texas, I used my McHale round baler to wrap 3,000 bales of wheat hay with plastic. I swathed the wheat into windrows immediately ahead of the baler and wrapped the bales 12 times to seal in the moisture.

I feed some of the wrapped straw bales to my cows and sell the rest to local feed yards and dairymen. The straw contains 45 to 50 percent

moisture, which makes it a good quality feed.

I also wrapped some sorghum sudangrass bales in plastic. (**Bob Duensing, 14280 Austin Road, Electra, Texas 76360 ph 940 631-4261**)

I live in the country and got tired of critters boring holes in my yard, so I built a small, 2-wheeled cart with a propane tank on it from an old grill. It works better than using



poison, water or traps. Liquid propane is heavier than natural gas so it goes way down in the hole and stays there. I never light the gas so there's no explosion. I use a piece of brake line as the injector. It's pointed at one end and has small holes drilled into the sides to let the gas out. (**Lee Egleston, 1805 Wiese Garden Road, Marshalltown, Iowa 50158 ph 641 752-1630**)



I went fishing in Wisconsin with my canoe and "old faithful" 3 hp motor. However, when I got to Wisconsin it was cold and damp so my arthritis wouldn't let me pull the starter rope. I solved the problem by attaching a pivoting wood handle to the bottom of the canoe and running back to the motor. Now I can "push start" the motor. (**Larry Zenz, 5779 E. Hwy. 28, Parks, Ark. 72950**)



I use my Brave 22-ton log splitter in the vertical position to make split rail fence. I first split one end of a log and then drive wedges into the crack to finish the split. I could use a chainsaw instead of the splitter to open up the log, but the splitter makes it easier. (**Robert L. Stone, 1504 Dillon Rd., Seymour, Md. 65746 (ph 417 767-4395)**)

I built a 6-ft. long flower box that mounts behind my rural mailbox. I couldn't grow flowers on the ground around the mailbox because the county mows our roadside ditches.

Six 11-in. high flower boxes set on a 1/4-in. thick metal panel that bolts onto a stand behind the mailbox, where a pair of angle iron braces provide support. The



We built this 5-person "train" to pull behind our Deere garden tractor. The rear passenger does the steering. It works somewhat like a ladder fire truck so the train can turn short. The rear end of the train moves out like a ladder fire truck, so the tractor driver doesn't have to swing way out when turning.

All 5 passengers ride on comfortable fiberglass chairs that mount on a long tongue made from steel tubing that supports the chairs. The tongue is built in 3 telescoping sections that pin together, allowing some chairs to be removed according to the passenger load. The back seat and steering assembly is built as one unit. There are 2 chairs to a section, so we can carry as many as 5 passengers or as few as one.

We used the front axle off a Cub Cadet 1641 garden tractor and the wheels off a Polaris Sportsman 500 4-wheeler,



two flower boxes in the middle contain sweet potato vines and the others contain petunias. (**Gilmore Greseth, 3515 270th St., Dawson, Minn. 56232 ph 320 752-4730**)



I use a small electric saw to remove the neck of a bottle gourd and paint the interior black. For each of the diagonal lines, I stretch a rubber band around the gourd and mark with a pencil. Then I wood-burn lines and other designs. The state of Iowa symbols are the wild rose and goldfinch. (**Tom Gogerty, 216 E. 21st. St., Madrid, Iowa 50156**)



The auger chute on my snowblower broke off 3 times due to deep, heavy snow. When turning the snowblower in 5 to 6-ft. deep drifts, chunks of snow would

and made an adapter hub to mount the wheels on the axle. The axle is fastened to a frame made from 3-in. sq. tubing and pivots on a steel pin.

The axle steering system is self-contained and uses oil from a built-in reservoir. Steering is accomplished using the reel adjustment cylinder off an old Deere soybean header, with the gearbox off an old Deere combine pinned onto the steering shaft. A chain-driven torque generator is hooked up to a power distribution valve off another Deere combine. The valve can be hooked up to couplers on the oil reservoir or to the tractor. The steering wheel is also off a Deere combine. By inserting a metal pin we can lock the axle so that it goes straight without turning. (**Frank and Gilman Peterson, 68986 210th Ave., Hayfield, Minn. 55940 ph 507 951-1470; peet7@hotmail.com**)

hit the chute and break it off. That's why I invented my Drift Buster Bars, which are two upright bars on each side of the blower. They totally solved the problem. Anywho who has to deal with heavy snow should have a set. I sell them for \$29.95 per set plus S&H. They're ready to install with holes pre-drilled. Available in orange and black. (**Wayne Harmsen, 180 River Lane, St. Cloud, Wis. 53079 ph 920 999-2100**)



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