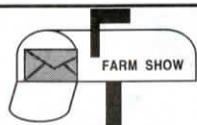


# Reader Letters



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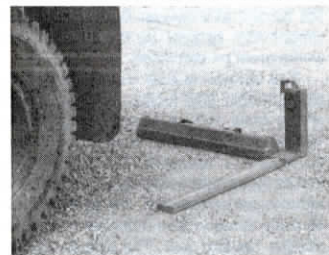
trunk as a lift mast for a log lifting winch. I use a home-built log carrying trailer to transport logs out of the woods and pull the trailer behind the log loader. I also use the log loader as a log skidder by hooking onto groups of logs from the base of the lift mast.

I made the winch, which mounts at the base of the lift mast, using a 3/4-ton pickup rear end differential and a winch drum that holds up to 125 ft. of 3/8-in. steel cable. To make the winch, axles and housing were cut down to leave only 3 to 4 in. to hold the winch in a steel box frame. The brake drums are left on. The winch is welded to the box frame. The spider gears are welded to the ring gear so both drums turn together. A car transmission installed on the driveshaft line leading to the rear end is chain-driven by the truck pto.

When used to load logs onto the trailer, the lift pulley is positioned near the end of the lift mast. When used to skid logs, a chain is wrapped around the bundle of logs and then run to a clevis near the base of the mast and then over to the truck frame.

The lift pole is mounted in a triangular-shaped frame. The base of this frame is welded to channel iron which is welded to frame rails on the tractor. It must be constructed strong enough to handle 1 1/2 tons. The driver sits beside the base of the mast so that if anything does happen, he'll be out of harm's way. (Howard Parkhurst, 11 Veterans Rd., Amherst, N.H. 03031)

Our new Back-Up Guide is highly visible day or night and makes it easy for anyone to accurately back up a truck, wagon, or



trailer. The brightly-colored Guide is made from recycled plastic. It has an infrared sensing device that automatically turns on the lights as a vehicle enters the detection zone of the sensor. Both the side guide and back "stop block" are equipped with highly visible strip lighting. There's a bright yellow bulb on the vertical standard.

I built it because I know a lot of people who have trouble backing their truck up to an auger, especially at night. I've tried using 2 by 4 boards, but I couldn't see them well and they moved around a lot. These brightly colored pieces are highly visible and the strip lighting really shows up at night. The unit can be powered by a self-contained 12-volt rechargeable battery or by an optional 12-volt power source with the flip of a switch. Available in yellow, white, blue, black and neon fluorescent colors, the two guide pieces fold up for easy transport and come with a carrying bag. Sells for \$289. (K Star Industries, Box 223, Punnichy, Sask., Canada S0A 3C0 ph 306 835-2858)

We used junked equipment to make a portable 3-bale feeder. Our only out-of-pocket costs were for welding rods and 2 gal. of paint. We used the wheels, axle and heavy gauge angle iron from an old farm elevator as well as I-beams from a junked house trailer and a 16-ga. paint dip tank from a



local manufacturer. I also used the upper framework and roof off a 16-ft. stock trailer which I had built 30 years before. I cut the 16-ga. steel flooring sheets out of the old paint tank and welded them to the framework of the trailer. I push bales into the 2-wheeled feeder from one end. (William P. Craig, 746 N 1000 E, Akron, Ind. 46910 ph 219 893-7019)

In Vol. 18, No. 5, Eugene Alt, Audubon, Iowa, commented on the pto of International "H" tractors. I assume he was talking about a Farmall "H". If so, and he has one without a pto shield, it must have been taken off at some time. "H" and "M" tractors had shields. Many people took them off saying "they were in the way". I have a 1945 "H" and two "M's" - a 1944 and a 1947. (Halsey Genung, 1019 Croton Rd., Pittstown, N.J. 08867)

I would like to thank you for telling your readers about our Heat Unit Calculator last spring (Vol. 18, No. 3). Our newest product - a Heat Unit Accumulator - is a lower priced alternative and is battery operated so it's more portable.

Since weather often varies considerably from year to year, the progress of a crop cannot always be measured in days. When a grower needs to keep close track of a maturing crop, he can measure its progress in total heat units. More and more research by seed companies, universities, growers, etc., is being done on heat units which will help growers increase productivity.

The Heat Unit Accumulator takes temperatures right out in the field so you don't have to rely on weather service data from a site many miles away. Temperatures are taken every 5.6 min. and degree-day total is upgraded throughout the day. Base and transpiration temperatures are adjustable, so the Heat Unit Accumulator can be used with any crop. Sells for \$225. (Anne-Marie Bauman, Tailwind Systems, 637 W. Whitman Dr., College Place, Wash. 99324 ph 509 529-9794)

After I built this multi-use stock trailer for my own use, I discovered that a manufac-



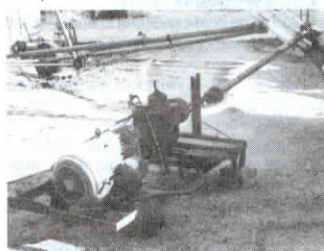
turer in western Oklahoma makes something similar. It's a tandem axle trailer with a recessed flatbed that converts to a live-stock trailer in minutes by slipping on a stock rack. I like the trailer because it allows me to use one trailer for many different jobs. When not in use, the stock rack rests on the back end with a pair of stands toward the front that hold it up in the air. To load, we just back the trailer under it.

(Joe Mode, Rt. 1, Box 1420, Howe, Okla. 74940 ph 918 655-7918)



A salvaged wheelchair fitted with pipe handles and a stretcher-type carrier apron makes an ideal carrier for bringing deer out from hunting stands where they were shot. I spotted the old wheelchair in a dumpster at a hospital where I was doing some wiring work in my job as an electrician. Photo shows me helping my hunting buddy, Danny Fuertwengler, bring a deer out of the woods. (Joe Marley, Laomi, Ill.)

We used a 3-phase electric motor to set up an electric pto for running grain augers. The 30-hp. motor direct-drives the input shaft



on a manual transmission from an old Chevy pickup. Both are solidly mounted on a heavy-duty angle iron frame. We ran the driveshaft from the transmission to a bearing mounted on an upright at one end of the frame. A pto attaches to the shaft and runs to the auger. The transmission lets us adjust auger speed. Frees up a tractor. Not all farms have access to 3-phase power but if you do, look for a used 3-phase motor and pick up a junked transmission. It's a trouble-free way to run augers and other stationary pto-driven equipment. (Tim Puzey, 7145 N. 680E Rd., Sidel, Ill. 61876)

To make a superior trash burner, cut both ends out of a 55 gal. barrel. To make a grate, cut four 1/2-in. dia. steel rods that will extend several inches beyond the sides of the barrel and lay them out so they'll be spaced evenly across the end of the barrel. Then cut four more rods and weld them at right angles to the first four rods. Put the grate on three concrete blocks and the barrel on the grate. It works very good and won't burn out. (David Poole, Rt. 3, Ottawa, Ill. 61350)

I'm sending along photos of two machines I built that have served me well. The first is a belly-mount mower for my IH Farmall. I built it by mounting the blades on the front



hubs and spindles from an old car. It's belt-driven from the back off the pto and pushed ahead by two mounting arms that attach to brackets mounted on the rear axle. It can be lifted off the ground using chains that run from the front of the mower deck up to brackets on the side of the tractor. I've cut grass with this mower for 12 years with no

trouble at all.

I also built a sawmill that's powered by



an electric-start 30 hp. V-4 Wisconsin engine. The carriage is powered by a hydraulic motor. It's mounted on wheels so we can move it where we need it. (Loren O. Larson, 5325 Lakeside Ave., Mpls., Minn. 55429 ph 612 537-8367)

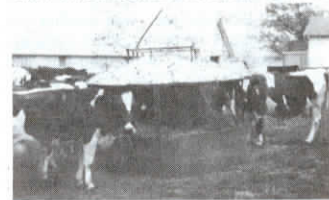
We have had a lot of tiling done through the years and there is sometimes a problem finding where the upper tile end is when you want to tie onto it to extend the tile line. Tile put in with a tile plow is especially hard to find because no clay or other subsoil comes to the top. My suggestion: Why not drop in a chunk of old iron that a metal detector could find years later if needed? (R.B., Pipestone, Minn.)

I enjoy FARM SHOW very much, especially your articles on "best ideas" built by farmers. I have a mechanical background and have spent many hours in my shop improving and constructing various pieces of equipment. Many of the improvements and ideas I've implemented have come from articles in your magazine.

I do, however, take issue with letters in Vol. 18, No. 5 and Vol. 18, No. 6 from professional engineers that seemed to imply that unless you have an engineering degree the idea probably isn't all that good and may be of substandard construction and could cause injury. I have seen many pieces of machinery designed by engineers and manufactured by bonafide companies that lacked safety in design and quality of construction.

I very much hope that such negative letters and comments in letters do not deter you from publishing ideas submitted by workshop inventors. Regardless of how far out an idea may seem, it might be modified or combined with another idea to help develop a machine or product that would benefit farmers. (Paul Wake, Box 106, Millgrove, Ontario L0R 1V0 Canada)

We used a 9-ft. satellite dish to make a cover for our round bale feeder. We put a



loop on top to lift it off with a front-end loader and 3 snap chains to hold it to the feeder. Saves hay. (Neil Lensing, 1115 258 Ave., Ft. Atkinson, Iowa 52144)

Thanks for the article in your last issue on how I converted my Deere cultivator to just one shank per row with a wide sweep. My only complaint is that the article stated that the new sweeps were welded to the shanks. That's not right. The sweeps are bolted on as usual.

I also make a bracket to hold hitch pins on the back of tractors. I call it a Pin Holder and plan to sell them for about \$30. I'll also be making them for other makes and models of tractors if there is demand. It bolts in place and is designed to hold different size pins so they're always handy when you need them. (Rick Mabeus, 22419 60th St., Winfield, Iowa 52659)