

Reader Letters



I had a mole problem in my yard. I had a mole problem in my yard. I mashed down the hills and runs but the moles came back. I tried flooding their runs with water. Sometimes they would come up for air and I could get them. Finally, I found an easier way. I bought a propane brush burner. I just poke the tube into both ends of the run and squeeze the trigger to let the propane flow full blast into the tunnel for a minute or so. I don't ignite it. I just pull out the tube and close up the hole. I don't know if it kills them or not but they don't use those runs any more. After doing this a few times, the moles disappear. It's easy. **(Jerry Brandt; jbrandt000@centurytel.net)**



Backing up a 4-wheel trailer is an art – unless you do it from the front.

I built a front hitch for my Farmall M and then tested it by pushing my hay wagon about 180 ft. across the yard and into a barn with a 10-ft. door. I did it in one pass! Front-mount makes it easy because you can move full right or full left without moving forward much. **(Don Jaster, 55126 Johnson Rd., Bruce, Wis. 54819 ph 715 868-8250)**



On a recent camping trip I realized I hadn't brought anything to scour a greasy pan. I improvised and used a piece of aluminum foil to remove the grease. Now for many kinds of cleaning jobs around my house and shop, I use aluminum foil instead of spending the money for expensive abrasive pads. It works as well or better and you can toss it once it's dirty. **(Cody Schmitt, St. Michael, Minn.)**



Putting a bike wheel (without a tire) on front of a handcart makes it a lot easier to haul loads over a long distance. Pushing it is easier than using a small rubber tire and you never have to worry about flats. **(John Dietzman, Beloit, Wis.)**

In regard to the reader letter in your last issue about killing a skunk caught in a live trap, I'd like to point out that this killing was completely unnecessary. Skunks are beneficial because they eat mice, insects, reptiles, etc. They won't spray you unless they're threatened. The skunk in the trap could have been transported to a different environment. **(Virginia Myren, Pierre, S. Dak.)**

I read with interest the idea in your last issue about how George Hubka uses stair tread strips to improve the traction on the front of slippery hay wagons so workers don't slip when handling bales out of the chute. We solved the same problem by painting strips with old paint and then sprinkling them with gritty sand before it dried. We sweep the wagon clean after each load. We made some of the strips 15 years ago and they're still working. **(George Berard, Johnsonville, N. Y.)**

We've been reading FARM SHOW since 2001 and there have been some good things about it and some bad things.

On the plus side, a story inspired us to trek across Kansas one beautiful sunflower-filled afternoon to see the world's largest ball of twine. We discovered that a 10-ft. ball of twine smells like wet wool. We met some wonderful people at the local Dairy Queen who wondered why we drove all that way from Maryland. After reading another story, we drove through the corn and soybean fields of Indiana to see the world's largest stuffed hog at the Spiece Store in Wabash. We had a great time talking to folks at the Wabash visitor center about the hog and Mr. Spiece. We also bought some delicious sweet corn.



On the negative side, it took two truckloads of dirt and sod to build a backyard "lawn couch" like the one we read about in FARM SHOW. The sod-covered couch was very comfortable but it was difficult to mow, and we found that spiders and mosquitoes really liked it, too. The chair eventually got leveled into a flower bed. **(Jeff Annis, Gaithersburg, Md.)**

I recently mounted two rotary beacons on my tractor and am shocked by how much more respect I get from other drivers on the highway. They're much more careful when passing.

The beacons are wired so that they counter rotate, and having 2 of them stands out much more than one. I've had cars follow me for more than a half mile that had opportunities to pass, but they didn't. **(Ben Morgan, deutz-fahrtractor@hotmail.com)**

Over the years my father and I have modified all kinds of farm equipment. For example, we cut an old 5-ft. boiler tank in half to fit onto the side of our 1951 Montgomery Wards tractor. We originally used this "tray" to haul rocks that we picked up while doing fieldwork, but now we use it to carry a toolbox. Metal straps on the tray are attached to a U-shaped hook that fits over the tractor



frame, making it easy to take the tray off. Our modified pull-type sprayer is equipped with a 110-gal. tank and a



hand wand mounted on a front support. Upright masts support the sprayer's hinged booms in both the up and down positions. We use this sprayer mainly to control exotic weeds in our native prairie plantings. Fire is an important part of how we manage our native grass and flower seed production, so we often use the hand wand to control backfires. **(Carl Kurtz, 1562 Binford Ave., St. Anthony, Iowa 50239 ph 641 477-8364; cpkurtz@netins.net)**

I thought your readers would be interested in the IH Whirlwind Terrace plow I displayed last summer at the LeSeuer Pioneer Power show in Minnesota.



This was originally an IH no. 8, 1-bottom moldboard plow. The 15-in. dia. auger, along with a 3-speed transmission and a pair of pto shafts, was added by Service Equipment of Dallas, Texas. The transmission was the same one found on the Farmall F12 tractor. At the show I pulled the plow around with a Farmall M.

The company replaced the original moldboard with a shortened-up one to make room for the auger, which bolted on back of the plow. The moldboard would bust the soil loose and then the auger would throw the dirt to the side. You plowed the first round in low gear, and progressed to the higher gears each round or so. By the time you were in third gear dirt was flying out up to 30 ft.

My plow was originally equipped with a rubber wheel on back, but the rim was shot so I replaced it with a steel wheel. **(Kyle Lieske, Henderson, Minn. ph 612 203-9256; liesketractor@gmail.com)**



Back when I was a kid my Grandpa welded 2 horseshoes together and attached them to a modified pig scraper to make a unique doorbell for the walk-in door on his garage. I recently made a similar doorbell for my shop.

Pig scrapers were used during butchering to take the hair off hogs. They're bell-shaped with a wooden handle. I cut one horseshoe in half and welded it to another complete horseshoe. Then I attached a nut to a small keychain to serve as the ringer. The keychain goes up through the pig scraper to a swivel on top. It makes a nice sound and is definitely one-of-a-kind. **(Dave Dam, 111 N. Buena Vista Rd., Eau Claire, Wis. 54703 ph 715 450-2943)**



I bought an old cab from a dealer for \$50 and it works great as a deer stand. I filled in all the gaps with salvaged tin and mounted the cab on a wood platform. I lift it into position with a tractor loader and then slip the legs into the four corners, so it's easy to move to new locations. Legs adjust to uneven ground. I shot two bucks from it last year. **(Justin Kelzer, Randall, Minn. justin_kelzer@yahoo.com)**

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