

Reader Letters



The story in your last issue on the 1913 Titan tractor that sold for \$375,000 stated that it was one of only two known models that are still running. It said the other one is in North Dakota. I wanted to let you know that there's a third one that's owned by the American Thresher's Association, Pinkneyville, Ill. It's on display each year at their show. **(Tom Luetkenmeyer, Belleville, Ill.)**



I needed a longer chute for my walk-behind snowblower because wind would often blow snow back in my face. I simply bolted a license plate to the end of the chute and then bolted on two more plates. They're easy to bend by hand and have ready-to-use bolt holes so they easily bolt to each other. **(Steve Cronn, P.O. Box 707, Sundance, Wyo. 82729)**

The story in your last issue about building cheaper beehives was misleading. Mr. Prahovic builds his hives by nailing on top and bottom supports so "the foundations are locked solidly in place, or hard-mounted, and can't move". Honeybees must be kept in hives in such a way that combs can be removed for inspection. Combs that can't be inspected for disease are prohibited by regulations in many states. Good management practices suggest periodic removal and replacement of brood comb. Mr. Prahovic would have to replace the entire hive, thereby negating his \$10 "savings". **(Carol Cottrill, Western Maine Beekeepers Association, wmba@roadrunner.com)**

I made a little truck out of a wrecked 1990 Chevy Sprint that's now a fun run-around vehicle on the farm. It has a 3-cyl. engine



with a turbo, 4-speed transmission, and front-wheel transmission. I had to build a frame and cab out of 1-in. heavy wall tubing and 3-in. angle iron, covered by plywood. The windshield is plexiglass. I lifted the steering wheel and installed tractor seats. The doors are two piece and can be removed in the summer. It has a hitch for pulling a small wagon and

a 4 by 4-ft. box with a liftup lid. **(Gail Trimble, P.O. Box 2080, Stn. Main, Vegreville, Alta. T9C 1T3 Canada)**

Back in 1964 my dad bought a used 1962 Timber Jack 4-VWD log skidder for \$3,000. We used the skidder for 20 years to pull logs out of the woods. After making some modifications we now use it like a tractor to do fieldwork.

The skidder came with a hydraulic-operated winch on back that mounts on



a big steel plate. I welded a 2-pt. hitch on the plate so the skidder can pull disks, harrows and a plow. The winch is used to raise and lower implements.

The tractor is powered by a 70 hp, 3-cyl. diesel engine and 9-speed transmission with high/low speed gears. It rides on big 6-ft. wheels and has a blade on front. The blade, joystick steering and winch are all hydraulic-powered. To haul big round bales I welded a 4-ft. long steel spike onto a 1/2-in. thick steel plate that hooks over the blade.

The engine was worn out so we removed it and had it rebuilt with help from my brother-in-law, Charles Sherry. The skidder's drum brakes were also replaced with disk brakes. **(Eugene Hauzie, 316 County Park Road, Ebensburg, Penn. 15931; ph 814 948-5033)**

Friends and neighbors get a kick out of the old 2-holer outhouse that I moved into my back yard several years ago. The



outhouse is at least 100 years old and makes quite a conversation piece. It's made from cypress wood painted red and has a green tar paper roof. The building is covered by ivy vines and surrounded by some old steel wheels, with a couple of steps leading up to it. It sets in a nice shady location. It's like having a work of art in our yard. **(John Eilers, 2029 E. 350 N., Pana, Ill. 62557; ph 217 562-4021)**

You can winterize a rain gauge to measure cold-weather rain events. Just put an inch of anti-freeze in the bottom of the gauge. It will mix with rain water to keep the water from freezing. Moisture measurement begins at the 1-in. line. **(Lawrence Knaphus, 735 Timberland Dr., No. 306, Story City, Iowa 50248)**

A common tote bag can be used to grow great tomatoes. A chunk of woven wire around the bag provides support



and protection. The bag can be easily moved around early in the season, or even all season long by placing it on a small wagon. Works great for gardeners with limited space. **(Dan Gogerty, 2107 Ashmore Dr., Ames, Iowa 50014, ph 515 231-9767; dangogerty@hotmail.com)**

My self-propelled "Fairbanks Flash" ice cream maker is equipped with a 2-gal. freezer that's powered by a Fairbanks 18 hp engine, which belt-drives a right angle



gearbox off an old manure spreader. It rides on a chassis with the transmission, seat and steering gear off a Dodge pickup. Power goes into the side shaft, the rear output shaft connects to the transmission, and the front shaft drives the freezer. The rig can travel at a blistering 6 mph on level ground and 7 mph downhill. It has hydraulic brakes on the rear axle and a lockable cable hand brake.

At engine shows, I invite others to drive the rig while I "ride shotgun" to make sure everyone stays safe. The engine runs on propane and is mounted on a small truck bed behind the seat. **(Harold R. Keller, 9322 State Route 13 S.E., Rt. 1, Glouster, Ohio 45732)**

I made this mini baler using plans purchased from Ron Schulz of Enid, Okla. (featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 32,



No. 6; ph 580 234-8485; www.balerman1.com). I've operated the baler at antique power shows and also at our state fair. I've had a lot of compliments on it. A 3 hp Briggs & Stratton engine operates the baler. My friend Dave Munger helped me build it. It's painted International Harvester red. **(Eugene McMillan, 37 Pennington Ave. S.W., Huron, S. Dak. 57350; ph 605 352-3628)**

In your last issue, Ben Cowling of Roca, Neb., sent in a photo of an old Farmal

with an unusual set of rear tires. The tires were about 8 ft. tall and had tractor tread attached to the outer rim of big steel wheels. He wondered what the tractor had been used for. I think I know the answer.

I was born and raised in the Nebraska Sandhills and these tractors were used in that area for drilling rye seed into corn crops prior to harvest. The rye kept the sand from blowing after the corn had been harvested.

The tractor's rear wheels were spaced about 12 ft. apart to straddle three 36-in. rows, and the extra width kept the high-wheeled tractor from tipping over on sidehills. **(Gordie Scarborough, 833 East Bismark Rd., Grand Island, Neb. 68801)**

Thanks for the story in your last issue on the water collection box I designed for shallow streams to pipe spring water to a tank. The main benefit is that it keeps cattle off the creek bottoms. Unfortunately, the phone number was wrong. **(Steve Carey, 2235 Hwy. 69, Boulder, Mont. 59632; ph 406 498-2922; scranch@gmx.us)**



"Here's a photo of a set of forks I built for my Deere loader bucket. I cut holes in a heavy piece of angle iron and weld in two shafts from old hydraulic cylinders, and then weld bolts to the shaft ends. The bolts fit through holes that I cut into the bucket. It's a simple idea but it works great." **(Francis Nemetz, Menominee, Mich.)**



I built this sit-down garden cart for my wife, who uses it to scoot along pulling weeds from our garden. The cart rides on 4 large wheels off a kid's 4-wheeler and has an old metal tractor seat in the middle that faces sideways.

The seat mounts on top of a 3-stage screw jack, allowing her to adjust the seat up to 18 in. high. I welded an eye bolt onto the jack so my wife can turn it with her finger. She uses a pair of long handles on back to move the cart around. **(Ken Grazier, Havre, Mont.)**

Every year after Thanksgiving I throw pumpkins on a pile of grass clippings back in our woods. Last summer my wife found a small green pumpkin hanging from a tree branch.



The vine had climbed up into some brush and from there into a tree. The pumpkin continued to grow, hanging from the vine and without any support at all. **(Jim Haley, Kenockee, Mich.)**