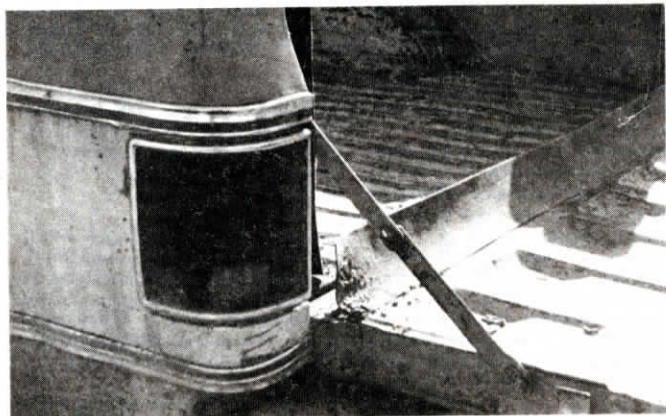


"Best Ideas"

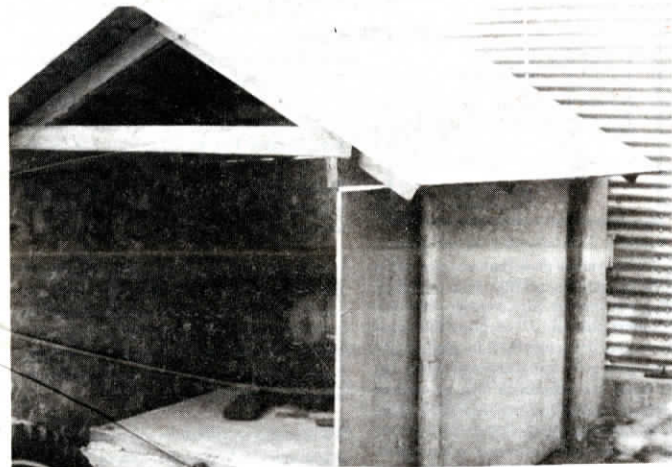


"Leak-Proof" Pickup Box

"I got tired of time wasted stuffing the cracks around the tailgate on my pickup whenever I wanted to haul grain or bulk feed. I figured there had to be a better way," says David Otting, Clearbrook, Minn., who came up with a way to "leak-proof" his pickup.

"I used 4-in. wide used baler belting because it's fairly rigid yet remains flexible regardless of how cold or hot the weather gets. I cut one strip the width of the tailgate

and used pop rivets to attach it to the bottom inside of the tailgate, covering the gap between the tailgate and the box. I then cut off two lengths of belting the height of the box and pop riveted them to the inside ends of the box, leaving enough extended to overlap the ends of the tailgate. The belting tightly seals the box and doesn't restrict other uses of the pickup. When you open the tailgate the belting lifts out of the way automatically for cleaning."



Grain Bin Fan "House"

"Noise pollution is just another cause of stress in already stressful job of farming. My fan shelters cut down on the noise and keep rain and snow off the fans and controls," says Stan Shavlik, Linwood, Neb.

He used four 4 by 8-ft. sheets of chipboard along with scrap posts and 2 by 4's to

build the open-ended shelters. Chipboard is attached to the insides of posts with four wood screws so side panels can be quickly removed to work on fan. An outside coating of aluminized paint "waterproofed" the building. Total cost per shelter was \$50.

Winter Heat Booster For IH Tractors

Dennis Dodd, Reinbeck, Ill., came up with a neat cover for the front grill on his IH 986 tractor to boost heater capacity in winter.

Dodd simply put screw-in snaps around the perimeter of the plastic grill. He cut a piece of canvas to fit the grill and then fitted it with snaps to match the grill. "If we don't put a cover over the grill we get very little heat on cold days. This idea works great and would work on most other tractors with the same problem," says Dodd, noting that he fitted the canvas cover with two "inside out" snaps at the bottom so he can fold the canvas down halfway during moderately cool weather.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Dodd, Rt. 1, Reinbeck, Iowa 50669 (ph 319 989-2591).

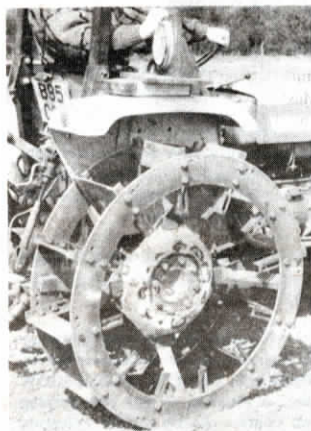
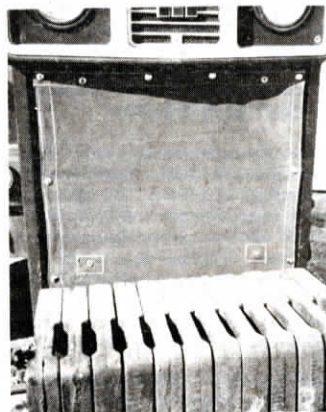


Photo courtesy Power Farming

New-Style Tractor Wheel Provides Traction, Tillage

A new "till on the go" tractor wheel boosts traction and churns up soil under the wheels.

Agricultural engineering student Robert Barrie at Writtle College in Essex, England, came up with the idea as a student project. Extendable lugs on the steel wheel can be set to protrude from the wheel 1 to 5 in. to dig into the soil on the go. By digging up the tire tracks it eliminates smooth ruts in the field that make the field uneven and increase erosion. According to a report in Power Farming magazine, the wheel causes about the same amount of compaction as a conventional wheel but significantly boosts traction, in addition to the tillage it performs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Barrie, Agricultural Engineering, Writtle Agricultural College, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR England.

Soap Keeps Deer Away From Trees

If you've had trouble keeping deer from nibbling cherry, apple or other fruit trees, you may want to try "chasing them off" by stringing bars of Lifeboy soap on a rope in the branches.

An Oregon orchardist who strung 30 bars of the aromatic soap around his 10 acre orchard reportedly hasn't seen a deer since. Deer had damaged or destroyed 200 of his trees over the past 7 years. They nibbled on evergreens and bucks broke branches off fruit trees when rubbing velvet off antlers.



Tire Beads Boost Tractor Traction

Pickup Calf Lifter

"It lets one person weigh a calf by himself," says Larry Johnson, Revillo, S. Dak., about the lift frame he uses to weigh calves.

The calf lifter fits in the rear stake pocket of Johnson's pickup. An 8-ft. long lift arm hinges at the top of the main lifter post. A conventional store-bought scale hangs from a hook (see arrow above) about 4 ft. out along the lift arm. The operator simply attaches the calf to the scale and then raises the lift arm to get a reading.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Johnson, Rt. 1, Box 347, Revillo, S. Dak. 57259.

"I've used this idea for 30 yrs. It lets me pull better through mud and snow than if I equipped the tractor with dual wheels," says Anthony Reisner, Rogers City, Mich., who cuts the beads out of tractor tires and mounts the rubber-covered circles across the tread on tractor tires.

"I mount three or four beads on each rear wheel, anchoring them into place with 1/4-in. chains running through the spokes on the wheels. Works great," says Reisner.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Anthony Reisner, S.S. 23 South, Rt. 1, Rogers City, Mich., 49779.