

Reader Letters

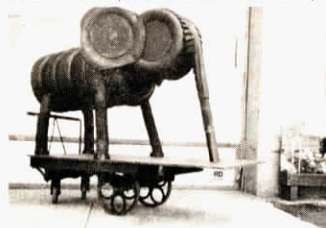


To get "more bloom for the room" we put mirrors behind the flowerboxes located out in front of our shop. The mirrors make it look like there are twice as many flowers in each box. I wonder if this idea could double the



yield of our tomatoes?

Another idea we came up with recently is an elephant made out of used tires. It stands outside our shop where we manufacture equipment for cutting old tires into strips to weave into door mats and other useful products. The elephant has been a real eye



catcher and we've received orders for four more from tire dealers who've had a look at it. The elephant has an aluminum frame. The tires that make up the body are bolted together. The ears are half tires fitted with round circles of plywood. The trunk is fashioned from black stove pipe and the legs from dryer vent hose.

Ken & Gladys Winans
Binghamton, N.Y. 13902

I'm writing in response to the article, "Urethane Foam: Latest New Insulator For Farm Buildings" which appeared in the FARM SHOW's Vol. 12, No 3 issue. While the article points out the superb insulating qualities of urethane foam sprayed on exterior foundations, walls and roofs of farm buildings and bins, it fails to address the burning characteristics and potential fire hazard posed. Spray-applied urethane foam insulation is easily ignited by fire, produces quantities of toxic gasses and smoke when burning, and contributes to the rapid spread of fire. Most insurance companies will not insure buildings insulated with exposed or unprotected urethane foam on the interior. I'm also concerned with the fire hazard potential created by sprayed foam on the exterior of buildings. Building owners would be well advised to check with their insurance company prior to applying urethane foam to exteriors. Of particular concern on any farm is spacing between buildings and potential for fire spread from one building to another. A urethane insulated roof would offer no resistance to fire spread. The protective coatings used over exterior urethane applications are designed to seal the foam from the elements, not fire.

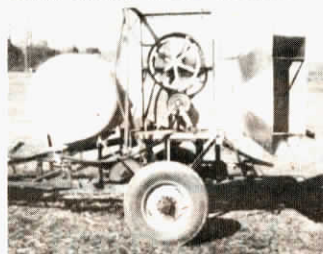
James J. Faber
Reinsurance Association of Minnesota
P.O. Box 308
Eska, Minn. 55733

Regarding the do-it-yourself hand brake for an older tractor featured in the last issue of FARM SHOW, I solved the problem years ago on an LA Case by locating the throttle lever behind the brake handle so I had to release the hand brake in order to give the tractor more throttle. I'll never accidentally

leave the hand brake on and burn out the brakes.

Lloyd Twite
Rt. 5
Minot, N. Dak. 58701

I made my own air conditioner after reading the article in your Vol. 12, No. 2 issue entitled "Do-It-Yourself Air Conditioning", which described how a farmer put an old car radiator in the ductwork from their forced air furnace and then "trickled" cold well water



through the radiator. Our well water goes into the radiator at 50° and is returned to a nearby floor drain. Air temperature coming out of floor registers is about 64°. Room temperatures ranged from 76° to as high as 82° when outside temperatures reached 100°. This inexpensive system, which costs little to run, gives relief from high temperatures all over the house without the expense and extreme cold of conventional air conditioning units.

Bert Knott
St. Pauls, Ontario
Canada

I built a whole hog roaster from a 265-gal. oil barrel. I made a cover out of the top one-third



of the barrel and mounted the roaster on a 2-wheel trailer with removable wheels. The hog is spitted on a rotisserie shaft that's driven by an old Gehl wagon-unloading jack. I use charcoal as a fuel source and do a large hog in 10 to 12 hrs. There's a drip pan beneath the animal which allows the grease to run off.

Duane Mortenson
Rt. 1, Box 121
Welch, Minn. 55089

We patch disc blades that rip, or have pieces broken out of them, right in the field with patches we make from other discarded blades. We just cut a patch from an old blade and weld it onto the back side of the broken blade with low hydrogen rod. It saves lots of time and hard work disassembling disc gangs.

Merton Russell
Endeavor, Wis.

I needed a new lawn mower but because commercial models never seem to last, I decided to build my own. The tractor is a Deere 6566 riding mower which I fitted with an 11 hp. Briggs & Stratton engine, 14-in. tires, a comfortable seat and a shade canopy. I used the frame of a boat trailer to make the 5-ft. wide trailing mower. The mower housing is made out of 18-ga. sheet

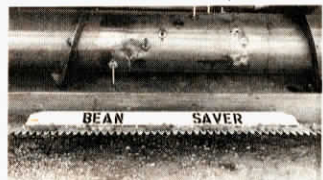
metal and cutting height can be easily adjusted with a turnbuckle. A 7 hp. Tecumseh engine belt-drives the mower blade. The most expensive part on the mower was the mower shaft, which cost \$50. Everything else was salvaged or is commonly available



off the shelf. The tractor-mower maneuvers easily around trees and buildings, nearly turning in its own tracks. It'll easily mow 2 acres an hour. The mower and tractor cost just \$522 to build. I couldn't buy anything similar on the market for less than \$3,000.

David M. Boyce
Gibson, La.

Here's a photo of our new model Bean Saver which was previously featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 11, No. 4). The Bean Saver mounts at the center of the platform and



prevents shattered soybeans from rolling off onto the ground. The new model fits both old and new-style platforms and the outer edges of the unit are closed in to keep beans from rolling out of it. We've sold many of these units. Retail price is \$49.95.

Rich Mussman
R & M Supplies
405 4th Ave. S.W.
Clarion, Iowa 50525

My disc brake retractor was featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 11, No. 5 issue. The spring-loaded retractor forces disc brake pads to retract from the rotor and is especially useful on equipment that's not driven regularly. I wanted to let your readers know that I have reached agreement with Cosmos Enterprises, Inc. (Hwy. 79 E., Elbow Lake, Minn. 56531) to manufacture and distribute the retractor.

Leon Boeck
Rt. 1, Box 138
Easton, Minn. 56025

We'd like to tell your readers about an invention we've come up with here in Australia. We're located in marginal wheat-growing country. Although we get 24 1/2 in. of rain a year, most of it falls in heavy summer storms that might drop 2 in. in 15 min. Temperatures often reach 108° or more for days on end so we have to try to store moisture from the summer storms. I've made a large paddle machine to help trap water in the



field. It mounts directly on the back of a tillage implement the way mounted harrows do. As the paddles turn, they dig holes at regular intervals which hold water. The machine also helps to combat erosion, especially in years when there is little stubble or fallow ground is bare for some reason. The machine is very simple with no driven parts. It just rolls along, taking almost no

extra power. I have used it on approximately 10,000 acres with no major problems. Other water trapping machines on the market are cumbersome and heavy. It took a lot of work to make this machine both lightweight and functional. The angle and placement of the paddles is critical. If the holes are too big, they'll be rough on tractors and implements that come through later.

B.J. & K.M. Gibson
Wellcamp
Dulacca 4425
Queensland, Australia
(ph 074 276 105)

In FARM SHOW's Vol. 11, No. 6 issue in 1987, there was a story about a farmer who makes his living growing weed seed. I have around 2,000 lbs. of Shepherdspurse seed that was cleaned out of our oats crop. I'd like to find a market for the seed and would like to hear from any of your readers who could help. I've already contacted researchers at several chemical companies and universities with no luck.

Charles Negangard
Rt. 1, Box 67
Siddon, Ill. 61877
(ph 217 684-2004)

In regard to your article in the last issue on Bondioli & Pavesi Constant Velocity (CV) pto shafts, I thought your readers might like to know that they're available in the U.S. through several dealers, including ourselves. We've been selling CV pto shafts for 4 years for beet harvesting equipment, sprayers, mowers, and other high horsepower pto-driven equipment.

Paul Cox
Grand Forks Welding & Machine
1812 Gateway Drive
Grand Forks, N. Dak. 58201
(ph 701 772-4866)

A recent issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 12, No. 1) featured an interesting story and picture of a Chinese farmer bicycling off to market with a sizeable live hog strapped on a platform behind the seat.

How do you suppose he got this huge hog to lie still while it was loaded, tied and transported?

I learned how several years ago when visiting with a Pappa-San in Korea where I was stationed. He said farmers simply cook up a watery batch of rice and leave it in the sun until it's well fermented. Then, they feed it to the "porker" about to be transported to market on the back of a bicycle. After a while, the hog would be stoned and loading him onto the bike was easy. I saw one that was sobering up and you never saw such kicking and squealing."

Bob Jessup
3510 Midiron Dr.
WinterPark, Fl. 32789

Regarding the home-made seed box featured on the front page of your Vol. 12, No. 2, 1988 issue. It appears to me that inventor John Vermeer overlooked important safety considerations. Not only is a chain around the box not sufficient, but the location of the chain is such that the box can slide out from under the chain. It isn't a bad idea, but before Mr. Vermeer intends to market it, he'd better make sure his device doesn't hurt someone.

In general, I think FARM SHOW (and we like it here very much) could do even more of a service if it would emphasize safety aspects of any new idea, or question the developer about them. This may be difficult but I feel that any time one can save a pair of fingers (or a life) it's worthwhile putting in the effort.

Dr. Louis Leviticus
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