

# Reader Letters

Thanks for your article in the last issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 9, No. 2) on our system for powering hydraulic cylinders on a pickup dump truck off the regular pickup power steering pump. Our system eliminated the need for expensive add-on hydraulic equipment and simply lets you use the existing pump. Unfortunately, while the article mentioned that we have detailed plans available for do-it-yourselfers, it didn't give a price. A complete set of detailed plans to build your own pickup dump truck sells for \$15.

Joanne Dufilho  
The Mother Earth News  
P.O. Box 70  
Hendersonville, N.C. 28791

We use a 2-wheel, 10-hp. walk-behind snowblower to keep our driveway open all winter. I've been trying to find a larger one with at least a 16 to 20 hp. engine. Perhaps FARM SHOW readers could help me locate one. This snowblower is much easier to handle and more maneuverable than a 4-WD tractor. You guide and steer it with handle bars and the controls are right on a panel in front of you. Makes snow removal easy and quick.

Ross M. Cardiff  
Rural Route #4  
Brussels, Ontario  
Canada NOG 1H0

Thank you for your help in locating the supplier of "Ho-Bit" replacement tips for rotary hoes. I have completely rebuilt one hoe and will do another one next winter. I enjoy FARM SHOW and all the interesting things that are written up in it which are different from other farm magazines.

Don Staples  
Burlington Junction, Mo.

I am looking for a "Short Turn" tractor. It was invented in 1917-1918 by my mother's uncle. He got a big offer from a big tractor company but turned it down. He and his wife started to build it themselves but only six were built. Then they went broke.

LeRoy Forsman  
Route 2, Box 92  
Sunburg, Minn. 56289

Thank you for your article on our fenders for tractors with front-wheel drive (Vol. 8, No. 5). We thought your readers might be interested in the fact that we now build fenders for Deere tractors as well as Case, International, Allis Chalmers, and Deutz. The fenders do a great job of keeping mud off the tractor cab and windows and just by pulling one pin, you can tip them down for easy access to service the engine. They slide in or out to adjust to wheel spacing. Each 18-in. wide fender has a built-in step to make it easier to refuel, check the radiator or clean the cab windows.

Harold Fratzke  
K & M Manufacturing Co.  
Renville, Minn. 56229  
Ph. 800 328-1752 (toll-free)  
Ph. 800 992-1702 (In Minn.)

I don't have a "worst buy" but am writing about a "worst sale" — the sale of IH's farm equipment division to Tenneco. When I first heard of the merger, I thought we had a company with the financial strength to build the equipment we need. But as a third generation IH farmer, I was disappointed to learn that the over 100 hp. IH tractors are being discontinued. When I buy my next tractor, I may not be able to get an IH but I will not buy a Case.

If the management of this new company doesn't think enough of the old IH customers to build the tractors that gave IH its 153-year heritage, then why should I buy anything from that company? Just because you are the 19th largest corporation in the U.S., can you be a success at a business without building what the customers want? In June, 1968, IH was the 26th leading manufacturer in terms of sales. So you can see what a few bad management decisions can do to a company.

I urge FARM SHOW's readers to write the company to defend the tractors we have depended on for so long. Their address is: Jerome K. Green, President, JI Case, 700 State Street, Racine, Wis. 53404.

Sam Clemons  
Parkville, Ind.

A neighbor introduced me to FARM SHOW Magazine. Fell in love with it and subscribed for myself. It's refreshing to get good, honest comments from other farmers about their purchases. You saved me already from a buying mistake. Keep up the good work.

Carole Stovner  
Washougal, Wash.

Do any of your readers know of a club for antique Oliver tractors and machinery? I would be interested in hearing from anyone who would have any information about such a club if one exists.

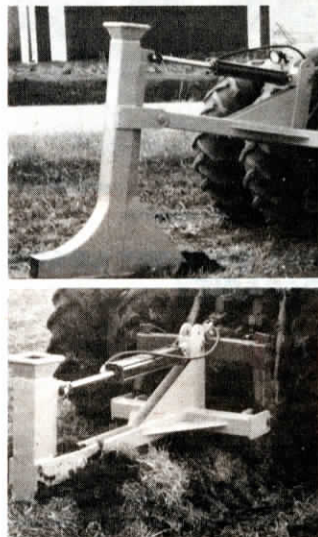
James Muhs  
Rt. 2  
Claremont, Ill. 62421

Why don't manufacturers make row width adjustable on their mechanical front wheel drive tractors? Most farms in this area grow multiple crops that require differing row widths. All they'd have to do is cut the final drive shafts on either side of the front end and install sliding splined sleeves. Then we could slide the axles in and out like on our other adjustable tractors. I've contacted manufacturers about this idea but they're not interested. We like the MFWD option but it's only got limited use in this area.

I've got a question I wonder if FARM SHOW readers can answer. Why are nearly all of the old Ford 2-row corn pickers and old Oliver "77" tractors found only in the Treasure Valley area of Idaho?

Robert D. Miller  
Star Rt., Box 8  
Melba, Idaho 83641

I read with interest the story in the last issue of FARM SHOW about the "first" tractor-pulled drainage tile plow equipped with laser levelling controls. I've been making a tractor tile plow for two years that can be equipped with lasers. It's got either a 4 or 6-in. boot and works to depths of 4 ft. deep but can be hauled easily in the back of a pickup. Two of my customers have put in over



50,000 ft. of tile and are well-pleased. I also build a smaller drainage plow with a 4-in. boot for laying tile in short runs of 500 to 600 ft. at 3 to 3 1/2 ft. depths. It sells for just \$2,200 (see picture) and can be pulled with a large two-wheel drive tractor which lets farmers use it at their own convenience. You can get into fields and tile out wet spots without doing damage to growing crops.

Don Wurdinger  
Farm Drainage Plows  
909 4th St. N.W.  
Waverly, Iowa 50677  
(ph 319 352-3911).

It gives me no pleasure to call attention to the reasons for problems with individual combines of one model or another. However, it made me sad to read the letter about a Gleaner L-2 combine in a recent issue of FARM SHOW because I happen to know that the problem could have been corrected very easily. For those who missed it, here's what the letter said:

"On anything but flat ground, the sieves overload so bad on one side or the other, it's impossible to keep grain in the machine (an L-2 Gleaner) at any speed. Finally, the dealer sent out a mechanic. After working on it for one hour, he had us traveling 1/2 mph and throwing over so much milo you could pick it up with a shovel. The dealer and some of the company reps we talked to were no help at all. We finally sold the machine for a \$6,000 loss, plus the loss of the two machines we traded in on it."

In this case, the problem was very definitely the ratio of the shoe shake. I am going to assume that the speed of the combine motor was somewhere near right, but even if the motor speed was exactly right and the ratio of the shoe shake was wrong, no available adjustment by the farmer, the dealer, or the company rep could ever correct the problem. The ratio of the shoe shake is

the amount of fore and aft travel versus up and down. Remember, the fore and aft motion must always be longer than the distance between the louvers on a sieve or the distance between the ripples on a shaker pan before it can walk the material towards the back. I will try to explain it this way; look at a clock with the center as a pivot point for the arm that moves the sieve back and forth. You will notice that moving from six o'clock to five o'clock, the back and forth motion is almost the length of the stroke with very little raise. If you lengthen the push-pull arm until you start at five o'clock and go to four o'clock, you will have more up and down and not so much back and forth motion, though the distance between six and five and five and four is identical. Now let's exaggerate and move from four o'clock to three o'clock. Though it is still the same length stroke, we have lost all the fore and aft motion and have mostly up and down motion. Now common sense tells you that if you had a shoe shake running from four to three o'clock, it would only be bouncing the material straight up and down, not walking it out, even though we increased the rpms. The ratio of fore and aft varies by different kinds of combines. It so happens that Allis-Chalmers is probably the worst company for having variations in the shoe shake on the same model. They are not all bad, but when there is a bad one, we have the results experienced by Mr. Novak. Ideally, for all Allis-Chalmers it should be a 5/16-in. lift on the front of the chiffer from the lowest position to the highest position, though most Allis-Chalmers combines will work if they have 1/4-in. Any time you have one running with a 3/16-in. lift or less the result is very predictable because the fore and aft motion walks the material so fast it does not have a chance to get through the sieve. I once had an Allis-Chalmers that had 1/8-in. lift. It was losing six bushels per acre cutting 35 bushel grain, traveling approximately 1/2 mph. We changed the ratio of the shoe shake until we had 5/16-in. lift. The same machine then lost just 12 pounds per acre driving in last year.

To correct the problem on the L-2 it is necessary to cut the shoe shake arm and add shims to make it longer. It is too late to help Mr. Novak, but I hope this will be of help to some of your other readers who face the same problem.

Ray Stueckle  
P.O. Box 1323  
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Many FARM SHOW readers have asked us for help in locating Llama breeding stock. We've tracked down two sources that can help get you on the right track. They are:**

**FARM SHOW Followup, International Llama Assoc., P.O. Box 3840, Bozeman, Mont. 59715 (ph 406 686-4723).**

**FARM SHOW Followup, The 3L-Llama Magazine, P.O. Box 325, Herald, Cal. 95638 (ph 209 748-2620). A free brochure describing the magazine is available on request.**