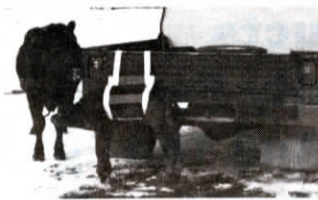
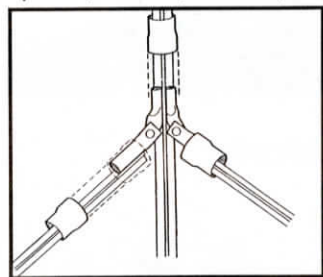


# Reader Letters



We'd like to let your readers know that we're still making our calf sling that hangs from the back of a pickup. It was featured in FARM SHOW in 1986 but we think it's still the best idea on the market to get cows to come home with their calves. The calf sling is made from nylon straps and short pieces of wood that support the calf's chest and flank area. It hangs off a pickup tailgate, making it easy for the mother to see and smell him so she'll follow. We came up with the idea originally because when we put a calf in the back of a pickup, the mother often got confused and wouldn't follow. Sells for \$26.50 postpaid. (Don & Virginia Grazier, 401 Hwy. 12 East, Garrison, Mont. 59731 ph 406 846-3029)

Thank you for your article in FARM SHOW about the way I hang fluorescent lamps on electric fence lines to control deer (Vol. 17, No. 2). The article explained the idea well but there was an error I'd like to clear up. The problem is that the description of how to hook lamps up to fence wires may result in shorting out the fence. I have put together some plans which explain the hookup in detail which I'm selling for \$5.00 to cover the cost of mailing and my time. I've had lamps on my fence for the past year operating from 0° F up to 100° F in rain, snow and sleet with no problems. My system flashes the lamps electrostatically so you can use discarded fluorescent lamps that no longer work in fixtures but will flash on a fence. You can easily get used bulbs from businesses or schools in town. The flashing bulbs warn deer so they don't run through the fence and knock it over. (Harold L. Smith, 3404 Tipton Rd., Muscatine, Iowa 52761)



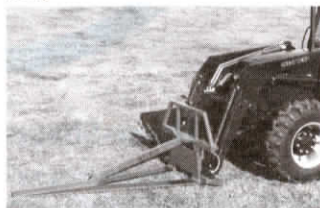
You can brace T-posts using T-posts with our new compression-type bracing hardware. It consists of just two heavy-gauge aluminum parts - a hinged brace and a collar. They install easily with a hammer. Lets you erect a corner brace in only about 10 min. In-line or end braces take even less time. The reusable parts can also be used with 1 1/4 by 1 1/4-in. fiberglass T-posts and 1-in. round fiberglass posts.

A corner brace kit sells for \$16. An in-line or end brace kit sells for \$9. (Caroline Knapp, Splice-It Co./New Farm Products, P.O. Box 289, Mineral Point, Wis. 53565 ph 800 752-3045)

We reduced earth scooping by adding a third hydraulic cylinder and spring to the header on our Massey Ferguson 750 combine. I found that the automatic control was often just not quick enough to avoid scooping. With the third cylinder, response is now



much quicker. The cylinder and spring installed between the original cylinders in the same way, plumbed into the same hydraulic circuit. (Mike Hall, Dundas, Ill. ph 618 752-5861)



We've made this tree-clearing blade for years. It mounts on a front-end loader and you can also mount it on skid steer loaders or dozer blades. The V-shaped blade is designed to cut trees off at or below ground level. It's equipped with welded-on, hard-surfaced cutting teeth that can be rebuilt or replaced with new weld-on teeth.

To cut a tree, you place the tip of the blade against the trunk and drive forward, letting the angle of the "V" cut into the wood. You can cut through a 24-in. dia. tree in 4 to 5 minutes. Even a small tractor will cut a 6-in. dia. tree in three or four passes. It costs less than a hydraulic-powered tree clipper and requires much less maintenance because there are no moving parts.

The blade is available in five sizes that range from 7 ft. 8 in. to 11 ft. 8 in. long and fit tractors ranging from 20 to 155 hp. An 8-ft. 10-in. long model designed for a 40 - 65 hp tractor sells for about \$1,200. (Joe Dove, Hav-Roc, Inc., Rt. 2, Box 43, Green Ridge, Mo. 65332 ph 816 527-3780)



I came up with this new Super-Flow suction water filter to solve the problem of plugged nozzles and filters on spraying systems that use water pulled out of ponds, reservoirs, or other sources. It fits on the end of a 2-in. suction line and filters water before debris can get into the hoses, pumps, storage tanks, nozzles, etc. Made out of polyethylene, it has a replaceable filter element. It greatly reduces down time and potential health risks encountered when cleaning out nozzles and filters on the sprayer so the operator doesn't get contaminated by chemicals when cleaning them out. You just replace the filter element when it gets plugged. We recommend positioning the filter so it's below the surface of the water so it doesn't plug up with floating debris. (Garry Bacsu, Medallion-West Ind. Ltd., P.O. Box 2392, Tisdale, Sask. S0E 1T0 Canada ph 306 873-2268)

Our new Ramp-Gate is an air-flow tailgate for pickups that has built-in cleated loading ramps. They store in the tailgate and latch in place to eliminate rattling. To use, ramps lock over the top tailgate bar for safe loading



of equipment up to 1,000 lbs. Extensions are available for 3/4 ton trucks or 4-WD's with tailgates more than 30 in. off the ground. The tailgates fit full and compact Chevy, Ford, GMC, and Dodge pickups and are painted black or silver. (Roger Brannan, K&R Distributing, Inc., 1404 W. Church St., Marshalltown, Iowa 50158 (ph 800 383-3908; fax 515 752-4324)



We're earning an extra \$70 per ewe per year by milking our sheep and we'd like to tell other sheep producers who read FARM SHOW about it. We wean lambs at 30 days and then milk the ewes an additional 90 to 110 days, selling the milk to a cheese plant. Compared to cow milk, sheep milk has about twice as much fat, 40 percent more protein, and 30 percent more total solids. It produces about twice as much cheese per cwt of milk, sells for several times the price of cow milk, and can be frozen for shipment to a cheese plant without losing any of its cheese-making qualities.

Sheep-milking parlors are now available in the U.S. Sheep readily adapt to being milked if grain is fed at milking time. Selective breeding and proper feeding can result in consistently high milk yields.

A large potential market exists for U.S.-produced sheep milk products but the dairy sheep industry is still in its infancy. The U.S. imports about 35 million pounds of premium-priced gourmet sheep cheeses each year - like French Roquefort, Greek Feta, Italian Ricotta, and Spanish Manchego - which could be produced here. The problem is that the supply of sheep milk is too small to interest more than a handful of cheese

makers. The cheese makers who do buy sheep milk need more to satisfy demand.

For more information, readers should send \$1 plus a business-sized SASE to: North American Milking Sheep Association, Rt. 3, Box 10, Hinckley, Minn. 55037. (Ken Scharabok, P.O. Box 33399, Dayton, Ohio 45433-0399)



No one seemed to make a substantial cart for ATV's so we decided to build our own. We used new wheels, tires, bearings, and stub axles that came in a kit sold by Gempler's of Mt. Horeb, Wis. (ph 800 382-8473). I welded the stub axles onto 1 1/2-in. steel tubing. We fitted it with leaf springs that came in a kit from Surplus Center in Lincoln, Neb. (ph 402 474-5167) which was the only place I could find light, 500-lb. capacity springs. I got the spring shackles from Northern Hydraulics in Burnsville, Minn. (ph 612 894-0326). The box size is 3 by 5 ft. We bought new 1/8 by 1 1/4-in. square tubing for the frame, siderails, and tongue and covered the sides and bottom of box with sheet metal.

This is a handy cart, easy to make, and comes in handy for hauling bales, wood, fixing fence, and so on. We could sell plans if there's interest. (Lyle Wacker, Rt. 2, Box 87, Osmond, Neb. 68765 ph 402 582-4874)

I have just finished reading the last issue of FARM SHOW, which I normally enjoy very much. However, on the first inside page I found an article on a home-built rotary mower that uses mower sections riveted to the ends of the blades. Here's why I feel this is a dangerous idea. In the early 1950's, my father bought a lawn mower that had replaceable blades similar to the ones featured in the article. At some point, the original blades were replaced with mower sections. Later, when using the mower, I struck an object in the lawn, shearing off one of the sickle sections. It was hurled 50 to 75 ft., hitting the barn. The force was so great that the section was imbedded half the width of the section into the barn siding.



We've had tremendous response to the article in your last issue on our high-speed trenchers for loaders, backhoes, and tractor 3-pts., in part because of record wet conditions all over the country. We even heard from farmers as far away as Hawaii and Argentina. We'd like to clear up a couple misunderstandings contained in your article. One statement said that when used on

a backhoe, you work in reverse. Actually, you drive ahead when using the ditcher on a backhoe. Also, it works at speeds of 50 to 100 ft. per minute rather than per hour. And one outstanding feature not mentioned is that our trencher can also be used to backfill ditches. (Stuart Jefferson, Jefferson Trencher, 9207 Ox Road, Lorton, Virg. 22079 ph 703 690-1730)