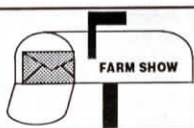


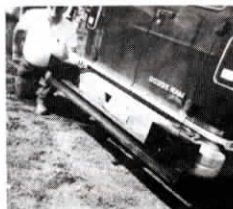
Reader Letters



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build our own live trap out of a 35-gal. barrel. One end of the barrel is open. We made a framework for the barrel out of 2 by 4's with grooves in the 2 by 4's on the open end to allow a metal door to slide up and down. A nail fits loosely into a hole to hold the door open. A string runs from the nail to the back of the barrel. A piece of smelly meat is tied to the end of the string. When the skunk grabs the bait, it pulls the string which in turn pulls the nail out of the door so the door slides shut. The first time we used it we caught three skunks in three nights. Once it's caught, you dispose of the skunk by drowning, shooting, or asphyxiation. Holes are drilled in the sides of the barrel to keep the skunk alive but since the skunk can't see you, you won't get sprayed.

Recently we bought a Great Pyrenees dog and have not had skunk - or any other predator - problems since. She corners and kills every skunk that comes around. Amazingly enough she does it without getting sprayed herself. The Pyrenees even protects nests from ravens and will chase off raptors, coyotes, wolves, bears and even mountain lions. They're courageous guardians but gentle with livestock and children. **(Dyah Geissal, Rt. 10 Deschamps Lane, Missoula, Mont. 59802)**



I added 250 lbs. to the back of my van to supply extra traction in snow and ice. I used a pair of steel boxes that mount on a piece of railroad tie that mounts behind the bumper. I fill each box with sand. The boxes each have brackets let them slide onto a receiver mounted on the bumper. A 3/4-in. bolt secures each box to the rail. I can slip the rail on and off in 5 min. It really works well and is much handier than putting blocks or sandbags in the van for extra weight. In the winter I mix the sand with calcium so it won't freeze. If I want I can leave the boxes on in the summer and use them to carry tools instead of sand.

I also made a step on the front of the van. A short person can stand on it and reach the windshield to wipe it off. **(John T. Kaiser, Rt. 1, Box 37 B1, Hot Springs, S. Dak. 57747)**



I modified my White 5100 8-row planter by making a sweep attachment. It pushes residue out of the way beyond the gauge wheels so they don't run over residue in the row. It also makes a nicely shaped ridge that's flat on top with the edges cut off. I made the sweep attachment from sq. steel tubing and flat steel and 1/4-in. steel plates that I cut and welded together. The planter was equipped with a steel guard designed to keep rocks from getting between disc openers. I removed it and mounted the blade in

the guard bolt holes. It works so well that two of my neighbors copied the idea.

I also hooked a phone up to a loud basketball scoreboard horn so I can hear the phone ring from up to 1/2 mile away. Works great when I'm walking bean fields. The horn is so loud I can usually hear it over the sound of running tractors. The horn is mounted 12 ft. high on front of the barn and is hooked up to the phone wires by a relay. A friend who works for a telephone company did the work. **(Richard Gidel, 2950 190th St., Williams, Iowa 50271 ph 515 854-2406)**

We mounted eave troughs and downspouts on our barn so that rain water can flow into a pair of polyethylene spray tanks. One tank holds 1,200 gal. and the other holds 550 gal. We use the water as a carrier for herbicides. Rain water is soft and has a lower pH than hard water so it spreads better on plants, resulting in better weed control. I've been able to reduce herbicide rates without losing any weed control. I also collect water off our house roof and store it in a cistern. **(Todd Intermill, Rt. 1, Box 27A, Colman, S. Dak. 57017 ph 605 534-3136)**



I converted an old car dealership into a farrowing building that holds 70 sows and gilts. I made the conversion 1 1/2 years ago after using the building to store and blend fertilizer. I installed farrowing crates and plywood gate dividers inside the building and mounted heat lamps over the crates. The only modification I made to the building itself was to board up the windows. I use a big overhead door on one side of the building for access. The building has enough doors for adequate ventilation. I use pails to limit-feed the sows. The gilts have self-feeders. Manure is shoveled out by hand into a Michigan loader. Doing everything by hand takes a lot of work and time, but it's a cheap way to raise hogs. **(Curt Frohwein, 314 E. Main, Zearing, Iowa 50278)**



I cut a rear tractor tire in half and anchored it in the ground, then bolted a slide to the sidewall at the top of the tire. Kids have a lot of fun climbing up the tire before they go down the slide. They really like it. **(Rick Ott, 2636 Echo Ave., Marble Rock, Iowa 50653 ph 515 756-2208)**

I equipped this old golf cart with an electric dump box using the lift from an old pickup snow plow. I simply push an electric button and up goes the load. My son and I cut down the cart's fiberglass body to make room for the steel dump box. The box is 32 in. long, 44 in. wide, and 20 in. high and has a lift-out tailgate for it, like on a dump truck, so we don't have to get off to dump a load. We built a steel frame and welded it to the golf cart frame to accommodate the lift mechanism and the box. We put an extra shock absorber



I've made a business rebuilding old, worn-out fertilizer application equipment such as payloaders, Big A floaters and Terragators for fertilizer dealers and farmers. My business started as a part-time job in my farm shop and has grown into a full-time job in a 60 by 100-ft. commercial building.

We completely rebuild the machines, stripping them down to the frame and repowering them with factory remanufactured engines and transmissions. We also sand blast and paint them. Most of the rigs are about 10 years old and in pretty bad shape when we start working on them. But when we're finished rebuilding them, the customer has a brand new rig for about half the cost of a new one. For example, a good used Big A sells for about \$40,000 which is about the same price as one of our rebuilt ones. However, ours has a new engine - a factory remanufactured 3208 Caterpillar under factory warranty - and a new transmission, air conditioning, new paint, and a rewired cab. A new Big A sells for about \$85,000. We buy

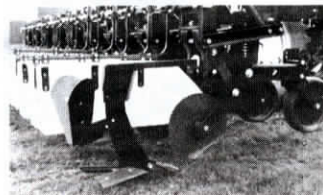
many of our parts from AgChem, which manufactures the Big A and Terragator.

Our territory covers Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and eastern Illinois. I think there's a demand for rebuilt fertilizer application equipment in other areas, with real potential for others to get into this kind of business. There are lots of junked-out small payloaders that can be bought for \$200 to \$300. After they're rebuilt they make very nice backup units for fertilizer plants and are worth about \$8,000. A new payloader sells for \$18,000 to \$20,000.

We also do some work for farmers. We just remanufactured a farmer-owned 4-WD Big A that was built in the early 1980's. The basic drive train was still good, but the Cummins engine was worn out. We installed a new Caterpillar 3208 engine. The farmer spent \$3,000 for labor and \$10,000 total and now has a machine that works like new. **(John Hoshock, Machinery Service Co., 1990 Spruce St., Defiance, Ohio 43512 ph 800 466-2555)**



on the cart to help with heavy loads. It'll dump loads up to 600 lbs. with ease. We've used it for three years with no problems. **(Ben Salenbien, 473 Nleman Road, Monroe, Mich. 48161)**



Your readers may be interested in our Rodman ridge till cultivator adapter shoe that mounts on old cultivators. It includes an adapter mounting bracket that mounts on the cultivator frame, ridging wings, shoe, subsoiler point, and reversible lays. The replaceable subsoiler point isn't connected to the lay but is mounted ahead of it. It breaks up slabs better than conventional sweeps and has built-in suction for increased soil penetration. The ridging wings are simple to use and you always have them with you. They can be set at three different positions and flipped up out of the way with only one bolt. You can leave the wings all the way down the first time you cultivate to make a high ridge, then raise them up flush with the lays on the second cultivation when you don't want to ridge, or set them to leave a 2-in. gap for the row. Lays are available in 17, 19, 21, and 25-in. lengths. Fits most cultivator models. Sells for \$198 per row unit. We also offer four models without the adapter mounting bracket for Buffalo, Orthman, B & H, and Wilrich cultivators. They sell for \$95 per row. **(Rodman Welding & Mfg., 305 South Railroad, Jasper, Minn. 56144 ph 507 348-4133)**



Our new cultivator sweeps can be modified to fit all rear-mount cultivator models. They're designed a lot like Hiniker's ridge cultivator sweeps except that they adapt to conventional cultivators and bolt onto the cultivator's parallel linkage arm. They work great for minimum tillage because they won't plug. All parts bolt together and are replaceable. The sweeps can be mounted at two different settings depending on the soil condition and amount of soil penetration desired. A bolt-on point is mounted in front of the sweep. The points last a long time. One farmer who used our sweeps cultivated 1,400 acres before he had to replace the points. The sweeps reduce slabbing which allows you to cultivate at speeds up to 7 mph. Sells for \$160 per row. **(M & D Welding, Shop, 112 North Michigan, Hubbard, Iowa 50122 ph 515 864-2204)**



I'm sending along a photo of my home-built twin rake hitch. I bought a 3-pt. Ford rake at a sale for \$435 and painted the rake green. I modified the hitch so that it can accommodate both series one and two hitches. I used a piece of log chain in place of the third link