

I-Beam Barnyard Scraper — Robert Sperfslage, Greeley, Iowa, made a 3-pt. scraper blade out of an old metal I-beam. He simply mounted a piece of heavy steel I-beam, about the right width to fit behind his small Massey Ferguson tractor, on a 3-pt. linkage. He says it works great for scraping alleys in barns.

Shop Floor Tie Downs — When John Michael built a new farm shop on his farm near McCune, Kan., he included eight tie down chains in his shop floor. He uses the tie downs, spaced at 6 to 12-ft. intervals, to straighten out bent equipment. When a disk frame or combine head gets out of whack, he chains it to the floor and uses a hydraulic jack to straighten it out.

Michael made the tie-downs by welding pieces of $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. chain link to 12-in. dia. metal disc and burying them in the floor when it was poured. The short pieces of chain are threaded up through short pieces of 3-in. pipe, also buried in the floor. A 3-in. dia. metal disc, welded to the upper end of each chain, fits back over each of the pipes imbedded in the floor. The small discs cover the hole made by the pipe and are recessed so Michael can easily sweep over them. When he needs to use the tie-downs, he pulls the discs up with a magnet and grabs the chain. He then hooks log chains to the tie-downs to straighten equipment.

Grinder-Mixer Seed Handler — Larry Mahaffey, Alexandria, Neb., uses his Owatonna grinder-mixer to auger wheat and soybean seed into grain drills. To convert the mixer to handle seed, the Mahaffeys had to remove the square directional spout on the end of the machine's 8-in. auger. They attached a cloth bag to the end in its place to act as a flexible spout. Mahaffay says it now takes just a minute or so to fill their drills.

Engine Exhaust Fights Freeze-Ups — Clarence Welander, Fullerton, N. Dak., says his "best idea" prevents falls on slippery ice and also serve as a way to thaw out iced-up equipment. He simply slips a rubber hose over the exhaust pipe on his car, truck or tractor and uses the hot air to take ice off steps, sidewalks, drinking fountains and so on.

Bob Hensler, Rensselaer, Ind., has a similar idea. He attaches a piece of car radiator hose to a hair dryer to reach small out-of-the-way freeze-ups. "I often have to thaw out water pipes that run through 6-in. tile under our hog fountain. They were hard to reach until I tried this idea. The fountain has a 3-in. opening on the side to get down below."

Crankcase Wood Treatment — Rather than buy expensive wood-treating chemicals, W.J. Pangerl, Saegertown, Penn., came up with the idea of treating exposed wood with used crankcase oil. He rubs or brushes the oil onto wood surfaces and says it works especially good on wood parts of farm equipment, such as on manure spreaders.

Fuel Tank Bean Bucket — John Dappert, Oblong, Ill., made a "bean bucket" for filling planter boxes by cutting off the bottom 1/3 of a junked 500-gal. fuel tank and mounting it on his big bale forks. He then put a slide on the front. The cut-up tank is narrow enough to slide under gravity wagons and holds enough to fill the 11-bu. box on his International Cyclo planter.

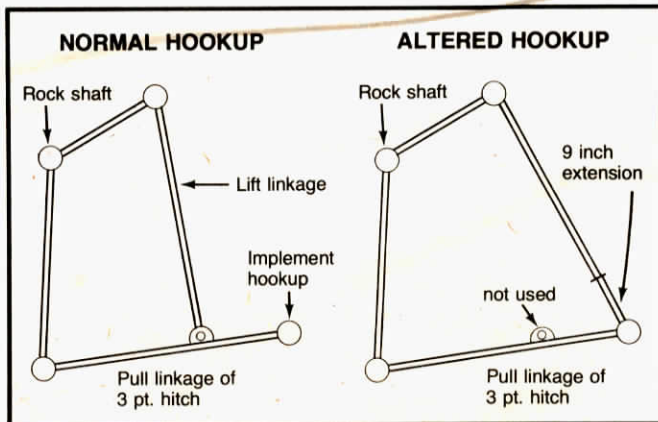
One-Penny Washer — C.H. Mulder, Alto, Mich., saves money every time he needs a small to medium-sized washer. Rather than buy washers that can cost 5 cents or more, he simply drills a hole through pennies. "For one cent, you get a rust-proof washer that works fine," he told FARM SHOW.

Rebuilt Truck Muffler — A Michigan reader sent us the following "best idea". "Recently FARM SHOW ran a story about building your own tractor muffler. It got me thinking and I went to a sheet metal shop with my old truck muffler and had them measure, cut, and roll a piece of sheet metal $\frac{1}{16}$ -in. thick and wrap it tight about the old rusty metal of the muffler. I pulled it tight and held it in place with lengths of roller chain, using a bolt through the holes to draw it tight. Then we welded the seam and ends. The old pipe ends were good enough to weld to. Now the muffler is better than new and the only cost was \$10 for the metal."

FARM SHOW

"Best Ideas"

Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers. It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 704, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



Boost 3-Pt. Lift Capacity — Wesley Lindstrom, Currie, Minn., has an idea for increasing the lift capacity of tractor 3-pt. hitches. "We were told by other farmers that our 4010 Deere tractor wouldn't lift a Tye drill with the seed box full of beans. While lifting the drill empty, we noticed that we were using only $\frac{1}{2}$ the available movement of the 3-pt. control levers, so here's what we did: We added a 9-in. extension to the lift linkage and put a $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. dia. hole in the bottom end (see drawing). We now lift on the same pin that the drill mounts on. This small design change increased our tractor's lift capacity by about 40% and lifts the drill to the same

height, yet lets it go all the way down. We've used it like this for three years and some of our neighbors have tried it, too."

Barn Bed — Even at night, Billy Brown, Glasgow, Ky., never gets away from the farm. He built a headboard for his bed that looks like a barn. The barn headboard is made from old barn lumber so it also has the look and feel of an actual barn. It looks like a traditional barn viewed from the end with sliding doors and a hay mow. The rounded roof overhangs the bed and contains the bed lights. The roof is shingled with real shingles.