

Reader Letters



I made a handy hose holder for my spray tank by removing the S-shaped hook from a rubber bungee cord and attaching it to a hose clamp, which is on the hose I use to fill the tank. The hook catches on the tank's fill hole. The hose will stay in the tank hands-free, no matter how fast I fill it. **(Robert Ingram, McArthur, Calif.)**



I use hog wire panels and metal fence posts to string up beans in my garden easily and efficiently. I lace the post through two of the squares in the panel, then drive the post into the ground just far enough to hold it stable. If I want I can reach through the wire and pick from both sides at once. **(James Henson, 2617 Rock Road, Union Mills, N.C. 28167 ph 828 748-5633; doehenson1@gmail.com)**



I took apart a Kewanee all-crop elevator to make a low-cost feedbunk, keeping only the elevator housing. I bolted 4 by 4's underneath the housing to make the legs. I made it several years ago but it still isn't showing any rust. It keeps the feed clean and out of the mud. My total cost was only about \$50. **(Dan Jost, 17992 Co. Rd. 49, Richmond, Minn. 56368 ph 320 980-6176; dsjost@melitel.net)**

I have several electric bug zappers that I hang up every summer. By the end of summer, they are coated with dead bugs and require cleaning. I disassemble them and vacuum out all the loose debris, but there's always a residue burned onto the high voltage bars that do the zapping. This residue reduces the bug-killing power. I discovered that they clean up well with spray-on oven cleaner. Coat them thoroughly, let them sit for 5 min., then scrub them gently with a soft fine bristle brush. Rinse them off while being careful not to get the electric

components wet, and then let them dry before plugging it back in. **(Bob Stewart, Mancos, Colo.)**



I used to use commercial face shields when weed whacking. The problem was that they would break off at the rotating joint. So I got the idea of taking a shield



and sewing it to an old hat with a brim. Works great for sun protection and the shield stays put. I just sew through the holes on the shield to hang it from the hat. There's a hole in front and one on each side. **(Curtis Burcham, Guntown, Mo.)**



My dog Trigger got sprayed by a skunk recently. My vet recommended an inexpensive home remedy to neutralize the smell. It consists of a half cup of baking soda, a tablespoon of dish soap, and a quart of hydrogen peroxide (you can get a it at the drugstore). Wash your dog twice with this mixture and you can bring him back into the house. **(Mary Phillips, Zeoring, Iowa)**



Getting into the house with a walker is a lot easier since we built this double-wide step with 4-in. risers out of 2 by 4's and particle board. The steps are wide enough so a helper can walk alongside. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

I built a 12 by 16-ft. shed from used garage doors. I used doors made of redwood that are like iron. The guy I bought them from had been charging door companies to take them off their hands and he had more than 1,000 16-ft. doors to get rid of. My cost was just \$300 and they came with 2 by 4's that



Last winter FARM SHOW published a story on how I used one of the rear wheels on my tractor to make a wheel-mounted winder for old fence wire (Vol. 42, No. 2). I screwed four 10-in. long pipes to studs on the wheels and then jacked up the wheel and put the tractor in gear. It works great and results in neat, reusable wire rolls.

I recently needed to wind about 300 ft. of fence and decided to expand the



concept. I inserted 3-ft. lengths of 1-in. dia. pipe into each of the four original pipes, then slid on a plywood board with holes drilled into it to match the pipes. Within 10 min. I had all 300 ft. of fence neatly rolled. Then I just knocked the board off the pipes and slipped the wire roll off. **(Don Buelke, 2351 Vista Ridge, Victor, Mont. 59875 ph 406 381-4766; donbuelke@gmail.com)**

I was able to use for framing. I had to drill holes just to get screws into them after bending a bunch of nails. **(Merle Thompson, Folsom, Calif.)**



This is my restored 1951 Oliver Cletrac O3C dozer. I competed with other high school kids in the JB Dewar tractor restoration competition. I was fortunate to be named the 2017 Grand Champion. The competition started in 2002 and more than \$100,000 in scholarships have been awarded to high school students who restored tractors. **(Taylor Havemann, Atasadero, Calif.)**

To make my zero-turn mower easier to steer, I slipped a 4-in. piece of foam pipe insulation over each steering tiller. Makes it easier to grab with one hand. I also raised the seat 3 in. using channel iron, bringing the steering tillers up to stomach height so I don't have to reach up to them. Much more comfortable. **(Paul Kocich, Greene, N.Y.)**

This is a cautionary story for your readers who still like to use older tractors with leaf-spring seats. An older farmer in our area liked mowing around his farm with an old Deere tractor with a spring seat that hung over the back of the tractor. He was pulling a bushhog mower when the seat spring broke, dropping him into the path of the mower and killing him. It took his family a few hours to realize he was missing and, needless to say, it was a very grim sight for the medical rescue team. Please be careful on your "old iron" and inspect all components regularly. **(Ray Henderson, Newport, N.J.)**

Old folding walkers can be easily converted into lightweight, low-cost sawhorses that are easy to set up anywhere. I make a stable platform on top by cutting a 1 by 8-in. board to length and then screw on 2 sets of tool holder-



type clamps that snap onto the walker tubing alongside the handles.

When I need a larger working surface, I place two walkers side by side and place a sheet of plywood across them.

I've been using walkers this way for years. They're quick and simple to set up, and they take up less space than sawhorses. Walkers are commonly certified to support a 200-lb. person, but in reality they can probably support much more. Also, adjustable legs on the walkers provide them with stability even on uneven ground. It's easy to find them at garage sales for \$5 or less. **(Jerry K., Rochester, Mich.)**



I have 5 young children and I'm trying my best to instill in them skills for building, repairing and tinkering. I figure the best way to do this is to let them practice, so I have given each of them a bench vise as a birthday or Christmas gift. I pick vises up at flea markets or garage sales and the kids all have their own workbench space. It's a mess but they're learning. I have 4 boys ages 3 to 8, and a girl 9.

"When you want to work on a bike but don't have a bike shop mount, suspend the bike from two ropes attached to the ceiling. Use adjustable loop knots so you can easily adjust the bike's elevation. **(Ryan Van Der Bill, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.)**



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