

Reader Letters

I am writing in regards to the article about Frank Hansen of Rollingstone, Minn., and his 1918 Deere all-drive tractor. About 20 years ago, someone had one of them restored and toured steam threshing shows. It was, as I recall, in either a trailer or truck which people walked through to view it.

Therefore, I am afraid that Mr. Hansen does not have the only intact one in existence. I talked to my brother-in-law whom I was with at a Coldwater, Mich. steam equipment show and he remembers seeing it also. I do not wish to cause Mr. Hansen any trouble but I thought FARM SHOW and Mr. Hansen himself should know about this.

John Stackman
Mendon, Mich.

Editor's Note: The tractor which John Stackman remembers seeing is Frank Hansen's. Starting in about 1965, Frank took his restored tractor to many state fairs and shows, to several threshing shows, including stops at Coldwater and Jackson in Michigan. He quit showing the tractor pending settlement of his dispute with Deere. Now that he's won the court case confirming that his one and only 1918 all-wheel drive was the first to bear the John Deere name, he's back on the show circuit with it.

In your recent article "Combine Add-Ons Save Chaff, Cobs" we feel that you missed one of the best and least expensive biomass collectors on the market today — the Sukup Combine Blower.

It lists for \$2,500 and provides an easy method for collecting crop residues, such as husklage (cobs and husks) for bedding, feed, or fuel for the BioMaster Crop Residue Furnace, also manufactured by Sukup. The blower attaches to the back of a combine; no extra trips through the field are required as the residue is blown into a standard forage wagon pulled behind the combine.

Three model sizes easily fit most combines. The blower is belt-driven from the combine, comes with a motion detector switch, and a forage wagon hitch. An adjustable vertical chute directs husklage into the wagon.

Eugene G. Sukup,
President
Sukup Mfg. Co.
P.O. Box 677
Sheffield, Iowa 50475

"Your 'Farm Show' is always read avidly here, both by our own staff as well as by the many company representatives who are here with their tractors.

In your last issue (Vol. 7, No. 5) I found something I feel I have to make a comment on. On page 33, you show a cargo ramp for a pick-up. This big guy is going at it the wrong way and I feel that this picture should not have been shown. Backing up the ramp is OK but this is a "no-no."

Dr. Louis I. Leviticus
Nebraska Tractor Testing Lab.
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Neb.

Do you know of anyone who has bought a fish carburetor? If so, how do they like it? I'd like to try one on my Dodge Dart but don't like the idea of having to send out east for part of it. Why don't they put it all together?

Also, do you know of any false plates to put over the top of straw walkers in the old 55 Deere combines to keep cobs from trying to go through and getting stuck. Deere wants to sell the whole walker called a corn special. I tried putting half hardware wire over them but, in soybeans, it was too rough and straw stuck so I took the wire out. On corn it did fair but shucks stuck some.

William C. Hester
Waukee, Iowa 50263

Editor's note — If any readers have information to share on Fish carburetors or a cob-proofing device for Deere 55 combines, please let us know so we can share your experience with Mr. Hester and other readers. Contact: FARM SHOW, Box 704, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

As a new subscriber to FARM SHOW, I want to thank you for your fine magazine. I enjoyed my first issue so thoroughly that I've ordered all available back issues. They all have so many interesting and fascinating articles. FARM SHOW is by far the most worthwhile magazine I read today.

Ray M. Gremillion, Jr.
Lachary, LA

Thanks for your report in the last issue on our new refit kit for conventional balers, and the metering wheel that replaces the existing wheel and shaft. Both of these products were invented and patented by Abe Olfert, of Hague, Sask. I've worked with him but did not develop the products, as was stated in the story.

Ivan Gabrysh,
Hague Baler Service
Box 612
Hague, Sask. S0K 1X0

Over the years, I have certainly enjoyed FARM SHOW. I often marvel at the ingenuity of people.

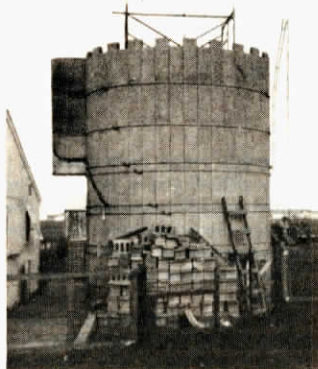
For some time now, I have been looking for a manufacturer of stainless steel hinges. In our hog confinement operation, steel hinges will last for about two years until they have to be replaced.

Suppliers of confinement equipment have not been of help. Perhaps your reading audience could direct me to a manufacturer of 5 in. "T" hinges of either stainless steel or a plastic which would withstand the corrosion of a confinement hog house.

Terry Jamison
Rt. 5, Box 506
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Congratulations on FARM SHOW. It is the best source of information on new products that I have ever found. I do not believe that there is an issue that I do not write for additional information on several products.

William Sheardown
Winnipeg, Can.



Since dismantling an old silo last August, we've had inquiries from many area farm families wanting to know how we did it. Here, for the benefit of any FARM SHOW readers who might be interested, is how we went about tearing down a 35 ft. high concrete stave silo with over 500 staves, measuring 10 by 30 in. each.

First, we rented steel scaffolding which fit very well inside our silo. We pulled the sections up with a rope, from outside, with one person on top to pass them over the top staves and let them down to another person inside. It takes at least three people to do this.

To set the scaffolding up inside the silo, make a platform of 2 in. boards to go out to the edges — so you don't step off between the scaffolding frame and the silo.

To start, remove the top section of the chute. Then loosen and remove the steel bands on the layer of staves that you want to remove. Be sure the staves you're working on are free from the bands but don't remove too many bands as lower staves could buckle from stress and vibration.

With a short-handled maul's pointed edge, knock the connecting cement loose around staves, then wiggle them by hand to work them loose one at a time. It takes quite a bit of work, but can be done without breaking them. They are very heavy (77 lbs.) and it takes two people to move them from the edge to the center of the scaffolding, where you have a pulley on a crosstimer on the top bar of the scaffolding section.

Next, tie a rope around the stave, and let it down to be handled by a third person inside the silo at ground level.

We completed the job for around \$30 (out of pocket cost) in two weekends and a couple nights after work. You don't have to hire a lot of help.

The salvaged staves are excellent for feeding floors, sidewalks, etc. but don't drive on them with a tractor, or other heavy vehicle since the staves are hollow and will crush.

Mary Schnorenberg
Rt. 2, Box 215
Kasson, Minn. 55944

I used to subscribe to many different automotive and handyman magazines but have dropped all of them except FARM SHOW. My only suggestion would be to make it a monthly magazine instead of bimonthly. It would be worth the extra cost.

Harold Nickel
Box 392
Wabamum, Alb.

I was very interested in your article on "Deere's First Tractor" in the last issue. As a youngster back around 1927, I was called on by a neighbor to get one of these tractors in running order to be sold at auction. I found the tractor in a weed patch behind the machine shed. It had not been used for several years but was in fair shape.

After a day or two going over this machine to clean it up and get it in running order, I cranked it up and plowed with a 3-bottom plow. It worked beautifully.

There were three of these tractors near where I lived and I remember them as "John Deere Dain." In 1931, I started employment with Deere and became area service manager, traveling North and South Dakota until retiring in 1972.

I like FARM SHOW very much. Very interesting reading.

Leslie V. Fulker
4082 Watson Ave. N.E.
Salem, Or 97305

Thank you for the nice story you did on my book, "Cooking With Cream — The Versatile Ingredient," in your Vol. 7, No. 4 issue.

I have received many orders, most of which were accompanied by interesting letters. One farm wife sent a big piece of paper filled on both sides with cream recipes and I heard from two women who said I beat them to it — that they had planned to write the cream book. I've also received new cream recipes. For instance, one lady said her grandmother used cream to wax her hardwood floor years ago. I've carefully filed all the new recipes and suggestions. Who knows — maybe I'll revise and enlarge the cookbook.

Phyllis Letellier
Shell Route, Box 23
Greybull, Wyo. 82426

I feel bound to write a rebuttal to your article covering Eagle's conversion from moldboard to chisel plow.

While I can agree that such a conversion may be desirable and a cost-effective method of obtaining a chisel plow, I must correct John Buh's statement that his minimum till bottoms are similar to the Howard Paraplow.

The Paraplow is a completely new concept and moves the soil in such a way as to leave up to 95% of the surface cover intact. One-hundred percent of the soil is moved without any inversion whatsoever.

The Eagle conversion is no doubt a good chisel plow, but it is no substitute for the Howard Paraplow.

The Paraplow was designed to gently lift and bend the soil, fracturing it by putting it in tension, whereas, the straight subsoiler shank or deep chisel plow breaks out the soil under compression and does not always obtain complete breakout at full depth.

I am sure you do not wish to mislead your readers into believing that just because a plow conversion is cheaper, it automatically performs as well as "the popular Paraplow."

Chris G. Burden
Vice President, Sales
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