

Reader Letters



It's hard for me to get a hold on the bottom of newer 5-gal. plastic gas containers. So I tie a 1/4-in. plastic rope around the side and leave a loop to put my hand in. Works great for this, 94-year-old. **(Dick Ormston, Waverly, Iowa)**

Last winter in Western Canada we had the polar vortex for many weeks, causing doors to freeze shut. High-efficiency furnaces are often to blame. I discovered that by rubbing full-strength anti-freeze on the edge of the door, it solves the problem. Ice won't stick to it. I do it every few days during cold spells by just pouring a bit of anti-freeze on a handi-wipe. **(Harold Forster, Box 146, Lake Lenore, Sask.)**

A misleading claim in your last issue stated that 95 percent of the plastic debris in the world's oceans comes from only 10 rivers. This fact has been shared thousands of times but it was an incorrect interpretation of a 2017 study that has been cited in numerous publications over the past couple years. The study actually stated that 10 rivers are the source of 88 to 95 percent of the total plastic waste transported by rivers into oceans — not the global amount of plastic present in the oceans. The rest of the ocean plastic comes from sources other than rivers. **(William Hallagan; whallagan@gmail.com)**

A reader in the last issue said he doesn't like the term socket wrench, saying that a "wrench is just a wrench and a socket is just a socket". A socket certainly is a socket but a wrench is definitely not just a wrench any more than a dog is just a dog. A dog can be a Great Dane, a Chihuahua, or anything in between. A wrench can be a pipe wrench, crescent wrench, end wrench, box wrench, or even a socket wrench (also known as a ratchet wrench). **(Don McLaskey, Anacortes, Wash.)**



I make "redneck" fire extinguishers out of plastic jugs filled with water. I drill 4 holes in each jug's cap so a quick squeeze of the bottle will put out a small trash fire. I put an ounce of bleach in each bottle to keep the water clear and spray the outside of the jug with red paint as a reminder to only use the jugs to put out fires. I also write on the side not to use on electrical fires. **(David N., Bay St. Louis, Mo.)**

I read the article in your last issue about how giant windmill blades are being buried in landfills when they go out of service. I thought your readers might be interested that I have seen the big round ends of windmill blades used as culverts near Stanberry, Mo. Hope others can use this idea and keep those things out of landfills. **(Dave Yoder, Monticello, Mo.)**

Not far from where we live in Kennewick, Wash., big wind farm windmills are being replaced after only 10 years while dams that were built 60 years ago or more are still going strong. **(Tim Reisenauer, Kennewick, Wash.)**



To put Christmas lights on a big tree, I made a platform for my loader bucket that installs in minutes with no bolts or other fasteners. It's held in place with a chain and come-along. I have pallet forks on the bucket and just slide them out to the sides of the bucket, and chain the platform in place. Works great. **(Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.Dak.)**



To stay safe while working around a grapple fork, slide a couple lengths of bright-colored pool noodles over the grapple's outside tines. Cut the noodles long enough so they stick out a bit beyond the end of the forks. That way if you accidentally bump into them, they'll wake you up instead of giving you a concussion. **(Frank Peters, P.O. Box 15, Breton, Alberta Canada T0C 0P0 ph 587 877-5678; chilk099@gmail.com)**

Back when I was farming, we used railroad ties to keep cattle from pooping in stock tanks. We placed ties on the ground just outside the tank, which kept the cow from backing up all the way to the tank. Problem solved.

We used a "hit and miss" engine to belt-drive a pump jack that delivered water to our hog tank, and came up with a simple way to keep the water from overflowing the tank. We attached one end of a wire to the engine's spark plug, and ran the other end inside the tank and clamped it on about 1 1/2 in. below the top. As soon as the water contacted that wire, it would kill the engine and it stopped pumping water into the tank. **(Gail Ennis, 901 E. Columbia St., Flora, Ind. 46929 ph 765 202-1936)**

I find it's easier to pick berries with both hands free, which I accomplish by duct-taping a 5-quart ice cream bucket to one of my wrists. I place one hand over the bucket so that it's in a good picking position, then duct tape the wrist onto the inside of the bucket. This method makes the berries easier to pick, and I also don't miss as many. I fill the bucket about two thirds full before dumping the berries into a pail. **(Paul Miller, Gardiner, Mont.; paul.j.miller69@gmail.com)**



Old trampoline springs work great as snow tire chain tensioners. Just hook the springs together between the chains to form the "spokes" of a wheel. **(David Simpler, Elkton, Md.; davidsimpler@yahoo.com)**



I used 2 sets of discarded dumbbell weights and a big cast iron pump housing off an old swimming pool cleaner to make low-cost front weights for my Kubota B6100 diesel tractor, which I use every day on my farm. I needed more weight to boost traction and improve stability on hillsides.

The pump housing measures 18 in. long and 10 in. in dia. and bolts to the tractor frame using existing holes.

I cut the dumbbell bars down to fit the width of the tractor. It looks a little odd, but it does the job and cost nothing except my time. I can easily add or subtract weights from the dumbbells as needed. **(Wallace Browning, Buckingham, Va.)**

Many years ago I bought a used 1963 Farmall Cub tractor equipped with a belly-mounted mower, and used a length of 30-in. dia. steel pipe to make a front-mounted blade for it.

The 5-ft. long, 6-in. wide blade is connected to the tractor by a pair of triangle-shaped steel arms and brackets made from 1/4-in. thick, 3-in. flat steel. I welded a triangular support across to each arm under the lift arm of the tractor. I welded a piece of 1/4-in. chain in the center of the support. I then hooked it to the lift arm to raise the blade.



A hinged steel bar with multiple holes adjusts the pitch of the blade. This adjusts forward for leveling and back for cutting.

I use the blade in my yard for landscaping, and it's ideal to keep a driveway level. **(Jesse LeBlanc, Gibson, La.)**



I use the extra space on the front of each issue of FARM SHOW to write down page numbers of articles in that issue that are most interesting to me. **(Jamie Starosta, Harveys Lake, Penn.)**

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