

# Reader Letters



I read with interest about the air-powered toilet plunger in the last issue of FARM SHOW. Although it looks like it might work well, it has one of the main problems all plungers have: the clean-up after using.

I've used a different method for 60 years that costs nothing, requires no clean-up, and has never failed to work. All you need is a bucket of water.

Wait until water in the plugged-up toilet drains down as far as it will go. Hold your bucket of water at about chest height and tilt slowly to start a small stream of water falling into the toilet, aiming at the drain at the bottom. Then dump in all the water at once in a heavy stream aimed at that drain. The heavy stream of water will push the clog right through and you're done. (James Nelson, Woodville, Wis.)

I have a 12-ft. flatbed trailer that I haul my tractor on. It's very hard to see when backing up in the day time and almost impossible at night. I solved the problem by purchasing 2 hollow plastic tube snowplow markers and some waterproof red LED tape lights, both of which you can find online. I mounted the markers at the back of the trailer and drilled a hole in the base of each marker tube, pulling the lights up through the tubes so they light up the entire marker. Then I wired the lights to the tail lights and sealed up the holes with silicone. Be sure to use red LEDs because they're easier to see during the day. (Jerry Maurer, 3004 Troy Road, Springfield, Ohio 45504)

This is in regard to the problem Michael Mielke of Easton, Md., has with deer shedding their antlers and puncturing tractor and combine tires (Vol. 41, No. 5). My son, who lives in the Ozarks, uses a short cattle panel to collect antlers in nearby woods. He stakes the panel down at an angle and throws acorns or corn underneath. Deer reach under the panel to eat. During winter, when their antlers are ready to fall off, they catch on the panel and drop onto the ground.

I just thought this is a good way to keep deer antlers out of fields. You have to keep track of it so no animals get hung up on it. (Eddie Cox, 4112 N. Cleveland Ave., Kansas City, Mo. 64117 ph 816 454-3176)



I got tired of cleaning out mud that cattle kicked into my Bull Master mineral feeder, so I used a damaged tractor wheel rim to raise the feeder off the ground. I welded 2 angle iron brackets onto opposite sides of the rim, then drilled holes in the brackets and bolted the feeder on. (Dennis Alexander, 255 Fox Rd., Clifton, Kansas 66937 ph 785 455-3786; dalexander@twinvalley.net)

I needed some way to cross a creek on my property, so I could cut grass on the other side. I built my own little wooden bridge using the wrecked frame of a 2001 Ford 1/2-ton pickup as the base. I turned the frame upside down to make it more



level, then bolted some 4 by 6's onto both sides and nailed on a series of 2 by 6's to make the floor.

I'm 82 years old now, but still drive my IH Cub 184 tractor equipped with a belly-mounted 6-ft. deck over this bridge every summer. (Paul Michener, P.O. Box 120, Waynesville, Ohio 45068 ph 513 312-5779)

I converted a new plastic toilet seat into the "ultimate redneck buffet cruiser". Using a jigsaw, I cut the seat out larger to reduce its weight and then padded the



edge with foam pipe wrap. I cut 3 holes in the seat lid - one to accept a picnic plate and the other 2 to hold Solo cups and napkins and silverware.

The person places the seat over his head and wears it proudly around his neck. The lid lays down in front of him about chest high. Lets you walk around at outdoor events, eating comfortably off the toilet lid table. (Cal Miner, 3971 8th St. N.E., Willmar, Minn. 56201 ph 320 295-8481)

Several years ago I read the idea in FARM SHOW about using a 50-50 mix of acetone and transmission fluid as penetrating oil. I keep it on all my workbenches and in my pickup.

A couple years ago my 1991 Pulsar wristwatch stopped running. The jeweler couldn't get it to run. I had nothing to lose so I took the back off and put a drop of the mixture in and it started keeping perfect time. Amazing. (Nick McHargue, Trenton, Mo.)



I recently built this driverless garden tractor and wheeled cart to pull my wife and I around at tractor shows. The cart is an old sleigh that used to be on skis. I

I made this simple "garbage can lock" to keep animals and high winds from tipping over my garbage can. I drilled a hole through the top of a 3-ft. length of square tubing and inserted a short 3/8-in. dia. rod through it, then bent the rod down to form a hook that doubles as a handle. I also welded the top of the tubing shut to keep leaves and snow out.

To lock the can in place I drive the tubing into the ground until the rod is about 1 in. above the can's dump bar, and then latch the hook onto it. To unlock the can I just lift the rod out of the tubing. I sell my garbage can lock for \$45 including S&H (U.S. only). (Kenneth Harwick, 724 7th Ave., Madison, Minn. 56256 kharwick@frontier.net; ph 320 598-3268)



mounted a pair of wheels on it and made a tongue with a ball hitch. I mounted a deck height adjusting handle off an old Sears riding mower on one side of the sleigh to serve as a clutch/brake for the tractor. A cable runs from the handle up to the tractor's foot clutch lever. Pulling on the handle depresses the clutch.

A pair of ropes are attached to both sides of the tractor's steering wheel and lead back to the sleigh. It steers quick - I don't have to turn the steering wheel very much to turn the tractor's front wheels all the way from left to right. To

go forward I just pull the handle back on the sleigh. The handle locks into a notch and releases with a thumb button on the handle. I start the tractor and put it in gear, then get in the sleigh and drive away. (Mike Hodgson, Fruitport, Mich.)



Large castor wheels installed on this kitchen chair make it more maneuverable for a handicapped family member. The big wheels roll easily over carpet edges and small inclines. Wrapping a strip of duct tape around each castor wheel's shaft holds them snugly in place. (Rex Gogerty, 33475 K Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 ph 641 487-7617)



I reworked an old 1960's Sears walk-behind rototiller so I could belly-mount it on my 1972 Farmall Cub tractor. It mounts on a separate home-built steel frame that pins onto the tractor. The frame bolts to a specially designed 2-wheeled dolly for quick installation and easy storage.

The 36-in. wide rototiller is belt-driven by the 17 hp. gas engine off an old riding mower. I stripped the rototiller down to the engine, gearbox and tines. The frame they attach to is equipped with a pair of steel arms that extend up to the front axle and are free to pivot up or down on hinged brackets. A short length of chain connects the back of the frame to a lift arm on the tractor.

To attach the rototiller to the tractor, I park it next to the tractor and connect up the front and rear. I can start and stop the engine and also adjust its speed right from the tractor. Homemade battery cables lead from the rototiller engine to the tractor's battery under the seat. The engine's fuel line hooks up to the tractor's gas tank, and the throttle cable is independent of the tractor's throttle.



It runs smooth and strong. Everything on it is simple, but it took a lot of trial and error to get it to work just right. My son and grandson helped me build it.

I came up with the idea because I wanted to switch to make 36-in. bedded rows in my garden. The rototiller tines exactly match the space between the tractor's rear tires. The tiller breaks up the soil and then I pull a set of discs behind on a home-built toolbar that forms the beds. (Jesse LeBlanc, 248 Old Spanish Trail, Gibson, La. 70356; ph 225 287-0679; jesseleblanc33@yahoo.com)

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