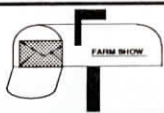


Reader Letters

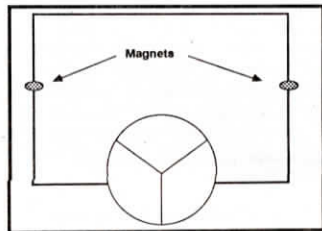


I learned the hard way that you should never leave a broken-off metal fence post in the ground. Six years ago I pulled the posts on a run down pasture fence using a tall hydraulic jack and chain. All but one T-post came up readily - that one post broke off about 8 in. underground, so we left the stub in the ground.

A hundred people with metal detectors couldn't have found that stub in that 40-acre pasture in a month's time but one day recently I found it with both right side tires on my tractor. The post was apparently bucked up above the surface by repeated freezing and thawing over several years. Luckily both tires were repairable. (Dave Nicholas, 8347 SR 28E, Martinsville, Ohio 45146)

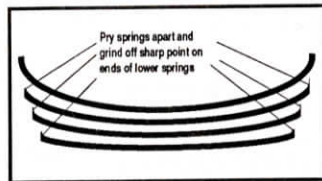
Reading your "Best & Worst Buys" section reminds me of how implement dealers can really turn me away. When I go into an implement shop to get a part or something they often look at me as if I was the dumbest person on earth because I'm a woman. But I sometimes listen to men describe what they need and I can't see that I sound much different.

And what effort would it take for business personnel to say "thank you"? Doesn't anyone use those words any more? To me they mean a lot. (Mary Riemenapp, Rt. 2, Box 186, Dodgeville, Wis. 53533)



I use small magnets to keep the tractor in line when pulling equipment in the field. Works for both small and large equipment. I stick the small refrigerator-type magnets to the metal around the edge of the windshield in line with the last round of the machine. They're easily moveable and can be raised or lowered to adapt to different size equipment and different drivers. Makes it easier to drive straight and there's less need to look back. Just try it - works great. (Denis G. Phillips, Box 494, Tisdale, Sask. Canada)

If your older truck rides rough or breaks springs, here's a simple way to improve the ride. Jack up the truck and then pry the springs apart so you can get at the ends of the springs with a power grinder or file.



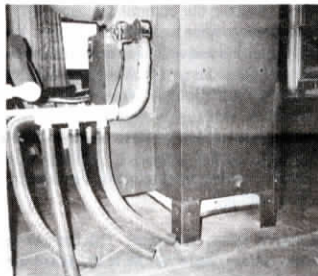
Grind down the sharp edge on top of the lower springs so they don't bite into the bottom of the spring above. Do all the springs, both ends. Then spray them (or soak them, if you take the springs off the truck to do the job) with used crankcase oil. You should oil the springs twice a year.

If you take care of springs this way, you'll probably find your old pickup rides like a Cadillac. (Ernest S. Ivany, Box 533, Lister, B.C. V0B 1Y0 Canada)

We had an almost unbelievable reaction to your article (Vol. 15, No. 3) about my home-made weed-killing concoctions made out of

vinegar, mustard oil and apple cider. We've had well over 1,000 letters and hundreds of calls from farmers and suppliers interested in purchasing or selling my home-brewed herbicides. The article explained that I found the recipe for the weed-killers in a 70-year old issue of the Old Farmer's Almanac, updating it with modern homogenization techniques that keep the ingredients stabilized. This year we did further testing and have come up with three effective mixtures - a complete systemic "Roundup" type killer, a broadleaf mix for corn and small grains, and a grass killer for soybeans. The results are outstanding - we've totally eliminated the need for chemical herbicides on our farm.

We have found a manufacturer to begin producing these weed-killers and we have a number of big distributors around the country interested in selling them. Our problem is that we have not yet received EPA approval. Please tell FARM SHOW readers who responded that we will get back to them as soon as we have something to sell. It may take time because in addition to the EPA, most states also have licensing requirements. I'm finding that it's not easy to bring a new weed-killing product to market, even if it doesn't contain chemicals. (Herbert Noreen, Rt. 2, Clayton, Wis. 54004 ph 715 948-2611)



We got tired of trying to dry out the insides of soaking wet gloves and boots so we built an add-on glove and boot dryer for our wood-fired furnace. I bought a small blower (Surplus Center, P.O. Box 82209, Lincoln, Neb. 68501-2209 - part #1612) and mounted it on the side of my wood-fired furnace close enough to pick up heated air from the metal sides. A piece of 2-in. dia. flexible sump pump hose runs from the fan to a length of PVC pipe that's fitted with three "T"s. A length of sump pump hose runs off each T and one piece of hose runs off the end of the pipe so you can dry up to four items at once. A wall bracket holds the dryer off the floor.

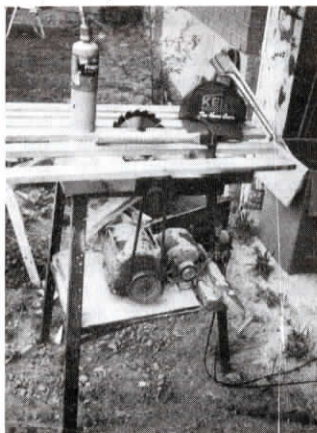
Because 110 volts turns this fan too fast, I wired the "hot" wire leading to the fan through a light bulb. This allows you to adjust air flow to whatever you're drying. For example, I use a 40-watt bulb for low rpm's and a 100-watt bulb for higher rpm's. For safety I wrapped the section of hose connected to the blower with heat resistant tape. I also installed a 1-amp fuse between the light fixture and the blower.

This set-up works much faster than other dryers I've seen on the market and has served us well since I built it several years ago. It can also be used at room temperature without being close to a heat source. Total cost for materials was \$25. (Nathan Lapp, Rt. 2, Box 174, Cassadaga, N.Y. 14718 ph 716 595-3210)

I met your editor Mark Newhall at the California Farm Equipment Show in Tulare about 5 years ago when I was involved with an Australian exhibit there. We have now invented a revolutionary new borehole pump

designed for use with windmills and wondered if you could send me the names of windmill manufacturers in the U.S. I plan to visit the States soon to look for a manufacturer for this new product. (John Osborne, Draper, Australia ph & fax 61 75 771404)

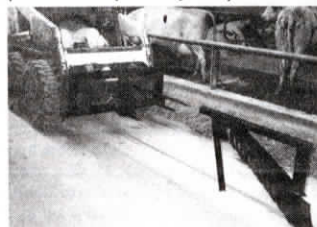
Editor's Note: Here's a list of windmill manufacturers in the U.S.: Aermotor Windmills, San Angelo, Texas (ph 915 658-2795); Heller-Allen Co., Napoleon, Ohio (ph 419 592-1856); Dempster Industries, Beatrice, Neb. (ph 402 223-4026); Byrne Gear Co., Johnstown, Penn. (ph 814 535-6527); Earth Energy Systems, Box 742, N. Palm Springs, Calif. 92258; KMP Mfg., Earth, Texas (ph 806 257-3411); SMV Industries, Council Bluffs, Iowa (ph 712 323-0656).



I think FARM SHOW readers might be interested in my "made it myself" table saw. It cost only a fraction of the price of a commercial machine and works very well. I made a stand out of angle iron and mounted a used 1/3-hp. Jet Pump electric motor on a shelf underneath. I made the table top itself out of 2 by 8-in. boards with 1 by 2-in. boards running across them. A "T-square" and "rip fence", also made out of 1-in. boards, fit into the spaces between the boards. A carbide-tipped 7 1/2 in. ultra-thin blade mounts on a blade arbor and two brass roller bearing bushings that I fashioned out of an old grinder. There's a small grinder motor next to the saw motor.

I use the saw for all kinds of wood projects. Works as well as commercial saws. (Ron Lord, Box 135, Bond Head, Ontario L0G 1B0 Canada)

Some time ago (Vol. 15, No. 3) I read an article in FARM SHOW about putting newspapers between rows of sweet corn to keep coons out. The farmer suggested throwing sheets of paper between the rows - no need to crumple them up and the ground doesn't have to be totally covered up. I tried it and this year I didn't have problems with coons or anything else. As a bonus, the paper acted as a mulch to conserve moisture and keep weeds down. How's that for recycling? (Carl L. Davis, Harrod, Ohio)

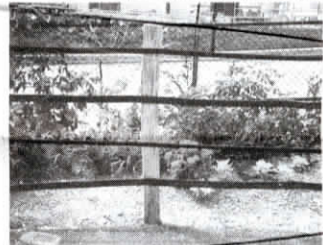


This little rubber scraper, which slips over our skid steer loader bale spear, is for pushing feed up to cows in bunks, which is normally done by hand. It saves waste and also encourages cows to come to the bunk and eat more. Our bale spear, which we build for all skid steers, is a very slender and

strong forged piece of steel. The scraper, made out of heavy-duty tire rubber, slips over the spear for no-hands hookup. Both of these attachments are used in the feeding process so they work well together. The bale spear sells for \$350. The price of the scraper is \$295. Together they sell for \$595. We also sell a variety of rubber tire scrapers for tractor 3-pis. (Don Mensch, Mensch Mfg., 2499 So. Bedford Road, Hastings, Mich. 49058 ph 616 945-5300)



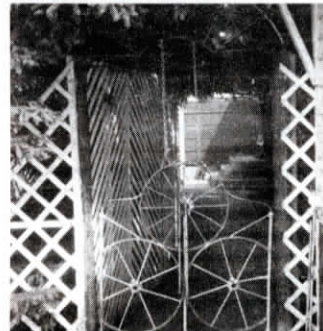
We're excited about our new tire cutting machine that cuts both steel-belted radials and bias ply tires into 2-in. wide strips that make great fencing material. We make a variety of other tire cutting equipment, which has been featured in FARM SHOW, but this is the first time we have built a machine to cut up steel-belted radials. In this area of the country you can get as much as \$2 apiece to



haul old tires away. The cutter, which mounts on the edge of a table, makes one long continuous rubber strip, cutting away the beads. Takes only a minute or so to cut up a tire. Cutting width is adjustable. The 4-in. blade should be sharpened once in a while - you can use a hand-held grinder. We power the cutter with a 1/2-in. drill but you could also fit it with an electric motor.

To make a fence, you nail the strips directly to fenceposts. Tire strip fencing is particularly popular with horse owners because horses aren't as likely to get cut or injured by it. The fence strips are strong - horses can't chew or break through them. Farmers can make good money hiring out to built custom tire strip fences in their spare time.

We sell the new tire cutter for \$1,200. (Ken Winans, Box 1815, Binghamton, N.Y. 13902 (ph 607 722-0054))



We really like this swinging gate that closes itself. It's made out of old steel wheels. The gate is suspended on two chains from half of