

Reader Letters



After your story in the last issue about wind farms, I'm not sure if you're for or against them but I don't think they're as bad as many people think. If they create enough vibration to rattle your windows, your windows are probably loose. My feeling is that wind and solar farms are better than burning petroleum fuels to generate electricity. The Kansas state legislature passed a 3,000-ft. setback from the nearest residence to the nearest turbines, which should solve many problems.

We're currently leasing our property to a wind farm and sure enjoy the extra income. (John Shaw, Fort Scott, Kan.)



I'm 12 years old and I collect 1/64-scale John Deere tractor models. I wanted some farm implements to pull behind them so I started making implements out of toothpicks, popsicle sticks, buttons, and hot glue. I cut the wood pieces with clippers, glue them together, and then paint them with acrylic paints. I've made 19 machines so far including a field disk, square baler, forage harvester, hay wagon and combine. They all hitch to my tractors. I collect mostly antique tractors so I make antique implements. (Eric Scoggins, Boonsboro, Md. ph 218 330-6627; rebecca@scoggins.biz)

We've gotten a lot of interest from FARM SHOW readers about our Accu-Volume electronic sight gauge for spray tanks and our lift kit for R-Series John Deere sprayers (Vol. 43, No. 3). It reinforces what we hear from our customers. There is a real need for these products designed by farmers for farmers. As noted in the article on Accu-Volume, it replaces less-than-accurate float-based systems and traditional sight gauges on the sides of tanks with in-the-cab display. The system can be quickly and easily installed in on practically any tank and used with a wide array of liquids from spray solutions to water and even hydraulic fluid. While we appreciate the exposure, we would like to correct a pricing mistake made by the writer in the article on Accu-Volume. The correct price for it is \$2,900 (U.S.). (Steve Simons, www.simoninnovations.com; ph 855-246-6688; steve@simoninnovations.com)

I keep a 1/4-in. dia. metal rod in the back of my pickup that has a bend at one end. I use it to reach items at the center of the truck box so I don't have to climb into the back of the pickup. The rod is small and tucks out of the way in the corner. I've used it for several years and it's very handy. (Don Boggs, Pickens, S. Car.)



My son, Christian, came up with this idea for watering dogs on hot summer days. He fills a half-gallon jug 80 percent full of water and freezes it. Then he sets the frozen bottle into the dog's dish. It'll keep the water nice and cool for quite a while.

Here's another idea. I just reseeded my lawn after some flooding and a bunch of moles showed up to eat my new grass. You can buy expensive mole poison to get rid of them . . . or just use the method my dad, Luvern Swensen, used back in



his day. Take a silage fork or pitchfork and stab along the mole trails a couple times a day. Both methods work but only one costs you money. Make sure you overlap each stab for maximum results. (Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.)



I'd like to thank you for a great publication. I fly for a living and my father-in-law, Larry Hudson, makes sure my flight bag is always full of great reading material. The picture shows me reading FARM SHOW at 32,000 ft. (Brett Speth; brett.speth@gmail.com)



I'm a mechanical engineering student and was recently getting ready to head off to a summer internship at Deere & Co. That meant I wouldn't get to drive much big equipment over the summer. Fortunately, I had just purchased a 2006 Pontiac Vibe car with a 5-speed manual transmission. So I welded a nut to the bottom of a metal tube and screwed it onto the shift lever. I screwed a bolt into the top end and put the shift knob over it. Even though this car's 1.8L engine with 5-speed transmission isn't quite the same as driving a Series 60 Detroit diesel with a 9-speed Spicer, it will do the trick for the summer. It's fun to drive! (Jake Brewer, Boyne City, Mich.)



After your article in FARM SHOW about using older, small combines instead of buying an expensive new mini combine (Vol. 43, No. 1), I got a call from John Bell who ended up buying my antique Deere 30 combine you featured, plus a Deere FD-A grain drill and a Clipper seed

cleaner with a wide variety of screens, which are hard to find. It took us a while to get all the equipment loaded but we finally did and I was happy to see this equipment go to a good home where it will get a lot of use. (Havah Gordon; havah230@cox.net)



We have a large barn with a bi-fold door. It has always been quite dark inside the barn. We decided to remove part of the metal sheeting which covered the door and replaced it with clear corrugated plastic. Now the sun shines directly through the plastic and we have a well-lit barn using free light. The cost was minor. Of course, we live in California – not sure how this would work in an extremely cold area. (Ron Ziegler, ph 805 344-6400)

I recently came across the picture of an army truck converted to a log skidder over 30 years ago by my shop class at Huntsville High School in Ontario. The original Ford flathead was replaced by a car engine and 3-speed transmission. The students made an adapter shaft



to connect the 3-speed to the truck's 4-speed transmission. To make a center articulation pivot point, the frame was cut and two stub axles from a self-propelled Allis Chalmers combine were used. One was welded vertically to the front half and the other welded horizontally to the back half. It allowed the frame to pivot up and down and articulate for steering. A Cadillac power steering pump was

used to power the steering cylinders. With the two transmissions, there were many speed selections possible out in the woods.

I'm pretty sure this machine is still operating near Sault Saint Marie, Canada. (Sheldon Culham, 234 Mica Mine Rd., Huntsville, Ontario P1H 1R3 Canada)

Thanks for the story in your last issue on my 100-year-old natural stone burr mill. Here's a photo of another Meadows flour mill. This one was built in 1938 and donated to the Lincoln County Historical Society in Lincolnton, Georgia, by a woman whose dad operated the mill from the 1930's until 1966. The mill then sat idle until 2005, when I restored it. Power is provided by an overhauled 32 hp. Farmall engine.



Every year I use this mill to grind corn into flour meal at a local festival. Wayne really enjoy watching it work. (Wayne A. Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy., Lincolnton, Ga. 30817)



When you try to remove lawn mower blades from the deck they rotate, which can be dangerous, especially with a multi-blade deck.

To prevent the blade from moving, I flattened one end of a 12-in. long, 2-in. dia. pipe so that it fits over one end of the blade and against the mower's discharge chute. It keeps the blade from rotating so that the retaining bolt can be safely removed. (Richard Zigler, 1083 Roper North Fork Road, Charles Town, W. Va. 25414 ph 304 283-6799)

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