

# Reader Letters



Thank you for your story on our open-pollinated sweet corn in the last issue. We've had hundreds of orders for packets of seed from across the U.S. and Canada. My son set up the website so we take orders at our website using PayPal (a packet sells for \$18; \$24 Canadian) and all I have to do is send out the packet of 200 seeds. I'm happy to help people try this amazing sweet corn that lets you save seed to replant.

Other FARM SHOW readers with useful products shouldn't be afraid to start selling what they have. My son, John, might even be able to help people set up an online business. (George & John Weller; [www.ctq2.org](http://www.ctq2.org); [retoss@gmail.com](mailto:retoss@gmail.com))



We made our own farm-style croquet set by using tines from an old side-delivery rake to make sturdy, easily moveable hoops. The hoops that come with croquet sets are flimsy and hard to push into the ground. (Tom Gogerty, Madrid, Iowa)

A couple years ago I bought a heated dog watering dish to use for watering chickens in the winter. It's worked out well. (Ralph E. Hills, Wellsville, N.Y.)

If you put a small chunk of 2 by 4 wood under the cover on your propane tank, lifting it up a couple inches, birds will not build a nest in it. Saves buying a cover for the opening. (Willard Fulk, Brownstown, Ill.)



Tired of buying windshield washer fluid for your cars and trucks? I was too, so I bought a gallon of car wash soap and just added a little of it to a gallon of clear tap water. Instant washer fluid! Works good and it's a whole lot cheaper.

I made a pair of pallet forks for my loader bucket but it seems like whenever I want to use them, I can't find them or they're hidden under a snow bank. So

I took some flat iron and old bolts and attached them to the top of the loader bucket. There were already brackets there to fit a grapple fork so I used those to secure the forks. Now I always know where they are. (Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.Dak.)



My son's father-in-law, Dietmar Ranft, lives in Germany and he sharpens his scythe the old fashioned way using a lead hammer. He made a 3-legged stool for the job which has a metal peg that he pounds against. After flattening the edge, he fine tunes it by filing. He says a hammer-sharpened scythe is the quickest and best way to control small patches of weeds around his farm. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)



My brother-in-law bought this rototiller for \$40 but it was a real "arm stretcher" because of the way it would bounce around while tilling. After trying it out myself, I went to my shop and made a "weight box" for the front end. I just kept welding on heavy pieces of steel shafting until I got it to the point where I could walk alongside the tiller and run it with one hand. Smooth and steady. (Jim Lacey, 47582 240<sup>th</sup> St., Dell Rapids, S.Dak. 57022)

You can make a cheap, quick water pistol by poking a hole in the top of a plastic water bottle with an ice pick or drill bit. I sometimes use these to herd chickens. (John McAnear, Freer, Tex.)

FARM SHOW readers who enjoy popcorn might like this idea.

I like buttery popcorn but I don't like to eat too much of the butter they put in microwave popcorn. So I came up with a way to preserve some buttery flavor without eating too much of the stuff they use.

Fold a paper towel and put it on a paper plate. Poke 15 to 20 small holes in the side of the popcorn bag that faces down in the microwave. Set the bag on the paper towel and microwave as usual. As the popcorn cooks, most of the butter will soak into the towel but you can still taste

it on the popcorn. You'll feel good about not eating all that butter and the popcorn will be tasty. (John Ottem, Broomfield, Colo.)



I love your publication. The only issue I have is all the people who want to trap and kill carpenter bees. They are important pollinators of flowers and crops. Instead of trapping them, I built two "Bee Hotels" using a guide I found online. You can easily find it by searching Google for "University of Nebraska Extension Department - Creating A Solitary Bee Hotel". Since I put these up, the bees stopped chewing my wood shed. (Jeff Jackson, Taylors, S.C.)

In your last issue David Walker says he drilled holes in the clogged-up muffler screen on his Echo weed trimmer so the engine exhaust would flow freely again (Vol. 44, No. 3). I think the screen clogged up because the trimmer's engine was using too much oil, or because he wasn't using the oil recommended for that trimmer. Either way, an almost totally blocked screen could overheat the piston and cause the engine to seize. He would be better off using the proper oil and mixing procedures so the screen wouldn't clog up, or just replace the screen. (Dexter Brahn, Iowa ph 641 394-3841)



My homemade hitch adapter lets me quickly convert my tractor's drawbar to a multi-ball hitch. It's designed so the multi-ball hitch slips inside a short length of



tubing, which slides on over the drawbar and is secured by a hitch pin.

I started with a short length of 4-in. square tubing and welded in pieces of 3/4-in. sq. tubing on both sides to serve as spacers. To hook up to something that doesn't require a ball hitch, I just pull out the hitch pin and slide the sleeve off the drawbar. I own a custom fabrication shop and have made a lot of these sleeves for farmers in our area. They really like them. (Dean Beachy, 4118 TR. 162, Sugar creek, Ohio 44681 ph 330 852-1303)



I'm a retired minister who is 87 years old, but I still enjoy converting old Singer sewing machines into Deere toy tractors. My dad always had Deere tractors so my love for them is in my blood.

I've made 56 Deere sewing machine tractors so far and have no problems selling them. It's a great hobby, although it's getting harder to find old sewing machines. (Rev. Harvey Junker, 828 Abbotts Lane, Denton, Texas 76205 ph 940 230-6856)



My wife wanted a pot rack for our home, so I made one out of an antique 12-gauge, single shot shotgun. The shotgun hangs from a pair of chains about a foot below the ceiling, with a half dozen pots suspended from it. (Wayne Clark, 275 West Pines Rd., Afton, Tenn. 37616)

I cut the back pockets off a pair of blue jeans to make handy 'pocket bags'. They work great for storing small tools on my portable air compressor. I cut the pockets out up to the waistline, then placed them back-to-back over the compressor's handlebar and zip tied them onto it. (Cal Miner, Willmar, Minn.)



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