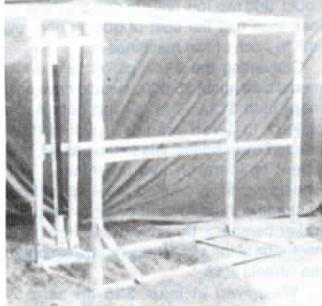


Reader Letters

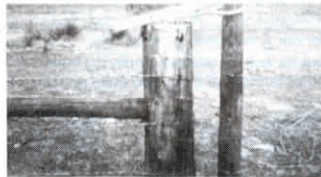


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in place of the aluminum floor. A ratchet at the top of the chute is used to open or close the headgate.

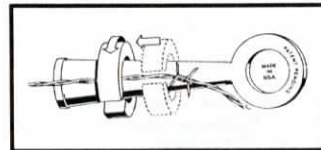
The chute collapses by removing two bolts and pulling the two top bars and sidebars out. Sells for \$945 with floor and \$835 without floor (Canada). (**Doug Sproull, Sproull Custom Fabricating, Box 24024, Penticton, B.C., Canada V2A 8L9 ph 604 493-0369**)

I've been building and improving this gate lock for 45 years. I call it the "Jimlock". It simply lag-bolts to the top of a fence post



and can be easily adjusted as fence gates loosen up over time.

It consists of a lever handle that pivots back and forth on a pivot at the top of a piece of angle iron that bolts to the side of a fencepost. A loop of steel that fits over the top of the gate post is held to the side of the lever handle by a bolt that can be screwed in or out to tighten up the lock. The bolt can also be easily removed and replaced with a longer or shorter bolt as needed. We make two models - one that can be padlocked for \$25 and one that can't for \$20. (**Jim Hutton, Jimlock, 4614 Co. Rd. LL.5, Idalia, Colo. 80735 ph 303 354-7230**)



There's nothing else like our new "Grabber" wire puller on the market. It'll lock onto any wire or cable and handle whatever force you put on it. It consists of a cone-shaped puller with a sliding ring on it. The ring has a 1/2-in. wide slot in it. You slip the wire or cable through the slot, rotate the ring a half turn, and then, as you pull on the unit, the ring locks down on the wire.

I got the idea while watching my grandson play baseball. He had a bat with weight rings on it. I picked up the bat and there was a twig stuck under one of the weights. When I tried to pull it out, the ring locked down on it. The next day I was putting up some

fencing and decided to adapt the idea to pulling wire. I made the first one out of wood and it worked great right away. Now we make them out of tough ductile steel. It's 7 in. long and will pull cable up to 1/2 in. dia. Sells for \$15 (\$3 S&H). (**Barb Clamps, Inc., P.O. Box 375, Sallisaw, Okla. 74955 ph 800 775-0955 or 918 775-6465**)



While traveling back country roads on a recent trip to Ireland, I came across a sight I thought FARM SHOW readers might get a kick out of.

Because most Irish country roads are narrow and winding and farm driveways and barns are cramped, farmers there have come up with a unique system of getting bulk milk to market.

Milk is cooled and stored in the barn in stainless steel bulk tanks much the same as in the U.S. and Canada. The problem is that big milk trucks can't maneuver their way down skinny driveways to pick it up. Instead, farmers transfer milk to portable bulk tanks that they pull behind trucks or tractors out to the main road for pickup. Full-size milk trucks use vacuum to suck milk out of the tanks and record each farmer's production. (**C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.**)

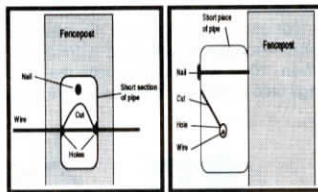


Mounting a 5-ft. long fertilizer hopper on top of a pull-type moldboard plow lets me "bury" up to 100 lbs. per acre of granular fertilizer as I plow. I pull a packer and 5-ft. wide grain drill behind the plow for one-pass plowing, fertilizing, and seeding.

I salvaged the fertilizer hopper from an old 10-ft. grain drill and used a sabre saw to cut the hopper in half, then closed up the open end and bolted the hopper onto an angle iron framework that bolts onto the plow. I welded a sprocket onto one end of the hopper to drive the metering shaft. A ground-driven rubber wheel chain-drives the sprocket when the plow is lowered into the furrow and disengages when the plow is lifted at the end of the field. Fertilizer drops by gravity through tubes, one in front of each moldboard bottom.

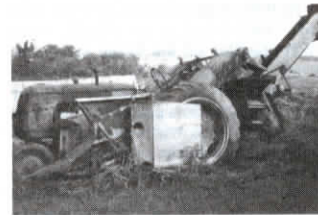
I grow wheat and flax and have used this system for five years. I had been applying fertilizer with my grain drill, but I was worried that placing fertilizer next to the seed could burn it. I thought it would be better to place fertilizer a little deeper so that crop roots could get to it later in the season. However, I haven't noticed any significant difference in yields. One advantage is that plowing under fertilizer eliminates volatilization losses that can occur with broadcast fertilizer. (**Alfred Steinke, Rt. 5, Box 175, Bismarck, N. Dak. 58501 ph 701 223-4732**)

When I first started farming 20 years ago, the only electric fence insulators I could get were the small square ceramic or plastic ones. It seemed like I was always replacing them because the tips would break off. So I



started making my own. I tried different types of material and then came up with this idea and I've used it ever since.

I use 1-in. dia. black plastic pipe, the thick, soft kind. I cut it into 2 1/2-in. long pieces and punch holes with a leather punch in the sides and then cut a slot with a sharp knife. I nail the piece of pipe to the post and then just slip the wire into the slot. It holds tight and they can't break. Some of the first ones I made many years ago are still in use. (**Jake Giesbrecht, Grand Forks, British Columbia, VOH 1H0 Canada ph 604 442-2603**)



In 1964 I mounted a 2-row Ford corn picker on a 1947 Cockshutt tractor. I used it every year - including doing some custom picking - until 1982. I never heard of anyone else making such a conversion. It really worked well. (**Troye Kiefer, 16709 460th St., Zumbrota, Minn. 55992**)



I made a bale-hauling trailer using a house trailer frame. It had wheels and the bare beams - no floor. I put my imagination to work and got the idea of using landscape timbers. I spaced them 2 in. apart the length of the trailer. When I got back to the wheels, I raised the level of the floor up by placing a 3 by 12-in. timber along the sides of the frame and then lag screwed the timbers to it, raising the floor up above the wheels. The front section of the trailer is 7 ft. long and the back section is 11 ft. (**Donald Albright, Rt. 3, Box 445, Perkins, Okla. 74059**)



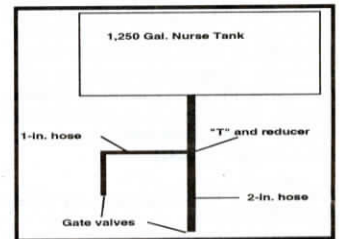
Sometime back FARM SHOW featured the bale trailer I pull behind my pickup and the way I pull a bale onto it with a hand-cranked winch and a special-designed V-hook (Vol. 18, No. 2). The photo you had didn't show it too well so I'm sending along a better one. The winch cable attaches to the hook. I just back the trailer up to the bale and pull the hook out over the bale to the opposite side. Then I crank up the winch to pull the bale up onto the trailer. Requires no hydraulics and it's easy to roll the bale off for feeding. All you do is hook up to the trailer when needed. I made the hook out of steel

My husband Bruce invented an "automatic lunch machine" to feed my horse a mid-day meal of hay when we aren't home. Horses do better having frequent on-time small meals. Also, this horse lives alone so eating a mid-day meal breaks up the time for him.

He used a 12-volt shut-off solenoid from a welder to trip a trap door in the hayloft above the horse. The shut-off solenoid has a plunger which sticks out when not energized and retracts when energized. He positioned the plunger to fit over the end of a weighted arm which has a paddle on it. When the solenoid retracts, the weighted paddle swings and hits another paddle at the bottom of an L-shaped stop which is held by a peg. The L-shaped paddle is attached to a rope that runs through pulleys to the trap door in the hay loft. When the L-shaped paddle is hit by the weighted paddle, it opens the trap door and the hay that we put on top of the door in the morning drops down onto the barn floor.

To power the 12-volt solenoid with 110-volt household current, Bruce used a 12-volt trickle charger that's wired to the solenoid. He simply plugs it into an electric timer that plugs into a 110-volt outlet.

We've used this automatic feeder for over a year with no problems. The only cost to us was for the trickle charger and timer. (**Mrs. Bruce Hatch, 1440 Brownfield Rd., Center Conway, N.H. 03813 ph 603 447-5687**)



Here's a good idea I added to my 1,250-gal. nurse tank for filling spray tanks. I put a "T" in the 2-in. fill hose and a reducer that fits a 1-in. dia. hose. Now, while I fill the spray tank, I can rinse jugs out with a low pressure line. It's also handy for washing your gloves off. The 2-in. fill line was almost impossible to use for rinsing jugs. (**Larry Meyer, Box 291, Morse, Sask. Canada**)

The reason I'm only signing up for a one-year subscription is that I just turned 87. I don't farm any more but I like to keep up on changes made in farming. I started farming myself in 1931. My first corn crop sold for 28 cents a bushel and oats for 84 cents a bushel. But back then you could buy 3 lbs.



reinforcing rod. (**Ed Hammond, Rt. 4, Box 216, Pittsburg, Tex. 75686**)