

Reader Letters



My door protector prevents door damage from wheelchairs and walkers. It consists of two brackets located on the lower part of the door where a wheelchair or walker would come into contact with the door. A bar attaches with plug bolts through the bracket that runs nearly the length of the door. (Rolland Moore, Cumberland, Ohio)



I got tired of looking at my 500 gal. LP tank, so I decided to spruce it up. I purchased a tiger decal and some artificial turf grass from eBay. I put down some mulch and placed the turf in the mulch. I painted the lid and added a deer decal. I take the grass in during the winter months. My tank is much easier to look at now. (Ronald Schupbac, Brodhead, Wisc.)

I am a former Illinois farmer now living in California. I recently read an article about East Coast and Midwest states having the 17-year Cicada hatch this year. Millions of these 2 in. long insects will be flying around.

If a fish growing farmer or a chicken rancher had bushels of these insects for food, would they be willing to pay a price similar to a bushel of corn or soybeans? I think it would be equitable to pay some teenagers or other workers per bushel or per pound for Cicadas.

If a farmer didn't have the cash, they could consider exchanging "in-kind" trading meat for the Cicadas.

Someone might even try digitally

Easy Way To Send Your Ideas

How often do you see an idea when you're out and about and say, "Hey, that should be in FARM SHOW"? Next time that happens, just take out your phone and send us a photo or two. Just text them to us at 952-465-5019. If you want to leave a voice mail explaining what you're sending, this phone is dedicated to FARM SHOW stories so it's on and available 24/7. No need to worry about disturbing anyone. Call or text day or night with your ideas, comments, or suggestions.



recording the thrumming love song of the Cicada and maybe they would come flying into collection nets. I recall reading in FARM SHOW about a fly catcher tent mechanism (Vol. 44, No. 6).

Here at the church where I work, we have battery operated backpack vacuums. They remind me of something from the movie Ghostbusters. You could vacuum up Cicadas right, left and center. (George Hughes, Los Angeles, Calif.)



I call my wife and our neighbor the "garden goddesses" because of the beautiful perennial gardens they create. Since my wife loves watering with rain water, it was my small part to support her passion and reduce the work and distance she has to carry water by creating a raised base for her rain water barrel.

Made from leftover treated wood from an old wood playground system, I built the base to lift the barrel off the ground to make it easy to fill and water from the rain barrel.

(Jim Christian, Lakeville, Minn.)



Last spring, I needed to break up some hard lumps of topsoil in my garden that had been roto-tilled deeply. I didn't have a harrow, but I had an old coil spring mattress. I had nothing to lose so I opened up the bottom of the mattress, exposing the springs. Then I hooked it up to my 18 hp. riding mower with the spring side down. It worked great and cost me nothing. (Don Sizer, Biggar, Sask., Canada)



I beefed up the sides and top edge of my Kubota loader bucket with steel and then attached 3 hooks to the reinforced edge.

It lets me do lifting jobs like the one in the photo where I'm using log tongs to lift a septic tank cover.



Another idea I had that works well is to use expanded metal on trailer decks. Gives good traction when loading a tractor and it helps firewood dry faster if I store it on there. Stringers underneath provide support. If I need a solid surface, I can put plywood over the metal. (John Rochester, Deerfield Beach, Fla.)

I've seen a lot of mailbox alerts but the one I use is simple and costs nothing. I fasten a strip of cloth to the bottom of the mailbox and close the other end of the strip in with the mailbox lid. When the mailman comes and opens the box, the strip comes loose and hangs down from the box. It's easy to see, saving unnecessary trips to the mailbox.



Last year I started buying log lengths of firewood instead of cutting down trees myself, but I often end up with very large chunks that I have to get up onto my splitter. To save my back, I built a crane that attaches to the end of the splitter and uses a 2,500-lb. winch from Harbor Freight, a 12-volt car battery mounted below the splitting table, and some garage door pulleys. I made log tongs in my forge. It works well although; it's not as fast as lifting by hand. My back likes it, though. (Don Bogardus, Sloansville, N.Y.)

This is a simple idea, but others might not have thought of it. I have a lot of heavy air-cooled engines and other car parts - related to my VW hobby - that are too heavy to store on normal shelving.



I couldn't justify the cost of heavy steel racks so instead I placed two landscape timbers side-by-side across two stacks of concrete blocks. Makes a very sturdy rack and there are no fasteners so it's adjustable for storing different-size equipment. (Carl Scheibengraber, ks_ce@msn.com)



I have two burning barrels that tended to blow over in the wind. To anchor them, I used two T-posts and a light chain. The posts go on either side of the barrels and the chain wraps all the way around posts and barrels. Solved the problem. (Dale Fisher, Jackson, Mich.)

To drive T-posts evenly when building a fence, cut a piece of pvc pipe that matches the length of how much post you want extending out of the ground. Put the sleeve over the top of the post so it rests on the spade at the bottom of the post. As you drive the post in, the sleeve will rest on top of the ground. Drive the post in until it's at the same height as the sleeve. Every post will be at the same height. (Harold F. Torneden, Lawrence, Kan.)

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