

Reader Letters



A few years ago I bought this home-built flowerpot hanger at an auction and placed it in my yard. I don't know who made it, but it's quite unique and pretty. The four curved steel teeth are off an old 2-wheeled, horsedrawn dump hay rake and still have the original attachment ring. The teeth are welded to an 8-ft. metal post anchored about 2 ft. in the ground. **(Preston Williams, Victoria, Va. ph 434 321-3375)**

My father was primarily a dairy farmer, but about one third of our income came from the sale of fruit, vegetables, berries and honey. We operated a 4-acre truck garden and had about 5 acres of fruit trees. We also had about 10 boxes of honey bees.

To control insects, dad would fill a large galvanized bathtub about 3/4 full of water and then lightly coat the surface of the water with used motor oil. Then at night he would hang a 100-watt light about 6 in. above the water. He would turn the light on at about 10 p.m., and it was the only light left on.

The first night the light was on, in early June, the water would be covered 2 to 3 in. deep with insects. But by the end of the week there was only a thin layer of dead insects. He also used this technique in the spring when the fruit trees were in bloom. We never used insecticides on our fruit trees, yet the fruit was nearly always free of insect damage. We did use a limited amount of chemicals in our vegetable gardens. **(John Edgar Smith, Wheeling, W. Va.)**

In the Vol. 44, No. 2 issue of FARM SHOW, you showed a picture of a guy on his roof using a backpack blower to clean out his gutters. You do not want to encourage people to go up on their roofs without protective equipment. There are "elbow" type attachments for blowers that can be used from the ground which are far less hazardous. In

addition, "gutter guard" technologies which keep leaves out of gutters have come a long way and will completely eliminate the problem of clogged gutters. **(Matt Lechner, Licensed Home Improvement Contractor, OSHA-certified for competency in Scaffolding and Ladder Safety)**

It's difficult to make a good corner brace when fencing over rocky ground. My son Michael Thomas does custom fencing in eastern Idaho and often makes above ground rock cages to create strong braces.

He makes a wire cage 3 to 4 ft. in dia. and about 5 ft. high, then fills it with rocks. Or he wraps strands of wire around a pile of rocks. The bigger the rocks, the less wire it will take. **(Heather Thomas, Salmon, Idaho)**



My wife has a bad knee so I raised our appliances and some of the furniture onto wood blocks to make it easier for her to do laundry. Works great. **(John Rochester, Deerfield, Fla.)**



I'm an old-timer at 85 years old. I love seeing all the ideas your readers come up with so thought I'd share the 4 by 8-ft. scaffold I made to mount on my 1650 Oliver. It attaches easily with 2 bolts to my 8-ft. snow bucket. Made out of metal pipe, there are 3 different levels to work at. It's especially convenient for painting, shingling, cleaning gutters, trimming trees, or reaching the top of my flagpole. **(Roy Harnden, Jackson, Minn.)**

Over my lifetime I've accumulated literally thousands of bug bites and stings. I'm fair-skinned which seems to be quite attractive to all kinds of pests. I've grown so sensitive to bites that I have to carry an epi pen with me at all times to stop allergic reactions.

Recently I got to thinking that we use diatomaceous earth to cure parasite worms in horses and to kill all kinds of pests around the perimeter of homes and gardens. So I loaded up an old foot powder bottle and lightly sprinkled the insides of my work clothes. Up until the day I tried this a couple months ago, I'd already had a number of tick bites while cutting firewood. Since treating my clothes with diatomaceous earth I haven't had a single bite. People ask me if it's safe and I say ask your doctor.

But I can't imagine it's any more harmful than all the other dirt I get into. **(Dave Nicholas, Martinsville, Ohio)**

I wrote a "best buy" report for Mo-Deck mower spray that you published in the last issue. Since then I've received non-stop calls and emails from people looking to buy it. But I don't sell it. I just use it. If anyone wants to buy some you can get it at Amazon.com and other outlets. It's works unbelievably well to prevent grass from sticking to the bottom of mower decks. **(Al Cavasin, Condord, Mich.)**



If you have a top-heavy post pounder, hang it from a tripod like this. Then all you have to do is to back your tractor under it and sling it into place to attach to your tractor. Much easier than tying the post pounder to a post or a tree. This is so handy I also set one up for my roto-tiller. **(Bert Eberding, Quesnel, B.C.)**

I read with interest the story in the last issue of FARM SHOW about the guy who uses old electric power poles to build raised-bed gardens. I also have raised bed gardens and know how great they are because you don't have to bend over to work on them. However, I wanted to point out that those old power poles are probably treated with pentachlorophenol. That's a deadly poison. The solution is to line the poles with 4 mil plastic. I made my raised beds out of corrugated metal held in place with aircraft cable. **(Quincy OrHai, Bozeman, Mont.)**

If you have a calf that's born dead, just drag it over the back of an orphan calf a couple times and then let the cow smell it. I've found this works most of the time to get them to bond. **(Warren Grant, Ft. Gaines, Ga.)**



Sometime back FARM SHOW had a story about a guy who welded a hook to

his loader bucket for attaching chains. We welded 4 hooks across the top of our bucket and one on each side toward the rear so they're out of the way when digging. The multiple hooks have been very handy, for all kinds of jobs. **(Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.)**

A number of years ago we installed a turntable from a junked recliner chair to hold the seat in our Deere 4030 tractor. At the time I was pulling a road maintainer and really appreciated how easy that made it to turn backwards. **(Les Adelman, Rice, Minn.)**



The plastic wheels on kids' battery-powered vehicles have little traction. We cut treads from old mower tires and attached them to the rear plastic tires with deck screws. We also replaced the batteries with an adaptor for Milwaukee 18-volt tool batteries for great power output and quick battery swap out. The combination of better traction and more power really lets kids scoot around. **(Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.)**

I noted with interest the gadget in your last issue that puts air pressure on a swollen ring finger to make it easy to remove a ring that's stuck. I just wanted to tell readers not to go to all the trouble of buying something. You can just use dental floss. Slip one end of a long piece of floss under your ring and then wrap the rest of the floss tightly around your finger. Once it's wrapped, pull on the other end that goes under the ring and it'll pop right off. You can see how it works at YouTube.com. Just search "How to remove a ring from a swollen finger with dental floss." **(Jim Powers, Yuma, Ariz.)**



My grandpa is an avid subscriber to FARM SHOW and he has a lot of great ideas himself. One is a sunshade he made for his zero-turn mower. Instead of paying a pretty penny for a canvas umbrella, he found some metal in the junk pile. The shade works great in the sun and protects from rain or hail. You just have to watch out for the trees. **(Charles Dermott, Liberal, Mo.)**

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.



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