

tractors. I've been rolling an idea around in my head for years and wondered what your readers think about it.

With all the John Deere collectors and buffs in this country, and around the world, I think Deere & Co. could make a lot of money by producing an authentic working model of an old "A" or "D" tractor. It would be great to have a production model that's accurate in every detail - from the horizontal hand-start engine to the gearbox. To keep costs down, they could make it a scale model the size of a large garden tractor - 1/2 scale or so.

I'm sure Deere & Co. executives read FARM SHOW so maybe someone will check out the idea. If any of your readers think it's a good idea, they should contact the company and let them know. (Ralph V. Eberly, 619 Green Spring Rd., York, Penn. 17404)



I made this steel fencepost puller out of scrap metal. It's a claw that's open on one side to slip around the post. It's connected to a short piece of chain that hooks to a front-end loader. It never slips or unhooks once it's in place and yet is easy to put on and take off. Works better than anything else I've seen. (Edwin Bredeheier, Rt. 1 #13, Steinauer, Neb. 68441)

Every year for the past 6 years, my wife's garden got hauled out. Three years in a row it was totally destroyed. I finally welded sucker rod pipe together to form a large frame over the garden and covered it with 1/4-in. "hail screen" on the top and sides. She now has expectations of making an excellent crop in 1994 with no worries about the weather. (John & Lovina Maxwell, Rt. 2, Box 104, Atwood, Kan. 67730 ph 913 626-3353)

I wish we could get a FARM SHOW every week. It's a great magazine and other Dutch farmers I've shown it to enjoy it, too. Because of a long-term illness, I spend much of my time inside my home and always like reading about farm machinery. I'm collecting photographs of combines and it would be great to have photos of American and Canadian combines in my collection. I'd appreciate it if any FARM SHOW readers could send me photos of combines. It's not important what type or what manufacturer, or if they're standard or converted machines. I'm also interested in combines from other parts of the world - Russia, Australia, etc. I would appreciate any information you could send. (Martin van Doorn, Ireneplein 3, 3212 LK Simonsaven, The Netherlands)

It took me 40 years to discover that I could wash sand in my cement mixer and save the cost of having it commercially washed. I use the sand to make cement blocks. I prefer to use clean sand because it makes much stronger blocks.

Washing sand in my cement mixer doesn't cost anything. I shovel sand into the rotating mixer while a hose runs water into it. As soon as the water coming out of the mixer begins to run clean, I dump the sand and water out onto the ground, then set the mixer upright and repeat the process several times until I have enough washed sand for my needs. Another advantage is that when I'm done using the mixer to make concrete I can wash more sand in it to clean out the mixer. (Richard Guy, Bethune, Colo. 80805 ph 719 346-7451).

Our new forklift bag mover cuts loading time in half and also eliminates the need for pallets. It's equipped with three hydraulically-driven, 10-in. wide rotating belts that load bags onto a platform. You slowly drive up to



a pallet or stack of bags and 'walk' the belts under the bags. To unload the bags, you flip a switch to reverse the belts. It works great for loading or unloading seed bags, mini bulk bags, even sod or hay bales, etc.

The belts rotate around a 3-in. dia. shaft that's chain-driven by a hydraulic motor which operates off the forklift hydraulics. Mounting the bag mover on the forklift takes only about 10 min. You simply slide the forklift's prongs into a pair of channel irons and fasten them on with four bolts, then hook up the hydraulic hoses. It takes only about 30 seconds to pick up 15 bags so you can transfer 500 to 600 bags per hour. We make a 15-bag model that sells for \$6,200 and a 30-bag model that sells for \$7,500. (Duayne Leys, Ken's Custom Mfg. Ltd., Box 211, Elrose, Sask., Canada S0L 0Z0 ph 306 378-4090)

The Northern Indiana "Power From The Past" group held its 17th annual show in July near Winamac, Ind. and it was a tremendous success. We had 5 steam engines, 4 scale model steam engines, a scale model steam train, 250 tractors, 400 engines, and a variety of cars, trucks and other equipment. The main show feature was more than 160 international tractors and other "red" engines and equipment. A second show feature was on hog oilers. We had an amazing array of more than 175 oilers, many of which were very unusual.

Throughout each of four days there were a number of working demonstrations. In addition to a saw mill and threshing machine, there was an antique baler, shingle mill, flour mill, edger, baker fan, blacksmith, corn shredder, and corn sheller. We also had music and a kiddie tractor pull for children, as well as a wheat weaving demonstration and other activities for women. There was also a flea market and a demonstration by the "Illinois Regiment of Virginia" dressed up in authentic costumes of the 1778 era.

Next year's show will be held July 13-16. (Clyde Berkshire, P.O. Box 237, Royal Center, Ind. 46978)

My "best buy" is FARM SHOW magazine and your "Encyclopedia of Best Ideas Born In Farm Workshops". I can't count the number of ideas I've gotten on how to build or modify equipment. I sometimes wonder how I got along without FARM SHOW. (Lloyd Weber, 909 N. 1st St., Fairfield, Ill. 62837)

A long time before there were remote controls to do it, I made an automatic electric shutoff for my Allis-Chalmers W.D. tractor.

I used a 65 ft. piece of double-wrapped insulated housewire. I wired one end to a light switch mounted on a piece of wood I could carry with me. I wound most of the wire around a spool I had laying around and wired the remaining free end of the wire into the ignition coil of my W.D. By flipping the light switch off you could shut the tractor off from a distance of up to 65 ft. or however long a wire you used. That came in handy when filling corn cribs with a pto-powered elevator. We could take the control into the crib with us and shut off the elevator when

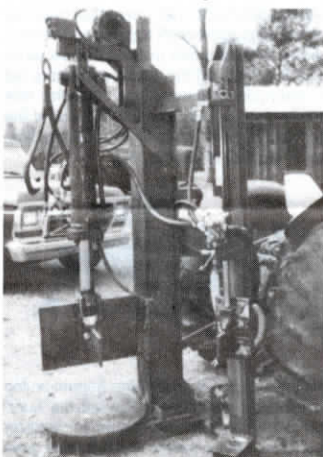
the crib got full.

The control was really handy and we used it for a long time. It'd probably still be useful if you use older gasoline tractors to run elevators or augers. (Jack R. Uhlman, R.R. 2, Box 96, Adair, Iowa 50002 ph 515 742 3650).

As a new subscriber to your magazine, I received a copy of your FARM SHOW Encyclopedia of Best Ideas Born In Farm Workshops and I've hardly put it down since. It's great. I want a friend of mine to have a look at it but I won't part with mine. No way. So, I'm subscribing for him and I can't wait till he gets it. He'll enjoy it as much as I do. (S.F. Squires, 6023 Berger Rd., Schulenburg, Tex. 78956)

I couldn't have got a better present for my 60th birthday than FARM SHOW's Best Ideas Born In Farm Workshops book. It's a superb piece of work. I think an ag company with deep pockets ought to finance a program to give every school with an ag program one of these books. It would be a great investment for them. Again, thanks for getting this to me on my birthday. It's the best buy I've made in a long time. (Dr. R.D. Laime, Rt. 3, Box 3528, Naples, Tex. 75568)

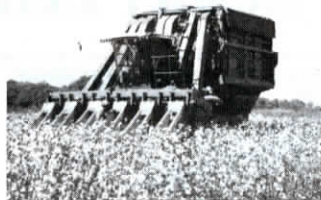
This is the easiest-to-use wood-splitting set up I've ever used. It mounts on a tractor 3-pt. hitch so I can drive to the woods with two vertically-mounted splitters. One's big, powered by a 4-in. cylinder, and the other is smaller with a fast-acting 2 1/2 in. dia.



cylinder. What's more, I mounted a hydraulic-powered cable winch fitted with a pair of log tongs on top of the big splitter mast so I can drag big chunks of wood onto the splitting table without any lifting.

The big splitter has a 4-way blade and a rotary turntable. It lets me cut up big chunks into smaller pieces that I can then cut up even smaller with the smaller splitter. Both splitters and the winch are powered by a pto-driven hydraulic pump. The splitters mount on I-beam masts. The splitting wedges are fitted to brackets that slide up and down one side of each beam. This set up lets me drive right up to the tree and cut the wood up into any size I want. I built everything in my shop. (Clyde E. Williams, Rt. 1, Box 199, Leakesville, Miss. 39451 ph 601 989-2426)

We converted a 4-row Deere 9960 cotton picker to six rows and used it to harvest 2,000 acres last year with no problems. We raise cotton on a 10-and-1 skip-row pattern and had been using two 4-row pickers and one 2-row picker. Converting one of the 4-row pickers to 6 rows eliminated the need for the 2-row picker and allows me to continue farming on the same skip-row pattern. I originally planned to convert both 4-row pickers to 5-row models. I bought two used in-line picking headers for \$10,000 apiece - half the cost of new ones. But while studying what it would take to convert the



4-row pickers to 5-row models, I found I could add two row units to one machine for less than half the cost of adding one row unit to each of two machines.

Converting the 4-row picker to a 6-row model cost about \$5,000. It would have cost more than \$12,000 to convert both 4-row pickers to 5-row models. I would have needed extra hoses, lifts to the basket, and wheel spacers on two machines. The wheels would've needed to be spread out to straddle three rows in order to keep the picker centered. By adding one header to each side of the picker I didn't have to spread the wheels at all.

We saved at least \$30 an acre by switching to a 6-row picker. We've seen no increase in fuel cost for the 6-row picker over what it costs to run the 4-row machine and we're able to eliminate the expense of an operator for the 2-row machine. We knocked the plates out of two conventional header-hose openings in the fan housing so we could run hoses to the extra row units. We also added an extra steel duct from each add-on header to the basket. One side of the header would have run in the wrong direction so we reversed one of the two gear drives so it would go in the right direction. (Richard Bearden, Box 229, Isola, Miss. 38754 ph 601 962-2671)

I got tired of lifting heavy loading ramps so I designed and built an add-on hydraulic "tail" for our gooseneck flatbed trailer. It worked out so well we started modifying trailers for other farmers and we also build gooseneck



flatbeds from the ground up. I used an existing trailer, cutting off the dovetail and ramps and fitting it with a hinge, cylinder pivot points, and hoses. The tail locks in place when it's up so weight is not carried on the hydraulic cylinders in transport.

We can modify most any flatbed if the axles and frame are strong enough. Parts cost for my original conversion was about \$3,000 including pto and pump for the truck, 3 hydraulic cylinders, valve body, steel, hydraulic hoses, lights, etc. I also fitted the trailer with a hydraulic motor that cranks the jack stand up and down, as well as a hydraulic winch. (Larry J. Boening, Boening Agri-Services Company, Rt. 2, Box 239, Floresville, Texas 78114-9483 ph 201 393-4224 or 3880)

This lightweight aluminum cattle chute weighs only 145 lbs. and folds down to 12 in. high for quick and easy transport. It's great for grooming show cattle on the road or for working cattle in remote areas.

The 7-ft. long, 34-in. wide, 6-ft. 4-in. high chute is made from sq. steel tubing and can be equipped with an optional aluminum checkerboard floor. The floor is laid on cross members at the bottom of the chute, with the animal's weight holding the floor in place. An inexpensive plywood sheet can be used

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