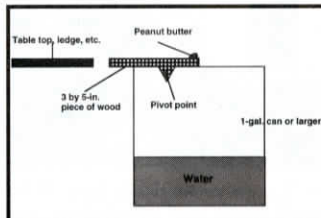


# Reader Letters



Here's a handy trap I use to catch mice. It consists of a 1 gal. or larger can with a few inches of water in the bottom. Then I make a pivoting platform out of a 3 by 5 in. piece of wood. It pivots up and down like a teeter totter. One end rests on the edge of the can. The other hangs out over the water. I put a dab of peanut butter on the end of the platform. You make a hole in either side of the can and run a piece of galvanized wire through the pivot point on the platform and through the holes in the sides of the can. The pivot point must be closer to the end of the platform that hangs over the water so the trap will reset itself after the mouse or rat falls off. I set the trap near the edge of a table or ledge along a building. Anywhere mice run. It works great for rats, too, but you should make the trap dimensions bigger for them. **(Harold Kaple, 251 Parish Rd., Selah, Wash. 98942)**

It doesn't take a lot of money to make a bale hauling trailer. We built this one for a



total cost of \$142, plus our labor. It'll haul 3 big round bales, or 8 smaller round bales with four on each side. It consists of an axle from an old Ford combine that we fitted with smaller 14-in. rims. We bought the steel frame at an auction for \$17. We fished some railroad ties out of the river during high water in the spring and sawed our own 6 by 6 stringers and 2 by 6 boards for the deck at our sawmill. Deck boards are spaced 1 1/2 in. apart. We bolted a 2 by 4 along each edge to tip the bales slightly inward as we have hilly land. A pair of 3 by 3-in. end stakes with two 2 by 6 boards keep bales from rolling off the back. The trailer bed is 18 ft. long, 8 ft. wide. **(Grau Brothers, P.O. Box 251, Brownsville, MN 55919)**

I plant tomatoes in old tires in the spring. It lets me plant tomatoes 2 to 3 weeks early. I use 15-in. tires, cutting holes in the bottom to let water out. If you have lots of slugs, you can cut out almost all of the bottom. If there's an early frost in the fall, I put a 14-in. tire over the 15 in. one, and cut out most of the sides to let light and air in, and then I can cover the tires with a piece of carpet at night to protect the plants.

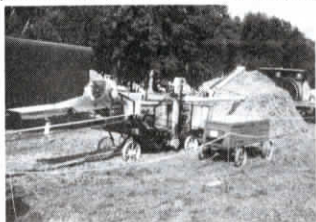
I also use 14-in. tires to store garden hoses. I cut holes in the bottom to let water out. Makes it easy to store hoses, and takes up less room. **(L.P. Lingrell, Stettler, Alberta, Canada)**

In regard to the article in the last issue of FARM SHOW entitled "Manure Not Best For Crops?", I think it behooves you to do a bit more research before making the blan-

ket statement that manure does not do as good a job fertilizing as mineral fertilizers. Both Amish and Mennonite horse farmers only use manure and they produce excellent crops without any type of commercial fertilizer and few chemicals. Maybe you should investigate what they're doing. **(Mike Mikel, Bynum, Texas)**

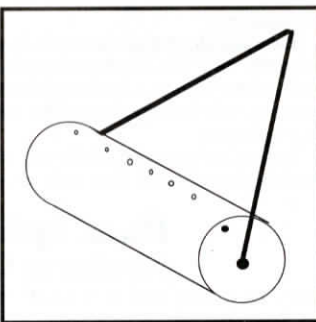
I was surprised to see a gross error in your "Editor's Notebook" column last issue under the heading "Worth Repeating". While the item on steam locomotives may have had some philosophical value, the reference to steam power provided by a locomotive boiler was not factual. I'm afraid that a boiler with water heated to 212° would not provide enough steam to blow the whistle, much less to pull itself, and certainly would never pull a train load of cars a mile long.

To develop steam pressure to drive a locomotive, water must be heated far above 212°. I got the following facts from a book called "Thurston's Manual of the Steam Boiler". To create 20 lbs. of steam pressure, you must heat water to 227.9°F. To create



as much as 165 lbs. pressure, water must reach 365.7°F. The author of the piece you ran was listed as "Anonymous". I guess if I had written it, I would have wanted to stay anonymous, too.

I'm sending along a photo of a mini McCormick Deering thresher that I built from scratch and now take to various shows in Wisconsin and Minnesota. It does a fine job of threshing grain. It loads grain out into a mini wagon. **(Jim Gutenberger, W374 Cty Hwy M, Colby, Wis. 54421)**



I made a "weed roller" to kill weeds without using a sprayer. It rolls 2-4D directly onto dandelions and other weeds. I simply covered a 30-gal. barrel with nylon carpet. I punched a single row of 1/8-in. dia. holes on the top side in line with the filler cap on one end. I pull the roller with a garden tractor. I park it with the holes and filler cap on top. **(Lloyd Twite, Box 52, Carpio, N.Dak. 58725)**

I've perfected a tree and stump eliminator that works better and simpler than anything on the market. It slices off trees and stumps as fast as you can drive over them. We have found it to be especially helpful to cut out red cedar trees that are taking over our pastures. It'll also work on musk thistles that are 18 in. tall or taller.

The unit consists of an upside down U-



When I was looking at brush choppers several years ago, I noticed they all chopped with rotating knives. I had an old Viking hammermill I chopped corn with when I had cattle. Since it also used rotating knives, I decided to try it for chopping brush. I removed the dust collector and the screen, then very carefully tried a little brush. It worked great. So right away I added some features to help insure my safety when

chopping brush with it. For example, I installed a swinging door in front of the knives to prevent material from flying back and a longer apron so there's a total distance of 48 in. from the outer edge to the knives. I turn the vertical discharge pipe so it blows chipped brush downwind. I've used the old hammermill for four years to chop brush without any trouble. **(Dr. H.E. Meyer, Rt. 2, Box 31, LeCenter, Minn. 56057)**



on my Bryan outside wood-burning furnace in a recent issue. My complaint was that the company would not stand behind claims they made when they sold it to me. After your report, I received calls from two different Bryan Furnace representatives, both wanting to help. I'd like to thank them for calling and for the seal for my furnace door which they provided. But most of all, I thank all of the FARM SHOW staff for a wonderful magazine. I read it from cover to cover. **(Alberta J. Savage, Kellogg, Iowa)**

The "Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts" section of the most recent issue of FARM SHOW included a report on repair of a "harmonic balancer" for a tractor engine. The outer portion had moved rearward to where it wore a hole in the engine gear cover. The farmer involved reported fastening the outer ring of the vibration damper to the hub to prevent recurrence of the axial movement.

The so-called harmonic balancer is a torsional vibration damper which serves the purpose of reducing crankshaft vibrations to a safe level. The rubber ring between the vibration damper hub and the outer ring of the damper is an essential element in controlling torsional vibrations. When the outer ring is rigidly fastened to the hub, as reported in this case, the vibration damper is converted into a small flywheel. This fix may lead to a broken crankshaft with a much greater replacement cost than that of the vibration damper.

An engine vibration damper (harmonic balancer) is provided to protect the crankshaft from excessive vibratory stresses and should never be altered. **(R. Bruce Hopkins, professional engineer, 2524 Timber Dr., Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613)**

I've been a subscriber for three years and I make your magazine the first thing I read each time it arrives. Surprised that a lawyer gets such a kick out of your publication? Don't be. I'm the only lawyer I know who owns his own valve grinder. The only way I feel I can adequately represent my farm clients is to get involved in the process from their point of view. That's where FARM SHOW comes in. I've been a member of the American Society of Ag Engineers for years and I read their literature in detail and attend some meetings in order to get the theoretical end of farming. But to understand farming's practical side, I get more out of each issue of FARM SHOW than I will from another 10 years in ASAE. I don't

shaped frame that mounts on a tractor 3-pt. A heavy blade mounts between the bottom legs. It can be raised and lowered by the 3-pt. hitch and will cut off stumps at ground level.

I'm planning on manufacturing the unit for sale and encourage any interested readers to contact me. **(Edwin Bredemeier, Rt. 1, Steinauer, Neb. 68441)**

In your last issue, you carried a story about a blower applicator for preservative for hay. I wanted to let you know I bought a unit just like this one from a farmer dealer in Iowa 12 years ago. I know I wasn't the only one to buy a unit like that. We used it to bale wet hay - 65 percent moisture - in small round bales. We put the bales in Ag-Bag sacks. **(Duane Brant, Glidden, Iowa)**

I've subscribed to FARM SHOW for a long time and would miss it if I didn't have it. Eight or nine years ago I got into tire recycling in my spare time after reading a story on Ken Winans in Binghamton, N.Y. I bought plans to build my own machine and then went down to see Ken several times. He was helpful in getting me started making my own doormats using his system. Unfortunately, Ken died earlier this year (the business is now called Winans-Sadecki, Inc., 1035 Owego Rd., Candor, N.Y. 13743 ph 607 659-7016).

I started out with tire strip door mats and added the tire play horse (made out of a single tire), a swan planter, and a large planter. I sell them at craft shows, fairs, etc. I get a lot of special orders for mats, including some up to 10 ft. long and 4 ft. wide. **(Richard Weirmeir, Rt. 3, Elmwood, Ontario N0G 1S0 Canada ph 519 363-3535)**

I want to update you on what's happened since you published a "worst buy" report