

Reader Letters



I got tired of having to unhook the blade behind my tractor whenever I wanted to tow a wagon. So, I welded a 2-in. receiver hitch to the top of the blade and now I just insert a ball hitch or flat hitch into the sleeve when I need to pull something. (Bill Stowe, Essex, Ontario)



I picked up this arbor press for a song. I made a plate for it and used a 1-in. drill to make a small seat for black walnuts and other nuts. Then I use the press to crack them. Wow! Really makes it easy. (David Simpler, davidsimpler@yahoo.com)

We had a rat problem in our feed storage house. To keep them from chewing through the wood to get in, we nailed hardware cloth screening to the floor and walls of the building. It worked great. (William C. Vance, Greenwood, Miss.)

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.



Don't throw away old window weights. If you tie pairs of them together with a nylon cord between them, they are good for holding down covers over equipment. You can get all you want from roofing companies, especially if you go to job sites to pick it up. My window weights make it easy to wrap them around equipment and hold them in place. (Gary Meeks, Verona, Va.)



My son Dan took advantage of his garden's slope to irrigate some early plantings when it's dry. He just digs a ditch alongside the row and the water flows down. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)



I make corner posts using three T-posts and U-bolts. I drive the braces into the ground and attach the tops to the corner post with either two smaller U-bolts or one big one. If the ground is really soft, I dig a 6-in. dia. hole around the brace postholes and surround with concrete. Really gets the job done. (Jack Griffith, Venus, Texas)



I have a trick for opening those flimsy produce bags in grocery stores without having to lick your fingers. I converted a small spray hand sanitizer into a finger wetter by filling it with water. I just spray it on my fingers to easily open the bags. That's a lot more sanitary than licking my fingers! (Tony Bunniss, Webster, Minn.; glennlee1964@gofast.am).

The quality of Chinese-made tools and electronic devices is poor, but the local farm and auto stores still sell them. In our area of Iowa, there are no good, high-quality, American-made tools available. I've been stung many times and when I try to recover the money lost on worthless pieces of equipment, it's a dead end. The

stores won't refund, although if you ask nicely, they might replace the tool with another one made in China. In my mind, this situation devalues our dollars and is a detriment to working citizens. (Howard Ashlock, Center Point, Iowa)

I've been a longtime subscriber to FARM SHOW, and I love it. I'm looking for the first five years of issues. If anyone has them, please let me know. (Sylvester Zurn, PO Box 204, Carrington, N.D. 58421)

I've been using old golf clubs in my garden for some time to mark rows or to protect plants when dragging hoses through the garden to water plants.

You can pick up old golf clubs for next to nothing at yard sales or stores like Goodwill or the Salvation Army. I cut the club heads off so they're easy to push into the ground and easy to pull out, thanks to the rubber grips. No more odds and ends of wood. (Ken Skow, Lewiston, Mich.)



I drove by a nearby church recently and noticed their parade float, which was made out of a rebuilt manure spreader, with no attempt to hide what the machine was built for. They really figured out how to get their message out! (Dan Barrett, Athens, Penn.)

We space our garlic 6-in. apart and have found an easy way to get the correct spacing. Our raised beds are 4 ft. wide, so I place a 4 by 8-ft. piece of concrete reinforcing wire on the bed, giving us a grid to plant by. Works great.

If you have 2-in. wood slat window blinds, don't throw them away when they stop working. Saw them up into various lengths to use as reusable plant markers in the garden. Very handy. (Bill Ridgway, Salem, Ind.)



This old 3-speed bike is from the early 1940's. I rode it 2 miles to school and at some point, installed a washing machine engine on it to herd cows. After being stored in the shed for many years, I took it out and installed a 2 hp. Briggs & Stratton engine on it for my grandson to ride. The rear tire is still original. (H.E. Nielsen, Melfort, Sask.)



After searching all over my shop for a missing mouse trap, I got the idea of screwing traps to short planks. Now I can set four traps at a time and the mice can't drag the trap away. Works great. (Ralph Volkman, Black Creek, Wis.)



I made a canopy to fit my Deere 1023 garden tractor using the top of an old combine cab. I bought metal to make the mounting brackets and carefully welded them to just the right angle so the top would be level. It took a while to get it right but now I'm mowing in the shade all the time. (Jack Suits, 250 N Jefferson St., Wabash, Ind. 46992; ph 812-216-0840)

I'm trying to get help from the farm community to build an e-bike specifically for moving farm equipment.

I want to be able to take equipment to the field with an e-bike on the catwalk or jumpseat and ride it back to get the next piece of equipment without having to get a ride. None of the e-bikes I've tested so far fit what I'm looking for.

I'm asking for help to build a new e-bike specifically for moving equipment. Whether that's through skills blueprinting and designing, building a prototype, chipping in to finance the project, or simply giving me some ideas and moral support.

My website will be updated to clearly state this goal, and have contact info such as email, as well as the full story.

Any way that you see best to spread this message, and get me the help I need to reach my goal would be most appreciated. (John Jamison, Dickerson, Md.; equipmentbikes@gmail.com; www.equipmentbikes.com)



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