

Reader Shares Shop Ideas

Vern Desotell of Clarissa, Minn., says, "I've been a FARM SHOW reader for nearly 30 years. If I can't sleep, I read old stories over and over again. I like the handy hints that people send in because they are such good ideas. I wanted to share some things I've built that might be helpful to other readers."



TIP-UP SHOP DOOR

"I made a 14 by 18-ft. tip-up steel shop door out of miscellaneous parts. The lift cylinders are from an old IH tractor and for the power unit, I used an electric motor that runs at 1,275 rpm's. That was too fast, so I geared it down with the head from an old barn cleaner. That slows it down three times. I made three door hinges from the pivot points on a moldboard plow. They're really strong and work very well. The door raises in about 15 seconds, which is plenty fast."



FIXED MY SKIL SAW

"The motor on my Skil saw burned out and a new one would have been way too expensive, so I came up with another idea. I emptied the motor casing and cut a slot in the outside and put a different electric motor on that runs the belt to my scroll saw."



BOILER SMOKE VENT

"I came up with a special vent to keep smoke from billowing in my face every time I opened up my wood burner to add wood. I bolted a U-shaped tunnel to the side of the building. It's probably 3 to 4 ft. long, so it's above the roof. I mounted an electric fan on top of the tunnel and connected power to the light switch, so when I flip on the light, the fan starts running and sucks the smoke away from my face."



STORAGE SHED

"I built a 14 ft. wide by 16 ft. long by 7 ft. tall storage shed using a large metal door frame that I got from a local care center that was being remodeled. I welded the pieces together and used 2 by 4 studs and 16 penny nails through the door frames. The roof and side walls are steel, and I put salvaged windows in for light. It was flimsy before I added the side walls, but now it's real sturdy and it's a nice little building."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vern Desotell, 39825 225th Ave., Clarissa, Minn. 56440.

3-Pt. Boom Added To Sawmill

"Sometimes, when positioning logs on my sawmill, I need a way to lift and orient the logs. So, I decided to adapt my 3-pt. boom with a come-along to the frame of the mill," says Mark Yax, Solon, Ohio.

"I made some brackets that hold the boom's 7/8-in. dia. pins and these straddle the mill's bunk, which is made of 2 by 2 steel tubing. Where the top link would normally connect, I made a bracket using a chain hook that lets me easily adjust the lifting angle of the boom.

"I simply attach the come-along to the end of the boom, which can easily be flipped over out of the way when not needed. It comes off easily if needed back on my tractor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Yax, Valmark Tool and Machine, Solon, Ohio 44139 (valmarktool@aol.com).



Come along attaches to 3-pt. boom to move logs onto sawmill.

Simple Solutions For On-Farm Problems

Dan Erdman pulls fence posts fast and easy, dropping them in line, and he doesn't leave the tractor seat. It's just one of several simple solutions to problems around the farm and garden that he shared recently with FARM SHOW.



Post Lifter

"I hang a steel plate with a hole in it on my loader," says Erdman. "When I drive forward, I aim the hole at the top of the post and drop the loader, so the plate settles over the post. When I lift the loader, the plate grabs the post and pops it out of the ground. When I lower the loader and drive ahead, the post slides out of the hole."

Erdman cut a 9-in. dia. hole out of a 14 by 18-in., 3/4-in. steel plate. The hole is offset to the top half of the plate. He welded end links from two chains to the top of the plate. Grab hooks at the other end of the chains attach quickly to the loader. He recommends using at least Grade 70 steel chain.

"I tried 5/8-in. steel plate, but it bent under the load," says Erdman. "It's fast. A neighbor borrowed mine and pulled a mile of posts in about 2 hrs."



Hay Fork Weeder

Erdman's friend, Larry Dash, has made weeders from 3-tine hay forks. He cuts the center tine out and cuts the other two tines to a working angle. He then brazes a piece of flat iron with a sharpened edge to the two tines.

"This long-handled tool is great for cutting weeds off at ground level or beneath it," says Erdman.

"I've made a number of short and long-handled weeders and given them away as presents," says Erdman. "They make great gifts."



Hand Weeder

Dash, who is from Swift Current, Sask., shared another handy, homemade weeder. Dash takes a strip of 1 1/4-in. steel band and bends it in two, slipping the ends into a slotted end of a short length of wood.

"He fastens the handle to the steel band with a couple of screws, and it stays solid," says Erdman. "Larry cut aggressive teeth on one side of the weeder and wrapped the handle with red and yellow tape. The tape makes it easy to find the weeder in heavy grass or weeds."



Pipe Post Braces

When Erdman is fencing, he carries 2-in. steel pipe braces for corner posts and gate posts. The braces have saddles at either end, made from short lengths of 3 1/2-in. steel pipe. The saddles have been cut in half lengthwise and tack welded to the brace pipe with the curved ends pointed away from the pipe.

"Before leaving the shop, I drill pilot holes in each saddle," says Erdman. "After setting the corner or end post, I lay the pipe brace on the ground with one end against the corner post and drive the brace post in the ground at the other end."

After tacking the pipe brace in place on the two posts, he installs and tightens the brace wire between the two posts.

"Lots of different style braces work, but the pipe brace is fast and easy to install," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Erdman, Box 1620, Claresholm, Alta., Canada T0L 0T0 (ph 403-382-1020; dardman2@telusplanet.net).



Easy Access To 45 Years Of FARM SHOW!

We've rescanned all the back issues of FARM SHOW. They're all available at our website and on our USB, along with a comprehensive database of the more than 36,000 "made it myself" ideas we've featured over the past 45 years. Go to www.farmshow.com and check them out!

