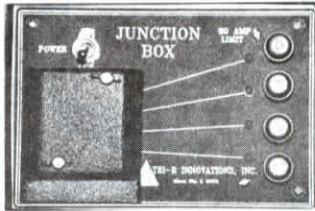
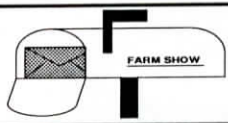


# Reader Letters



In the 1993 edition of "Best of FARM SHOW", which was recently mailed to FARM SHOW subscribers, an out-of-date photo was used alongside a story about Tri-R Innovations' new "Junction Box" which is a centralized wiring hook-up that makes tractor wiring easier. We're sending along a photo of our current production model, which should have run with the story.

Farmers are using more and more accessories with their equipment, such as sprayer monitors, seed monitors, yield monitors, CB radios, FM radios, telephones, and guidance system monitors. Wiring all of them to the same battery can cause problems and that's why we came up with the new electrical "junction box" that mounts on the side of the tractor for easy, no hassle electrical hookups.

It allows monitors, radios, and phones to be wired separate from your vehicle's battery. It hooks up to any 12-volt battery and is equipped with four lead hookups for electric wires and four fuses. Sells for less than \$100. (Rich Baillie, Tri-R Innovations, 628 S. Sangamon, Gibson City, Ill. 60936 ph 217 784-8495)



Our company, Farm Shop, Inc., has been making manure spreaders for over 20 years and we just introduced this new truck-mounted model with detachable beater assembly and stake pockets which let you easily convert it to a rear unloading silage box. It also has a lift-up slurry gate as well as a tailgate which raises up in back to provide extra protection against leakage. Additional features include babbit bearings, cab-mounted hydraulic controls, and extended fenders. Manufactured in lengths of 18 to 22 ft., all "EzSpreed" units have 42 in. sides and sell for \$18,500 to \$23,000. (J. Phil Roach, Farm Shop, Inc., Box 838, 1722 Morgan Rd., Sunnyside, Wash. 98944 ph 800 247-2163)

My brother and I are a couple of Western Kansas dryland farmers and we'd like to tell your readers about a new consulting business we've started to take advantage of our years of experiences from working in the service and research departments of tillage manufacturers. Our specialty is matching tillage equipment to specific farming practices. We do hands-on tuning and adjustment of equipment and even redesign them, if necessary. We also consult in the design and testing of new tillage equipment for manufacturers. We've had experience all over the world from Australia to Canada while working for tillage equipment manufacturers and know that a high percentage of tillage equipment is out of level and in need of adjustment. That adds wear and tear to equipment and may result in uneven fields and excessive fuel consumption. Tractors

have so much horsepower today that it's easy to "drag" a piece of equipment across a field without realizing it's not adjusted properly for optimum performance. The only way to properly adjust equipment is in the field under load. In many cases, once we have adjusted a machine, the operator will be able to shift up a gear because of reduced draft.

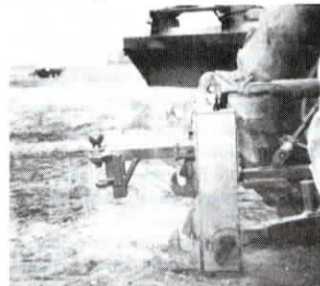
We work on chisels, drills, disks, and many other kinds of field equipment. Prices charged depend on the size and type of equipment. (Roger & Steve Kuntz, K-Tech, HCR 1, Box 69, Grainfield, Kan. 67737 ph 913 673-4676)

If you have a Chevrolet Dually pickup and you're tired of rocks breaking the fiberglass fenders, you'll be interested in how I eliminated the problem. I just lined the inside of the fenders with 2-ft. wide rubber conveyor belt. Works great. (V. Vesco, 1290 N. Meridian Rd., Lovelock, Nev. 89419)

Instead of buying a big, high-priced new mower, I use three older riding mowers hooked together to cut a wide swath and reduce mowing time to a minimum. I made a hitch out of scrap materials. A pull bar runs across the back of the front tractor. I at-

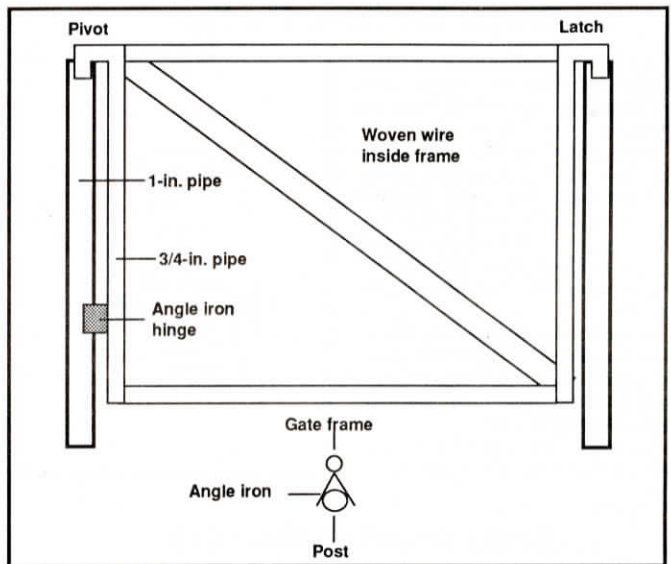


tached tongues to the front of each rear mower which pin to either end of the pull bar. Keeps the mowers apart yet allows them to turn freely to follow the front mower. The only part I bought was a U-clamp for 75 cents. It takes me about 10 min. to hook everything up and get it going but at age 79 I figure I can afford that much time. (Robert D. Gethmann, 1963 E. Ave., Gladbrook, Iowa 50635)



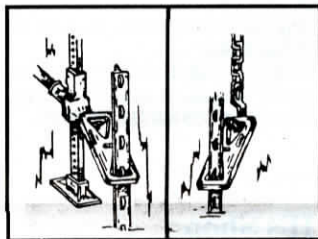
I'm sending along a picture of a ball hitch I attached to my Deere 4030 tractor's 3-pt. quick hitch. I have used a 4-wheel trailer for years to carry fertilizer tanks and an inductor. My small pickup was too small to pull it so we decided to put a hitch on the quick hitch. It didn't cost much to do since I took the heavy-duty receiver unit off a junked out truck. It's welded to the underside of the top bar on the quick hitch and the bar can be quickly slipped out when not needed. Now I can use either a pickup or the tractor for towing. (Kenneth Bishop, 70600 Cassopolis Rd. S., Edwardsburg, Mich. 49112)

Old gas hot water heaters make good water heaters to use with pressure washers. Just cut a hole in the top to fill it with as much water as you need and use propane or natural gas to heat it. Much cheaper than buying a commercial hot water pressure washer. (Peter Traudt, Box 621, Vegreville, Alberta, Canada T9C 1R7)



Here's a way to make farm gates using steel pipe for the frame and angle iron for the hinge. Make the gate out of 3/4-in. dia. pipe with L-shaped hooks on top and make the gate posts on either side out of 1-in. dia. pipe so that the hooks on the gate fit into the top of the posts. Near the bottom end of one side of the gate, weld a piece of angle iron with the bottom of the "V" against the gate

and the inside of the "V" against the 1-in. gate post. The weight of the gate will keep the angle iron against the post, so that it acts as a free-swinging hinge. It's simple and uncomplicated and you can just lift the gate off to get it out of the way when needed. (J.H. Salmon, 220 Anderson Dr., Erie, Penn. 16509)



Our new simple metal post puller works great with a tractor loader (using a length of chain) or with a handyman jack or pry bar. It's a rectangular piece of metal with a triangular hole in either end. You slip it over the top of a metal post and hook a jack or chain hook to the other hole. It won't slip and fits all T-type posts and small round posts. Sells for \$14.95 plus \$3.50 shipping. (Eldon Industries, 304 West Main Street, Grand Junction, Colo. 81505 ph 303 245-6528)



This "dinosaur potato" came from our garden this year. It's about 10 in. tall and clearly has a head, neck, body and front legs. It appears to be made up of about 5 potatoes. We took it to a county fair last fall. (John Mikulas, 8836 Little Catawba Creek Rd., Troutville, Va. 24175)

FARM SHOW has had a number of articles and reports on farmers having problems with paint on late model GM and Ford pickups due to faulty paint jobs. We have a 1988 Chevy Suburban with gray paint that has peeled off on the roof, sides and hood. It just tears off in big patches. The top looks like a real ragtop.

We talked to local dealers with no results. They offered to pay for 1/2 of a \$1,400 paint job. Estimates from outside the dealership

at local body shops put the same work at about \$450. We called GM customer assistance line three times and they must be getting a lot of complaints because we were placed on hold for 15 min. or more each time. The company also told us they'll cover 1/2 of the cost. I felt they should cover 100 percent of the cost since the problem is due to either defective paint or primer.

We finally got the work covered 100 percent by going to another dealer out of town. They did the job with absolutely no hassle (Jim Ryan Chevrolet, Minot, N.Dak.) I don't understand why the local dealer - as well as company spokespeople - stonewalled us.

Another problem with this pickup is that the auto lockout hubs on the 4-WD don't stay locked out. You have to pound on the wheels with a hammer. To solve the problem, we changed over to manual lockouts. (Jim Rocheleau, Rt. 2, Box 105, Barton, N.Dak. 58315)

In a recent issue FARM SHOW ran a story on replacing metal lids on waterers with lids made out of rubber belting (Vol. 16, No. 5). We're now trying the idea in our own operation and the cattle are starting to get it. The rubber lids won't freeze down. (Dan King, Deer River, Minn.)



My husband Bert Wilkins has enjoyed your magazine for a long time. After reading the article in Vol. 12, No. 5, 1988, about the kiddie train made out of 55-gal. barrels, he decided to build one using plastic barrels, pulled by an ATV. He has taken it to many parades, fairs and other various events all over eastern Colorado since 1988. He never charges children to ride. Recently, he added a bigger barrel so parents and bigger kids could also ride. Bert has built other things he's read about in your magazine, too. In addition, his hobby is restoring old wooden windmills. We have a nice collection on our farm. (Mrs. Bert Wilkins, Yuma, Colo.)