

# Reader Letters



I got the idea for this modified wheelbarrow from an article in FARM SHOW. I put two wheels at the back and welded a pin to the front so I can pull it like a trailer. I also put extension sides on the wheelbarrow for hauling larger bulky loads without spilling. It really comes in handy for both small and large jobs. The tractor in the photo is a 1947 Gibson that I restored last winter. It's steered by a lever and was designed without a hood over the engine. (Carl Park, 1310 E. 6th St., Hobart, Ind. 46342)

I'm writing in response to a "worst buy" opinion in Vol. 17, No. 1, by Leslie Spies, Hudson, S.Dak., about his ground-source heat pump. Judging from the excellent customer response to the performance and low operating costs of ground-source heat pumps elsewhere in the country, it would appear this experience is an exception, rather than the rule.

As a matter of fact, studies of GSHP systems around the country conducted by a Nebraska researcher prompted him to comment that consumer satisfaction from ground-source heat pumps was the highest of any heating/cooling system he had seen. In Missouri, for example, electric cooperatives have helped arrange the installation of 4,500 GSHP systems since 1986. Consumer satisfaction runs extremely high. Ground-source heat pump programs involving cooperatives in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota have also been quite successful in satisfying their consumers as well.

I would urge your readers to consult the February, 1992 issue of POPULAR SCIENCE magazine for additional details on the benefits of ground-source heat pumps. (Dave Baldwin, Marketing Manager, Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 754, Springfield, Mo. 65801 ph 417 881-1204)

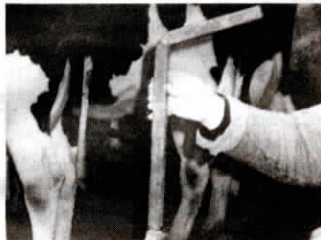


I rigged up a 13-ft. Massey grain drill so I could push it with our Versatile 276 tractor which can be reversed to drive in either direction. In order to connect the tractor up to the back end of the drill, I took the 3-pt. A-frame from an Allis Chalmers cultivator and mounted it on back of the planter with a pipe brace that runs up and over the top to the front of the drill. I mounted two old cultivator gauge wheels on the drill hitch to keep it from bouncing. I used a heavy piece of roller chain in place of the top link on the tractor 3-pt. so it would flex.

Pushing the drill eliminates the need for "track wackers". The only drawback is that you have to seed fairly straight with no sharp curves. (Lloyd Santjer, Rt. 2, Box 38, Sacred Heart, Minn. 56285)

I often wear lightweight rubber overshoes but putting them on and taking them off can be a trial. To make it easier, I slip a plastic grocery bag over my shoe before I slip it into the boot. Makes getting in and out of the boot much easier and my shoes always stay clean and dry. (Harlan Wellendorf, Rt. 1, Box 289, Holstein, Iowa 51025)

Several years ago I had a cow that had a weak center udder support. The milker would not stay on without holding it up by



hand. So I did some experimenting with a couple pieces of 1 by 2-in. wood. I had to experiment to get the right angle for the pieces. When I propped it up under the udder, the milker stayed on by itself without any trouble at all. It makes the front teats that point outward point inward. After one or two milkings, the cow usually stands fairly still. Now I make the supports out of metal with adjustable legs so they can be used on any problem udder. I sell the support for \$15 (plus \$2 postage). (Gary T. Meyer, 27723 385th St., Freeport, Minn. 56331 ph 612 836-2604)

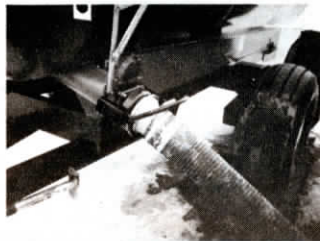


I mounted an endgate seeder on the back of a 2-wheel manure spreader to seed ARP land and waterways. The seeder is driven by a chain that runs off the spreader-wheel sprocket. (Roger Swanson, Rt. 2, Nevada, Iowa 50201 ph 515 382-6231)



I made this circular, rotating work table several years ago out of an old steel machinery wheel. A pipe runs up from the floor through the wheel hub (it's the same diameter as the hub opening). The pipe is welded to a steel plate on the floor. Another steel plate is welded to the top of the wheel and it acts as a stop for the steel pipe which butts up against the bottom of the plate. The friction of the steel plate on the top of the pipe keeps the work table from spinning too freely. A grinder and bench vise are bolted to the steel plate. I also use the table as a welding table. (Avin M. Pearson, N4148 Co. Rd. C, Ellsworth, Wis. 54011)

I designed this new "KwicConnect" hose coupler because of problems we had con-



necting manure hoses up to manure tanks. This re-fit device can be easily be fitted to Better-Bilt, Balzer, LMT, and other tanks that use 6-in. Italian couplers. It replaces the existing awkward hand clamps with an adjustable sliding hose yoke that is toggled over center with a strong handle. To install, you simply hacksaw off the old handles and slip the new collar over the spreader outlet and tighten the set screws. Once installed, it lets you hook up a hose with just a flip of the handle. (Duane Adrian, Adrian Mfg. Co., Rt. 1, Box 6, Butterfield, Minn. 56120 ph 507 956-3631)

After reading a couple articles in the 1993 edition of "Best Of FARM SHOW" about open-pollinated seed corn, I thought I'd write to tell you we've been raising and selling open-pollinated seed corn for the last 21 years. Last year we sold four different varieties of open-pollinated corn in 35 states to 440 different customers. Yields are comparable to hybrids if comparable amounts of fertilizer are applied. The advantage is that after you make the original purchase, you never have to buy seed again. Also, protein and mineral content are higher than most hybrids. Our seed is machine-shelled and graded. Price ranges from \$25 to \$28 per bu. depending on the size of seed. Varieties available include Reid's Yellow Dent (95 to 100 day maturity), Greenfield 114 (114-day), Krug (90-day), and Greenfield 120 (120-day). (Ned W. Place, Rt. 4, Box 77, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895 ph 419 657-6727)

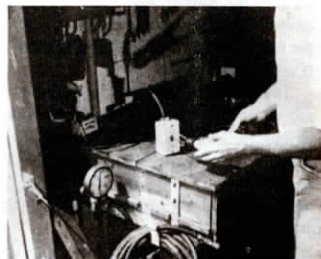
In reference to your article on the world's first no-till planter in Vol. 16, No. 6, I would like to clarify some statements relating to me that may have been unintentionally misstated or misquoted. I am the engineer referred to as "one of the Purdue engineers working on the planter who joined International Harvester and took the University's ideas to the company, patenting the no-till planter in the late 1940's." The article also mentions that the planter was developed over a period of 10 years by Purdue engineers who started working on the idea back in 1944.

The research projects I was involved in at Purdue in the early 1940's convinced me that moldboard plowing should be abandoned or greatly reduced in row crop production. The possibility of applying nitrogen and planting the crop while making the first tillage pass through the field occurred to me at this time. However, most if not all of the mechanical approaches to doing this were conceived after I left the University to work at International Harvester in 1945. Later, working with Purdue, we developed an initial version of a once-over mulch-till-planter which was first publicly demonstrated at the Purdue Throckmorton Farm in the spring of 1947.

Although the IH mulch till-planter was not a commercial success for IH, it started a trend in crop residue management that is still changing and growing. (Russell R. Poyner, P.E., 122 Country Club Place, Geneva, Ill. 60134 ph 708 232-7322)

I think you've got the best farm magazine in the country. I'd like to share an idea with your readers. I have a tag-along swather with a wide corrugated belt and no matter how tight I get the belt it still slips when I get into heavy hay. I've put on cans of belt dressing and it

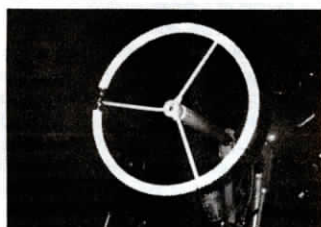
works somewhat for an hour or so but then starts slipping again. One day my dad was visiting and suggested I use roofing tar instead. We just put two or 3 fingers full in 4 or 5 places along the belt. As it turns it gets smeared around. I was amazed how well it worked. In fact, it grabs so good it nearly kills the motor on the tractor before it slips. Plus it lasts for about 3 or 4 days of constant use before it needs to be put on again. If you have belt slippage, I guarantee this will solve your problem. (Bill White, Box 975, Twisp, Wash. 98856)



I had a close call at one time using a non-grounded drill so I came up with this portable grounding box for using tools away from the shop. Makes using 2-wire hand tools much safer. The box, which would normally mount on the wall, just plugs in between an extension cord and the drill. You can buy grounding boxes from electrical suppliers or at discount stores. (Roland Beckmeyer, Hoyleton, Ill.)

My IH 414 diesel tractor originally had a key with off/on positions, a separate handle to activate the starter, and a turn-down crank handle to activate the glow plugs. When the dealer told me he wanted \$85 for a new glow plug activator, I went to a junk yard and got a Ford solenoid and a spring-loaded auto key switch with off/on/start positions. Now I use the key "start" position to activate the solenoid which activates the glow plugs. This set up cost practically nothing. Even using new parts would have been less than the \$85 the dealer wanted. This idea would work on other types of tractors as well. (Victor Troop, Box 1075B, Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia, Canada ph 902 532-5044)

Old rubber milker inflations fit perfectly on the back of the Melroe grass attachment fitted to our grain drill. The inflations cut down on alfalfa seed drift and also place the seed nicely in front of packer wheels. Also, an old inflation fits great on an empty gallon milk jug to pour gas into those small openings in unleaded gas tanks. Works great when you have to sell a gallon of gas to a stranded motorist. (Brad Hoffert, Rt. 3, Box 252, Detroit Lakes, Minn. 56501 ph 218 847-1844)



I'm sending along a photo of the way I recovered a steering wheel on an Allis Chalmers tractor. I removed the old cracked covering and then wrapped soft nylon rope around the wheel, stuck in place with clear silicone. It's weather proof and should last the rest of the life of the tractor.

I'm also sending along a photo of a peanut butter feeder for chickadees. I just bore 1-in. dia. holes in a 2 by 2 and stuff the holes with crunchy peanut butter. I use 1/4-in. dowels for perches under the holes. You could also use a log in place of the 2 by 2.

Another idea of mine that works great is using old large truck spindles and hubs to