

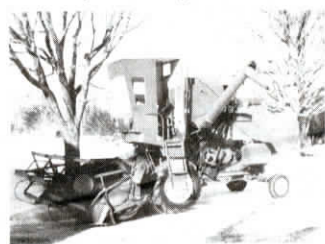
Reader Letters



Here's a photo of the F-2 Case combine I still use to harvest brome grass seed. Introduced in the early forties, it has a very short grain pan and a return riddle (slat apron)



under the straw walker to bring all the grain from under the straw rack and deposit it on the front end of the sieves. Consequently, grain and chaff get the full benefit of the sieve areas and grain doesn't have a chance to work sideways on hills. I'm surprised that no combine manufacturers copied this system. (Edwin Bredemeier, Rt 1, Box 13, Steinauer, Neb. 68441)



We're firm believers in shedding farm machinery and equipment. Here's proof that it pays — our 1950 Oliver combine that still goes to the field every year to harvest 50 to 60 acres of grain. I and a neighbor bought the machine 22 years ago at auction for \$750. It's still in good shape. We've replaced drive tires, a few belts and chains, and several bearings. We've never replaced the original motor, which still doesn't use any oil. (Duane Newman, Newman Centennial Farm, Rt 1, Newman Rd., Maple City, Mich. 49664)

As an attorney for a Minnesota farm family which was recently awarded \$3.7 million in a Harvestore lawsuit, I have received inquiries from other dairy, beef and hog farm families who share a common concern: What does it take to prove their losses were caused by defective Harvestore silos?

Some of our first questions are: When was your Harvestore built? What size is it? What do feed tests show for heat damage or mold count? What has the rolling herd average or daily rate of gain been over the last several years? Have you had problems with stray voltage? Mastitis? Cows going off feed?

The Harvestore company will generally argue that the losses were the result of something other than the use of Harvestore silos. So, all factors must be considered, including feeding, animal genetics, cow housing, nutrition, veterinary care and cow management. The case against Harvestore strengthens as long as these factors were maintained at acceptable levels and were consistent when the losses were experienced. This approach is essentially one of elimination, singling out the Harvestore silo as the main explanation for the losses.

Internal documents written by A.O. Smith's own engineers, which had previously been kept secret and confidential, have been obtained which indicate that, due to an inherent design flaw, excessive amounts of air are sucked into Harvestores even when the structures are being used as recommended by the company.

Our experience with Harvestore owners confirms that feed spoiled in a Harvestore silo is a very real threat to dairy, beef and hog farmers. In many cases, the farmer has struggled with unknown feed spoilage, production losses, and herd health problems, including breeding. Many times, the problem isn't identified until after it is too late to save the operation.

We urge all farmers confronted with unexplained production problems to test their Harvestore-stored feed for heat damage and mold, regardless of their inclination for a lawsuit. (Will Mahler, Attorney at Law, 301 Ironwood Square, 300 Third Avenue SE, Rochester, Minn. 55904 ph 507 282-7070)

After reading about Jack Hoffman's brush chipper made out of a silage chopper (Vol. 11, No. 2), I built my own chipper. I found a junked Fox harvester with a reel-type cutter-



head that measures just 24 in. long and 18 in. wide and tall. The drive shaft is equipped with shear pins to prevent damage and it turns in the right direction when hooked directly to a pto. It's fitted with a pto shaft from a junked manure spreader. I mounted a wooden chute on the input side and a deflector board on the output side that directs chips up into an enclosed trailer. It mounts on a wooden platform that attaches to a tractor 3-pt. The only modification was to weld on two blocks to hold the breaker bar in place. I'd be happy to provide more information to anyone interested. (Gorden Warren, 896 Brown Road, Wilmington, Ohio 45177)

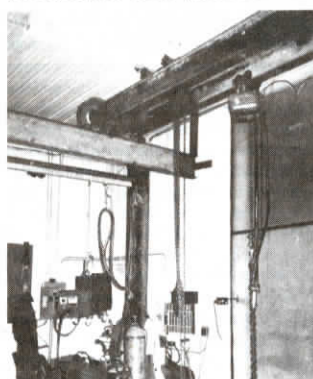


Our old 3-wheeler, which we use to hoe cockleburs, sunflowers and other weeds out of cotton, got retired early because it had a 10-hp. motor with a pull-type starter that was hard to pull. My friend Poncho (standing at left in photo) put a 5 hp. motor in it that we bought used for \$20. It has an electric battery starter on it. Now we use it all the time and it's as handy as a pocket on a shirt. Saves me a lot of steps. Doesn't have as much power for fieldwork but is great for getting around. (Jack Kincaid, P.O. Box 25, Sabinal, Texas 78881 ph 512 988-2784)

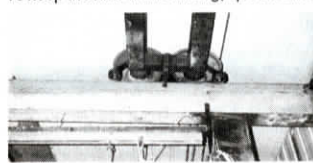
Our new low-cost air hose reel is simple, handy and we've already sold a ton of them. It uses any brand of standard snap coupler as a swivel so there's no special fitting to wear out or reduce air flow. It holds 75 ft. of 3/8-in. hose. You mount the air supply line 6 to 12 in. from the reel, fitting it with a standard female snap coupler and then thread the male end of the hose through a hole in the reel's center drum. Sells for



\$49.95 (plus \$5 shipping). Larger sizes also available. (Bosch Lights, Rt. 1, Box 127, Versailles, Ind. 47042 ph 812 689-5620)



I'm enclosing photos of an overhead chain hoist I built for my farm shop (I also built one for a neighbor). The hoist is supported by four 10-in. I-beam legs. A 12-in. I-beam runs across each pair of legs to form parallel rails for the hoist to run on. Two used wheel rims run on each rail as carriers. Each rim is just the right size to fit over the edge of the rails. To keep the rims from binding, I put two little



idler wheels along the edge of the I-beams. Two cross beams attach to the rolling rims. I made a rolling carrier that rides on top of the cross beams to carry a 3-ton chain hoist. I also put a smaller 1/2-ton air-powered hoist on just one of the cross beams. (On my neighbor's hoist, we dropped the cross beams down below the level of the rails so we didn't lose any headroom.)

My hoist covers a floor space 28 by 24 ft. and gets used for all kinds of chores. The I-beams were salvaged from an old bridge for \$450. (Wayne McCuen, Rt. 3, Box 95, Worthington, Minn. 56187 ph 507 376-5867)



I make these simple poison bait dispensers to mount on the handlebars of motorcycles or ATV's for poisoning ground squirrels, prairie dogs, and other tunneling pest animals. It's all metal with a hopper bottom tank that holds 2 gal. of bait. A simple gravity feed mechanism is tripped by pulling a string. It drops a small amount of poisoned bait down each hole. Can be done without taking your hands off the handlebars. I've sold hundreds of these units over the past 5 years. They sell for \$78. (Doug Racher, Box 566, Nanton, Alberta T0L 1R0 Canada ph 403 549-2299)

I'm pleased to report that since I sent you a "worst buy" letter about my C-70 Chevrolet medium duty truck (Vol. 15, No. 2), GM has refunded almost all of my repair costs. I have a complaint about your report, however. When you printed my letter, you edited it to read that my vehicle was a "pickup". Six times you used the word "pickup" but in my original letter, the word "pickup" was not used at any time. Also, you stated that the vehicle had 300 miles on it when it was bought. Actually, the garage where I bought the truck is 300 miles from where I live. (Herbert Larson, SR 277, Box A-15, Brockway, Mont. 59214)

I read Mr. Reynold's tragic story on farm safety in FARM SHOW (Vol. 15, No. 1, 1991, page 5) and felt the need to write. I have experienced a very similar tragedy only it was my husband who lost his life last June 27, 1990. We had been married 29 years and the last 16 of these were spent on the family farm.

The day started out as any normal day. We had spent the morning in town and came home to our normal routine. We planned to leave on holidays to visit our sons. Hoping to get things caught up before we left, I asked my husband to trim some grass with the tractor and mower.

I was standing watching him cut next to a row of trees. I looked away and when I looked back, it was all over. The tractor was up against a tree and still running. My husband was dead. He had been standing on the tractor, was hit in the face with a tree branch and lost his balance. He was killed by the mower. The shock and horror I felt is something that I can't describe.

I ran to the house to call for help and just wanted to die as well. I felt like my husband would still be alive if I hadn't wanted the grass cut, and I still bear that guilt.

It's been over eight months and I still don't sleep nights. I am trying to carry on with my life. We have three beautiful children, all grown and away from home, and I have four grand children. They are all a wonderful part of him and I thank God for them. I have started a job and am getting counseling. I also attend a support group and, believing in God, I pray that my pain will lessen and that the gruesome picture I have in my mind will come less frequent, and become less painful as time goes on.

Since the accident, when I collect my mail I have been throwing farm papers in the garbage because they come in my husband's name and I can't bring myself to read them. But for some reason, when the issue of FARM SHOW arrived, I didn't throw it away. I brought it into the house and began paging through it. I guess it was meant to be that I should see this issue, and Mr. Reynold's story, so I could let him know that others share his pain. It helps to know that others care. I pray that God will bless him and his family, and that his burden will lighten and his pain lessen as time passes.

A few words of caution to all farmers: Please don't take even one second for granted for that's all it takes for a tragic accident to happen. It's most often the careless little things that cause them and so many could be prevented. (D. Borys, Saskatchewan, Canada)

I make "do it yourself" garden hoes out of old disc blades by cutting out pie-shaped sections of blade and mounting the triangular shaped sections on pipes or lightweight tubing. Makes a good heavy hoe. Having a sharp point on one side is handy. (Walter Bones, Hartford, S. Dak. 57033)

Thank you for the effort you put into your publication. The inventiveness of other farmers is inspiring and a real motivator for me. (Robert Shaw, Stauffer, Alberta, Canada)

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