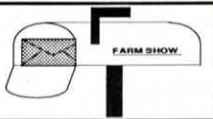


Reader Letters



I have a suggestion for readers of FARM SHOW. I appreciated the response from readers all over the country to your article in a recent issue (Vol. 13, No.2) about the way I fitted a combine axle to the front of my Farmall "H" tractor to convert it from a narrow front-end to wide. I'm pleased to answer questions from readers who write but I'd like to point out that the many inquiries total up to a considerable sum in postage and stationery. Because I'm not a manufacturer and don't have anything to sell, this cost comes straight out of my pocket. I'd like to suggest that readers send along a self-addressed stamped envelope when writing to the people featured in your magazine who are not manufacturers but just want to share their ideas with others. (Bill Short, Rt. 2, Box 230, Hamilton, Mo. 64644)

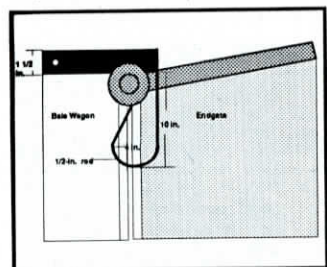
I'm always finding good ideas in FARM SHOW that can be mixed and matched to fit my needs. Your publication only proves more than ever that the business of farming wouldn't last long if it weren't for an abundance of farm shops, and farmers and ranchers overflowing with ability and imagination. (Ken Turbett, Winnipeg, Man.)

I am in the process of restoring an antique New Holland 77 baler. The machine is in dire need of new knives, pickup teeth and parts for the knoter. My local Ford-New Holland dealer has informed me that the company no longer stocks parts for it. Are there any aftermarket firms that manufacture parts for this baler? If not, do you or your readers know where I could locate a parts manual so I could get the dimensions and have the pieces fabricated? (Jeffrey T. Blanton, USS Bainbridge (CGN-25) Re-Div, FPO New York, N.Y. 09565-1161)

I converted a Deere 7000 Max-Emerge planter over to ridge-till and no-till by extending the tongue 24 in., putting a 2 1/2 by 2 1/2-in. bar 36 in. in front of the fertilizer bar, and mounting Acra-Plant Trash Whippers from an IH 400 planter on it using home-built holders with die springs for down pressure. The Trash Whippers are followed by Rawson no-till fertilizer openers and 1-in. no-till coulters for dry urea fertilizer. The planter also has a low volume liquid pump which puts 5 gal. of liquid on seed and a homemade spray setup on the rear for band or solid spray. (Stan Miller, Addison, Mich.)

Farmers are the same the world over - the greatest innovators of all professions or trades, mostly brought about by need or lack of capital. Keep up the good work. (Des J. Ford, Winton, New Zealand)

I made this nifty gate latch for use on bale wagon endgates. It holds tight and is easy

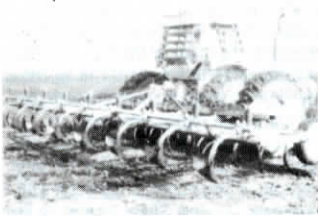


to release. A 4-in. wide loop of 1/2-in. dia. rod is welded to a 1 1/2-in. wide piece of strap iron. It catches over the rod on the top edge of the endgate and flips up easily to release. (Mark Wagner, Rt. 2, Box 212, Hummelstown, Penn. 17036)

I have found a sure-fire way to kill moles. Attach a piece of flexible exhaust pipe about 5 to 10 ft. long to the exhaust of a pickup or small tractor. Insert the other end into the tunnel and start the engine. To increase the level of carbon monoxide, you can choke the engine a bit. This works great for moles, gophers, rats around grain bins, and so on. It's not time-consuming and, best of all, it kills them immediately. (Merlin Johnston, Coin, Iowa 51636)

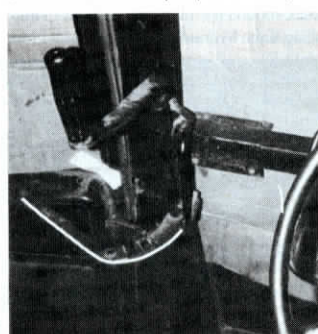
In your last issue, a reader wrote about building a powered wood-hauling trailer. I have built one myself and it works well. I welded a splined pto shaft and to a Chevy 4-sp. transmission that mounts on the tongue of a trailer made out of a 2 1/2-ton truck. I mounted the shaft on two pillow block bearings on the hitch and ran the shaft to the transmission. A driveshaft runs from the transmission to the rear-end which is mounted under the trailer. The rear end has a 17,500 lb. housing and is fitted with 20-in. tires. The trick to making it all work is to turn the rear-end housing upside down so it'll drive in the right direction since the pto turns the opposite direction of the original drive shaft. The finished trailer has 4 speeds forward and 1 in reverse. When the rear-end's in low and the transmission's in third gear, it matches the speed of my IH 384 tractor in fourth gear. I can always shift speeds on the transmission to match tractor speed. (Richard Folkins, Rt. 2, Apohaqui, New Brunswick, Canada)

We put together our own field cultivator for tilling ridged land. It's got a tine every 6 in. except for on the back bar which is fitted with wide-spaced low clearance chisel plow



shanks. The shanks, which are equipped with large ridge-forming sweeps, run between the ridges. The implement lets us tear down the ridges but then build them back up so as not to lose too much moisture but still loosen the ridges up and get rid of weeds. (C.G. Van Wyk, Rt. 1, Box 152, Pinetown, N.C. 27865 ph 919 943-2957).

I made this "positive door control" for my 1486 IH tractor. It lets me open and close the cab door easily from the driver's seat and locks the door in the open position. Anyone



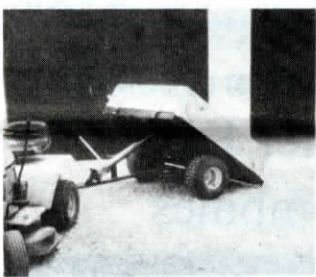
who's ever been hit by the door when half-way in or out of the cab will appreciate this. (Emanuel Schlund, Rt. 3, Princeton, Ill. 61356 ph 815 894-2548)



I made this tow-behind lawn vacuum by converting a push-type vacuum designed to use on roofs with a cloth bag. The vacuum mounts on the frame of an enclosed leaf cart and tows behind my riding mower. (Thomas M. Martin, Rt. 2, Box 140, Bedford, Va. 24523 ph 703 586-8198)

I've got a great remedy for clogged radiators. Our 1970 Chevrolet pickup was acting up and would often boil over. I put in a new thermostat but it acted the same way. The radiator shop wanted \$35 to blow it out or \$70 to rod it out, plus the cost of taking it off. I remembered that when we bought a 1937 IHC Farmall that the manual said to put soap powder in the radiator if it ever started to plug up. So I put Oxidol detergent powder in the radiator and now I can drive without any boiling problems whatsoever. The soap lets it work like a washing machine. I left some of the soapy water in the system. (Floyd Faith, 7 Shaman Place, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 ph 319 372-2142)

I think my home-built garden cart is the handiest trailer around. I needed something to move dirt around the farm. With most trailers, you have to load the back heavier than the front in order to dump them by hand. I can load mine heavier on the front for better weight transfer to the hitch, giving the added



traction I need. To dump, I just pull a safety pin and jack it up like I would a floor jack. Even fully loaded my 6-year old daughter can dump it. The trailer measures 49 in. wide by 57 in. long and 12 in. deep. I'd like to find a manufacturer to produce it. I plan to put the same dump mechanism on a fifth wheel trailer for my pickup. (Roger Dierckman, Rt. 3, Box 287C, Sunman, Ind. 47041 ph 812 623-4104).

Your readers may be interested in our motorized fishing reels that let the disabled renew their enjoyment of the sport of fishing. We've sold more than 4,000 units so far. The electric-powered reels are switch-button controlled by a small rechargeable waist-band battery unit. You can regulate the speed of the reel by changing pressure on the switch, much like a dimmer switch on a light. Our motorized device attaches to virtually all reels, including spinning, trolling or bait casting types. Or you can buy our factory motorized Zebco reels that range in price from \$175 to \$200. Our motorized reels are even used by non-handicapped professional fishermen because of their ability to save time. (Royal Barton, Royal Bee Corporation, 703 Kihakah, Pawhuska, Okla. 74056 ph 800 331-7629).

Southern FARM SHOW readers who grow cotton will be interested in my lower drum cleaning attachment for cotton pickers that prevents dirt from accumulating between the lower drum base plate and the horizontal frame. The attachment easily attaches to the drum with no modification. We first used these devices on our own machines 7 years

ago. The result was an immediate savings in picker bars and related lower drum parts with a corresponding reduction in down time. It greatly lengthens the life expectancy of the drum base plate and the lower ends of the picker bars. One of the biggest benefits is a definite increase in cotton grade. For more information, contact: (Leo Blackwood, Blackwood Enterprises, 6880 James Rd., Tranquillity, Calif. 93668 ph 209 698-5106)

We'd like to let FARM SHOW readers know that traditional Swedish "barn red" paint that comes from the copper mining areas of



Falun in Sweden is now available to U.S. and Canadian farmers in a "mix-it-yourself" kit. The paint is unique in that it's extremely mildew and rot resistant, non-burnable, and naturally bug repellent. It was first used in the middle of the 17th century when it was discovered that the red powder paint retarded mildew and rot. It didn't take long before red Falun paint became a national symbol of Sweden. We're now importing the paint in a kit that includes a pail, soap, linseed oil, brushes and enough paint powder to mix 5 gal. of paint. Sells for \$62 including shipping. (Mrs. Kerstin Popescu, Hightower Falls Inc., 54 Allen Rd. N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30328 ph 404 256-1988).

I built a water-gathering system that might be unique in the world. I got the idea when I was considering building a cattle-watering pond on some land that was always moist even in the dry part of summer. I decided to build a collector tank big enough to gather moisture from the wet surface areas and let cattle drink it from the tank. I've now built several ground water collectors, making each



one a little different depending on the amount of water available. We simply doze out a trench through a wet, seepy area and lay a down sloping length of 4-in. drain tile, covering it with coarse gravel. A 1-in. dia. pipe runs up above ground from the downward end of the tile and the tank is set up around it. Water collects in the gravel, flows enters the tile, and flows up into the tank with enough flow so that it never freezes. The tanks are made from grain bin rings. Each holds about 7,000 gal. so you don't have to have a large flow of water to keep it full. The bottom of each tank is concreted. Cost for each setup is \$500 to \$1,500, depending on the amount of water available. (Paul Halsey, Rt. 2, Box 34, Fortuna, Mo. 65034)

About 8 or 10 years ago my father made a pecan cracker from an old washing machine agitator motor. He removed the lever from a manual nut cracker and attached an arm that runs from the agitator to the piston on