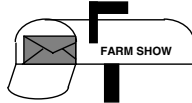
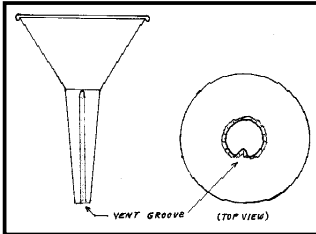


# Reader Letters



The cover of your last issue (Vol. 20, No. 1) showed a picture of a skid steer loader built by a farmer in Canada. From the picture, it looks like he left off what might be the most important part of a skid steer - the wire cage around the operator. Many serious injuries and deaths have occurred when skid steer operators have stuck their heads or arms outside the rollover cage and lowered the loader arms. All commercially produced skid steers have this feature and I'm sure it could be added to this home-built rig as well, especially since it is already outfitted with a roll bar assembly. **(Lou Church, Industrial Hygienist, New York Center For Agricultural Medicine & Health, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326 ph 800-343-7527)**

The "burpless funnel" made by Rick Mabeus that was featured in the last issue of FARM SHOW seemed rather complicated and dif-



icult to keep clean. I think a better solution to the problem would be to put an indented groove down the funnel spout. This would vent air out of a crankcase or gear box when being filled where there's no other way for air to escape except for out the fill hole. **(Jack Kiser, 155 E. CR-89, Fremont, Ohio 43420)**

I built this hay-saving feeder last fall and I think it's the best I've ever seen. There's little waste as long as you have enough cows feeding from it. I made it out of all kinds of

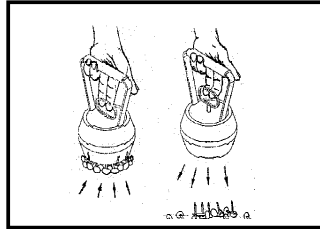


various metal pipe. What makes it work so well is that the upper part of the feeder slopes inward at a 35° angle, and there's a cradle inside made from lengths of 1/2-in. dia. steel cable. You can adjust the lengths of cable to be at any height off the ground. I set mine so the bale is about 24 in. off the ground. The bale feeder is 8-ft., 3-in. square. I put a couple hooks on top so I can move it easily with a front-end loader. **(Henry F. Bohle, Plevna, Mont. 59349 ph 406 772-5643)**

Here's an idea that would solve a problem faced by every farmer who feeds hay bales to livestock. Why not make a baler attachment that would make twine from hay as it's being baled? It would twist a small amount of hay into twine on the go, eliminating the problems of twine cost and the need to dispose of twine when feeding and grinding hay. You could just feed the whole bale to cattle. The savings in twine should more than pay for the cost of such a device over the life of the baler. You would have to be able to adjust the hay "twister" to adapt to different types of hay or straw. And, of course, we would have to come up with a new source of used twine for making "fixes" around the farm to fences, truck boxes, and whatever

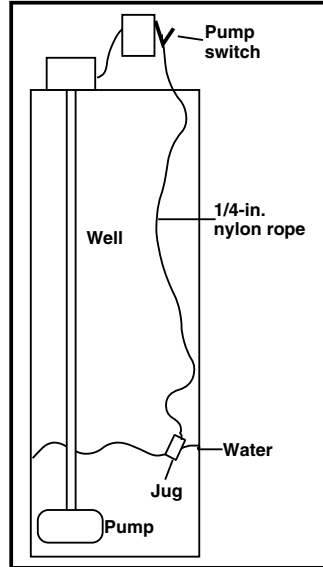
else needs fixing. **(Harold Gallaher, P.O. Box 53, Bismarck, Mo. 63624)**

Our new EZ Grip Magnet will lift up to 20 lbs. A trigger release turns it on and off so you can pick up metal shavings, parts, nails, etc., and then release them by pulling the trigger. Great for use in a shop, around a construction site, in barns, and many other



places. We manufacture these in our on-farm factory using local labor. It's a high-quality product with a foam-covered metal handle and a high impact ABS body. Comes with either a short handle (\$23) or a 2-ft. long handle (\$25). **(Roger Kuntz, K-Tech, Rt. 1, Box 69, Grainfield, Kan. 67737 ph 913 673-4728)**

Here's a simple "fail safe" method to prevent pump burn-out in wells if water taps are ever left on. I fill a 1-gal. jug half full of water



and lower it into the well, tied to a length of 1/4-in. nylon rope. The jug floats on top of the water. The loose end of the rope is tied to the pump's shut-off switch. If the water level drops too far in the well, the jug drops with it, pulling on the rope to shut off the pump before damage occurs. **(Jim Gray, 20104 8th Ave., Rt. 1, Langley, B.C. V3A 4P4 Canada)**

I've got a simple way to prevent injury to anyone who might stumble or run into a big



bale spike when it's not being used. They can be dangerous, especially to a child,

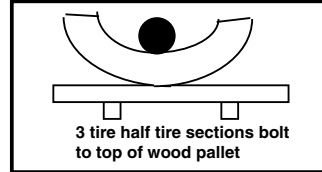
when stored in a darkened machine shed. I just slip a piece of pvc pipe with an elbow on the end over my bucket-mounted spear. **(Jim Marley, Decatur, Ill. 62526)**

We turned an old grape harvester into a unique hi-boy sprayer that straddles three rows of canneries and sprays both sides of the rows at once. The sprayers on the mar-



ket only spray two rows and the operator is positioned between the rows, soaking up the spray. With our rig, the operator sits above the rows, out of the spray. The booms move in and out hydraulically, and also fold towards the front. It has a Deere industrial engine. There are 10 nozzles per row. We've used it for three years. It has two 250 gal. tanks. **(G&C Farms, Inc., 4196 81st Ave. N.E., Salem, Ore. 97305 ph 503 382-0310)**

I made a wood holder to hold logs up off the ground while I cut them up for my wood



stove. I cut two tires in half and then bolted the halves to a wood pallet. I used three of the tire halves, but you could use all four. Don't use steel-belted radials. **(Dick Smith, Rt. 1, Box 120, Adrian, Mo. 64720)**

I put a blade on my backhoe bucket. I made two brackets that weld to the back of the



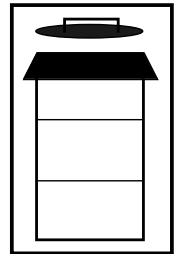
blade so the blade can be bolted onto the back of the bucket whenever needed. It works great when working in tight spaces



FARM SHOW readers might be interested in my flexible spout extension for combine unloading augers. Problem is that when you're unloading into a truck or wagon on-the-go on a windy day you can lose a lot of grain because of the distance it has to drop from the end of the auger to the truck or wagon box. My spout extension remedies that problem by channeling grain into a smaller drop pattern. The one pictured, on

for grading, removing sod, etc. I use it in my grading service. Can also be used to back-fill trenches. Works great because you can put a lot of down pressure on it. **(Bill Razor, 42190 Glen Arbor, Canton, Mich. 48188 ph 313 397-2896)**

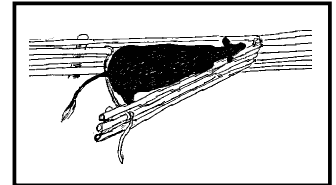
Here's a way to make a mouse and rat proof feed bin with an easy opening lid. Cut the top out of a 55-gal. drum and attach a handle to the center of the cut-off lid. Then bolt half of a split car tire around the top edge of the drum. **(John Mcanear, P.O. Box 600, Freer, Tex. 78357)**



When I read the "worst buy" in the past issue of FARM SHOW about Tri-H mower blades, I realized I could have written pretty much the same things about my experiences. I paid \$78 for three blades and they weren't worth 78 cents. I didn't even bother to spend the postage to send them back. **(John McGreevy Jr., P.O. Box 162, Faron Grove, Penn. 17321 ph 717 382-4562)**

I was re-reading an old issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 17, No. 5) and came across an article on "Using Divining Rods To Detect Cow Pregnancy". It made me think of the time we were trying to drive a sandpoint down in the basement in our house and couldn't hit any water so I tried witching water with a piece of wire. I found a water vein about 25 ft. deep. We drove a sandpoint down and we've had all the water we needed since then for the house. I've also had luck finding water lines underground with a piece of wire. **(Floyd Plank, Chariton, Iowa)**

Whenever we have a calving problem in our barn and have to restrain the cow, we put her behind a swinging panel with a rope



behind her hindquarters to keep her from backing up. This works a lot better than trying to catch her by the head and tie her up or even use a chute or headcatcher. In a calving situation we prefer to have the cow less tightly contained in case she goes down. If she lies down we can just swing the panel away.

It's not difficult to ease even a flighty or timid cow behind a swinging panel, and if you have your rope already secured to the stall fence or wall you can just walk her over



the Case-IH 1680, is a four-section polyethylene tube 16 in. in dia. and 3 ft. long. I've made a number of the extensions for various make and model combines. I sell them for \$79 (U.S.) plus S&H. I'm looking for dealers in Canada and the U.S.

**(Lloyd Garthus, Svensen Toboggan Co. Ltd., Box 144, Admiral, Sask., Canada SON OBO; ph 306 297-6323, 6373).**