

number is 205 247-1535. (Jerry Newton, Rt. 1, Box 239-A, Anderson, Ala. 35610)

We hear so much about farm safety these days that I decided to take an overall look at my farm machinery to see how safe it is. While doing this I got an idea. Why not come up with a standard bright color of warning paint for use on all farm machinery and paint all guards, shields, pto shafts, and other moving parts with this color. Consciously or subconsciously we would note that whenever we see this color we're in a dangerous area. It could prevent many accidents. I plan to paint my own equipment next spring.

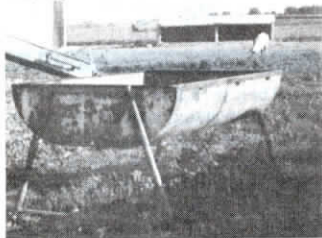
Also, I had two pto shafts that were unprotected so I went to the local plumber, bought pvc pipe and cut it to the right length to slip over the shafts. (Larry Schuman, Rt. 4, Box 67, Foley, Minn. 56329)

What a wonderful magazine you have! We want to share it with others so we're sending in a gift subscription for a friend. It's a gift that'll keep on giving year around. (Bill Dabney, Deer Lodge, Mont.)

In Vol. 13, No. 5 there was an article about a run-off system that stores water for gardens and yards. While it was an excellent idea, I don't like the idea of having a partially buried 55 gal. drum with an open top in the yard. A small child or animal could fall into it and drown. It should be covered with steel mesh or something similar. (Wilfred Cousineau, Vankleek Hill, Ontario)

We made our own flotation nipple for calves so small they'd otherwise have to suck your fingers. We cut off the edges of a heavy plastic cover for a plastic pail so that it's slightly smaller than the bottom of the pail. Drill a hole in the center of the cover and put a bottle nipple through it and drop it into a pail of milk. (Kenneth Gowey, W5506 Stetson Ave., Stetsonville, Wis. 54480)

I made two feed troughs out of a 275-gal. oval oil tank cut in half. I used 1 1/2-in. dia. used pipe to make legs 30-in. long. I put 1 1/4-in. angle iron around the top to cover the



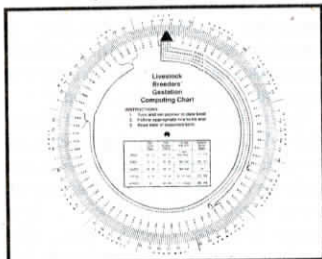
sharp edges. Each trough will feed 8 to 10 head of cattle. It is heavier and cheaper than buying fiberglass troughs. These tanks are outdated so you can buy them pretty cheap. I cut a small hole in the bottom for water to drain out when it rains. (Ivan L. High, Rt. 1, Box 115, Gorin, Mo.)



Here's a labor-saving idea I came up with to get more work out of my Gravely lawn mower. I modified it to tow a small lawn and garden trailer. I simply welded a short piece of box beam to the axle on the tow-behind seat and fastened a ball hitch to it. The mower will easily pull several hundred pounds. I leave the mower in place up front to counterbalance the load. (Dan Maikoff, Box 364, Altamont, N.Y. 12009)

We got tired of counting days off on the

calendar so we came up with a new "date chart" that makes it easy to determine at a glance birthing dates for bred livestock. The 10-in. dia. rotary chart is based on old-style aircraft navigational charts. One wheel turns inside the other to give the birthing date for any animal once you know the breeding date. Designed for cattle, horses, hogs,



sheep, and goats, the chart also gives length of heat cycles, duration of heat periods, and when to expect the first heat after birth. Gestation periods for other animals can also be marked on the chart. I've had the original chart for over 10 years and relied on it constantly. It's worked so well we've started selling them for \$5.00 apiece. (Jim Carmickle, Gestation Charts, P.O. Box 1272, Red Bluff, Calif. 96080)

I put a cab on my New Holland 775 skid steer loader and heat it with engine heat. To make the cab, I put fiberglass all around the ROPS cage and put a door on the front. Then I cut a 2 by 6-in. hole in the back of the "cab" under the air cleaner bracket by drilling a series of holes - a torch could have caused a fire. I then formed a hood to cover the muffler and ran a duct into the cab. The hood ties down with wire so in the summer I can easily take it off. It works. (H.A. Roberts, 3646 Co. Rd. 5 North, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311)



FARM SHOW readers may be interested in my "ski-barrow". First I made a rectangular open-topped box into which the wheelbarrow wheel fits reasonably snug. Next, I cut 3 ft. off the front of an old ski. I mounted the box slightly in back of center with two 1/4-in. bolts, countersunk from the bottom up. I've used the ski-barrow for nearly 20 years to haul firewood from the backyard to my basement and find it more useful than a sled because I have more control. No accidental dumps. (E. Hlady, Box 142, Carrot River, Sask. S0E 0L0 ph. 306 768-2815)

I think many of your readers have experienced the frustration of pegboard hooks that fall off as you remove a tool. Several years ago I designed a hook that locked in place. Recently I began manufacturing a new-style spring lock called the "Perf-Lock" that fits over most existing hooks and locks them to the board. It fits both 1/8 and 1/4 in. pegboard. Perf-Locks sell 10 for \$2.50 or 20 for \$4.50. (Roger Meihak, Lo-Ro Sales Inc., 10150 223rd St. N., Forest Lake, Minn. 55025 ph 612 433-2600)

There's very little concerning the interests of farmers' wives in all the farm magazines we subscribe to, other than an article here and there. I would like to see a bigger section of FARM SHOW that is devoted strictly to my interests. For example, what are other farm wives doing to help with income other than going off the farm to work? I have four

children with another on the way and I don't have time to go out to work but I would love to have some kind of small business at home that doesn't require a lot of money to set up. Any suggestions? (Betty Brown, Rt. 1, Rutherglen, Ontario, Canada P0H 2E0 ph 705 776-7876)

I had a problem getting my 8-row International 400 air planter to plant evenly. I added Yetter row units but I still had a problem even with double springs on the units. I noticed that on Deere planters the fertilizer boxes provide weight to the disc openers. That gave me an idea. For a cost of only \$35, I mounted 4-in. dia. PVC drainpipe on the planter and filled it with sand. I bolted three lengths of pipe together, resulting in an addition of about 42 lbs. per row. The planter now plants as evenly as any new planter.

I am hesitant about passing along my second idea because of all the explosions we read about in grain elevators and storage facilities when a spark ignites the dust. All I can say is that this idea worked for me. I had trouble in a flat grain storage bin with venting and cables in it. I had two center auger openings but could not use sweep augers because of the cables, and vents that are raised above cement floor. I saved a lot of shoveling by using an 8-hp. 2-stage Bolens snowblower. One problem that has to be dealt with is that the snowblower doesn't have an air cleaner on the engine. Air is pulled directly into the carburetor. Unless an air filter is attached to the engine, dust will plug it up. To keep the dust down, I ran my 1 1/2 hp. outside vent fan while operating the blower. (Ted Olson, 6121 Rainbow Dr., Mpls., Minn. 55432)



I made a front-mount lift frame for a PVC rope wick that's simple but works great. I used the frame from an old Deere KBA disk. It attaches to the front weight brackets on the tractor and also to the grill guard. The PVC pipe lays on a long piece of angle iron. The ends of the iron pipe from the disc frame are notched and 8-in. pieces of angle iron are welded to each. The angle iron that supports the PVC is then bolted to these brackets on the iron pipe. A single cylinder raises and lowers the wick applicator by tilting the lift arms up and down as needed. (Don Gibbs, 5428 Onondaga Rd., Onondaga, Mich. 49264)



After seeing a 3-pt. scraper in FARM SHOW some time back, I decided to build my own using a giant industrial tire. I cut the tire in half and bolted it to a 3-pt. mounted frame. The tire does a great job scraping manure off feedlots. Doesn't wear down the concrete and moves wet manure better than a blade. (Matt Luce, Rt. 12, Rockwood, Penn. 15557)

We appreciated the article FARM SHOW did on "no wool" hair sheep several years

ago (Vol. 10, No. 4). A lot has happened since then and last fall we held the first-ever Hair Sheep conference. Many breeds of hair sheep were on display and hair sheep breeders were in attendance from 15 states. We formed Hair Sheep International, an association to educate the public about the many outstanding qualities of no-wool hair sheep. The second hair sheep conference and sale is planned for Labor Day weekend in September, 1990, in Bethel, Mo. We'll send out a complete packet of information to anyone interested for \$2.00. (Dan & Paula Marie Randall, Rt. 1, Box 67, Pilot Grove, Mo. 65276)

In response to the "worst buy" report in Vol. 13, No. 6 from a farmer in Wisconsin who said he'd "like to bury" his Cargill Pork Production system.

I'm 37 years old and have raised hogs all my life in different types of operations. For the past 8 years I've managed and am now part owner of a 500-sow farrow-to-finish Cargill Pork Production system. We farrow an average of 96 litters a month year-round in Cargill Isolits. For the past 6 years our weaned average is 9.1 to 9.6, running over 850 a month through our nursery floor. Death loss is only 1 to 5 pigs. Average weaning days is 23. We market over 10,000 grade and yield hogs a year. My wife and I plus one other full-time man operate this showplace swine operation. All it takes to run it is hard work, good management and common sense. (Allen W. Hansen, Box 373, Rt. 2, Ainsworth, Neb. 69210)

Our new portable toxic and combustible gas detector may be of interest to FARM SHOW readers. It detects amounts as small as 10 parts per million of methane, butane, propane, or natural gas and can pinpoint leaks as little as 1/2 oz. per year of refrigerant. The detector has a 16-in. electrically insulated flexible gooseneck that bends to fit hard-to-reach places. A solid state sensor located in the cap at the end of the gooseneck reacts to the presence of gas in less than a second. As it detects gas it emits a ticking sound. When the source of a leak is reached, an alarm sounds. It can be set to sound the alarm when specific quantities of gases are detected. Sells for \$295. (John Kleppe, President, J & N Associates, Inc., 508 Bernie Court, Naperville, Ill. 60565 ph 708 961-3145)

My son and I use an old lawnmower to mow patches of wild proso millet weeds in double crop soybeans planted after peas. This idea works great because there are only a few patches of weeds and the mower just fits between the 30-in. rows. We start on one end of the weed patch and mow up and down the rows until we reach the other end. When we reach the end of each row we shut



off the mower, lift it over the next soybean row, and start mowing again. Mowing the pesky weeds is a lot easier than pulling them out by hand and it's cheaper than using a postemergence herbicide. The occasional blades of soil are a little hard on the mower blades but they can be sharpened right back up. (Bill Gergen, Randolph, Minn. 55065).