

Reader Letters

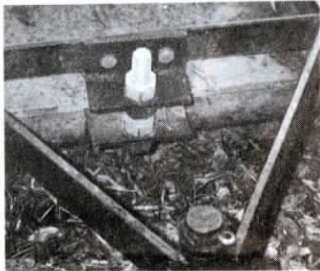


Since FARM SHOW has subscribers throughout the entire U.S. and Canada, your readers could probably answer a question I've thought about for a long time: What's the longest a farm tractor has run without an engine overhaul?

For example, I know of a Deere 4020 diesel that had over 8,000 hrs. on it and still ran good but the piston rings started leaking, letting antifreeze into the oil. Without that problem, it would have run much longer because when it was opened up, the crankshaft was still perfect.

I'd like to hear from other readers about their "longest running tractors". (Wayne Bengtson, W 1810 County Rd. Cc, Maiden Rock, Wis. 54750)

Editor's Note: What's your candidate for "Longest Running Tractor Without An Engine Overhaul"? Send us the make, model and year of tractor and the hours on it, along with your name, address and phone number (or the name of the owner of the tractor), to: Longest Running Tractor, FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



Here's an adjustment bracket I made to mount on my "Modern" 4-ft. rotary mower. Previously, it had an adjustment plate with several holes in it. The problem was that at one setting the skids would hit the ground and at the other, the mower would be too high for what I needed. This bracket gives me infinite adjustment.

It consists of two pieces of 3/8 by 3-in. angle iron. One piece bolts to the mower deck and one piece to the wheel bracket. A 1 1/8-in. dia. all-threaded bolt runs through both brackets, held in place by four nuts. I use the nut on top of the top bracket to make adjustments, and the nut on the bottom of the top bracket to lock it in place. Makes it easy to set the mower so the skids run about an inch off the ground. (Patric Tobola, 860 Sweetwater, Vidor, Texas 77662)

Both my wife and I really enjoy your magazine. We're 76 and 77-year-old retired farmers. Last year we used a method we'd seen in your magazine to knock down a pair of cement stave silos. We had good luck putting them both down. I recently made mouse poison stations out of PVC pipe, like I read about in one of your articles, and they work fine, too.

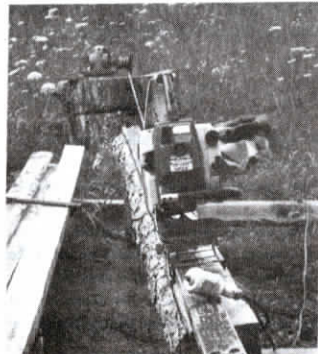
Here's an idea we came up with to hang picture frames, mirrors, clocks and anything else that hangs on a wall. Just put tabs from pop cans on the back and hook them over a nail. Works good. (Webster & Ellen Kellogg, Lansing, Mich.)

We've received your magazine for several years and have bought a number of items featured, and used many of the "made it myself" ideas ourselves.

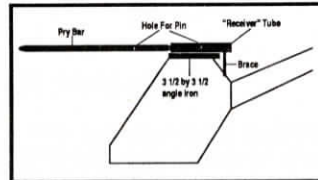
An article in your last issue (Vol. 18, No. 2) was very enlightening to me. It was about converting an old school bus to haul horses. In the article it stated that "horses" can be

bought cheap because they're difficult for scrap yards to crush, and that they are reinforced every 8 in. with steel beams and 12-ga. sheet metal. I had assumed that horses would, indeed, not be profitable for scrap yards to crush (what with clogging up machinery, etc.) but I wasn't aware that the reasons included built-in steel beam reinforcement and 12-gal. sheet metal. I'd like to thank you for pointing this out to me. Without your magazine I never would have known why it's not profitable to crush horses. (Jim Checkel, Rt. 2, Box 184, Kasson, Minn. 55944)

Editor's Note: The article should have stated "School buses can be bought cheap because they are difficult for scrap yard to crush." Thanks for pointing that out, Jim.



I saw logs into lumber for my own use using a Stihl 041 chain saw attached to a bracket that pulls along the top of a 2 by 4 on top of the log. A winch powered by a 1/2 hp. electric speed reducer pulls the saw slowly through the log. (Edgar Maurer, 3443 Dawley Rd., Ravenna, Ohio 44266 ph 216 296-5636)



I made a round bale mover using scrap metal and a pry bar bought at a hardware store. First I bolted a piece of heavy 3 1/2 by 3 1/2-in. angle iron to the top of the bucket. Then I welded a "receiver" tube to the angle iron, bracing it at the back to prevent twisting. A hole drilled through top of the receiver tube and the pry bar makes it easy to pin the pry bar in place with one bolt. It quickly removes when not needed so we don't have to remove buckets when going from scraping manure to hauling bales. Has already outlasted three tractors.

I also made a simple device to remove duals that are stuck because of mud or rust. I use a 5/8-in., a piece of 3/4-in. dia. pipe, and a 5/8-in. threaded rod. To pop off a stuck dual, I hold the pipe between the duals with locking pliers, and turn the nut to lengthen the rod so it pushes against the outer dual. I have two different lengths of pipe for two different dual band spacers. (Alexander Schotz, 3807 Irish Rd., Wilson, N.Y. 14172 ph 716 751-9185)

If I have to cut through ice for livestock in winter, I cover the hole with plywood and a piece of old carpet after they're done. That keeps the hole from freezing over. Works great. (Leland Jones, Rt. 2, Box 141, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537)



A number of years ago FARM SHOW ran a story about how to make a low-cost foam spray marker using cans of shaving cream. As I remember it, you could build this "Poor Man's" foam marker for less than \$3. Could you provide details about it? (Bob Bettenhausen, Rt. 1, Streeter, Ill. 61364)



Editor's Note: USDA researchers came up with the idea, which we ran in FARM SHOW's Vol. 7, No. 3, 1983 issue. It's ideal for farmers who don't have large acreages to spray, and consists simply of a can of shaving cream mounted in a piece of PVC pipe on the end of the boom. Here's how it works:

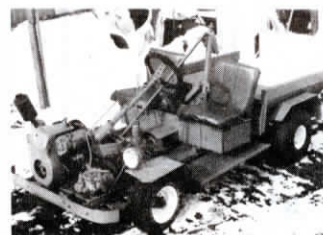
Depending on boom length, one can should last for 8 to 10 acres, applying a blob of foam every 30 to 50 ft. To make the marker, you start with a 7 1/2 in. long piece of 3-in. dia. PVC pipe which holds the can. The tricky part is making the trigger which presses down on the shaving cream can button. Cut out a 3-in. wide, 4-in. section from another piece of 3-in. dia. plastic pipe, and fashion it into a "T" shape. The firing pin, or top of the "T", should be about 1/4-in. long (see photo). The trigger sits inside the top of the 3-in. pipe and is held in place by a nail that goes through the arms of the "T" and the pipe. The trigger arms should be beveled slightly to fit against the inside of the pipe. It's important to center the firing pin over the top of the shaving cream can but to have the nail, the trigger's pivot point, slightly off center so when the trigger is pulled, the firing pin presses down on the button.

After fitting the trigger, place the shaving cream can in the pipe and drill a hole for a nail to fit through on the bottom of the pipe at the proper height to make

contact with the firing pin. You can drill a small hole through this nail and insert a safety pin so it's quick and easy to remove the nail to insert a new can of shaving cream.

Next, cut a notch in the top of the pipe to make room for a 3/16-in. dia. plastic tube extension that connects to the can's nozzle. The tubing can be cut to any length as long as it gets the foam out of the marker. On windy days, you may want to use a longer length of tubing to drop the foam nearer the ground. To increase the size of the foam blob, you can split the tubing at the end and insert a small funnel.

The final step is to run a length of cord from the top of the trigger to the tractor. When you want to drop a blob of foam, just pull the rope. The marker attaches to the spray boom with a pair of hose clamps that run through two slits cut in the back side of the PVC pipe.



I built this workhorse "yard truck" in 1954 using two Cushman 3-wheel ice cream delivery trucks for the frame and a 4-hp. engine, which still runs well. It's fitted with a 1927 Harley Davidson clutch and transmission and a 1929 Plymouth gearbox. It's got two seats and a box on back. The truck has hundreds of hours on it and will be good for a long time yet. (Larry Morris, Rt. 1, Box 61D, Athol, Idaho 83801 ph 208 683-2600)

Here's an idea that makes it easy to keep your garden green when it gets dry in summer. Just soak bales of straw overnight in water and then lay them around your garden. For two weeks it'll keep your garden

from drying out, even during a drought. (Mrs. Gina Dawkins, Rt. 6, Box 167, Charlotte Hall, Md. 20622)



We made a cheap adjustable fire grill using a tractor wheel rim, a pickup camper jack, a flattened-out hammermill screen, a piece of 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing, and 1 1/2 in. angle iron (welded around edges of screen). You weld the jack to the side of the rim, which can be anchored to a small cement slab. The screen fastens to the jack - using the piece of square tubing - so it raises and lowers by cranking the handle. A rod on top of the