

# Reader Letters



I've found out your magazine gets out to lots of people since you featured my side-by-side Farmall F-20 (Vol. 16, No. 4). I took the tractor to several shows this summer and it was amazing how many people came up to me to tell me they'd already read about it in FARM SHOW and that they were really surprised to get to see it in person. It sure makes me proud of what I did. At two shows I took the tractor out to the field and put it on a 3-bottom plow and it pulled great. People would come running with their cameras and videos. I've had my picture taken more with this tractor than ever before in my life. I'm enclosing one of them for you. (Harry Lee, Box 119, Einora, Ind. 47529)

I recently came out with a second edition of my book which contains many of my ideas for getting rid of unwanted insect and animal pests around the home or farm. The book sells for \$12 (postpaid). Readers can also write or call me with their problems (if I'm not there, I'll call back collect). Here are some of the latest new ideas I've come up with:

To kill groundhogs, first plug up one of their two holes with dirt and then roll up a bunch of newspaper into a volleyball-size ball and pour gasoline all over it. Then put the ball of paper in the ground hog hole and seal it up tight. The fumes will kill it.

To get rid of ants, mix up equal parts of 20 Mule Team Borax and powdered sugar and spread it around. The sugar attracts the ants and the Borax finishes them off. Works great and is harmless to the grass or other animals. To get rid of roaches, mix 20 Mule Team Borax with coconut flakes and sprinkle it around. Another good roach killer is a mix of one cup of flour, one small onion chopped, 16 oz. of boric acid powder, and 1/4 cup of oil. Add just enough water to form a stiff dough and shape into balls the size of marbles. Place the balls wherever roaches hide or travel and it'll kill them.

To catch rats and mice, first boil your traps to eliminate body odor. Then mix up a bait of 1 tsp. peanut butter, 1 tsp. strawberry jelly, and 2 drops of cooking anise. This mix has an unusual odor that attracts mice. Just put a dab on the paddle of each trap. To kill mice outside, mix equal parts of Portland cement and flour (both dry - no sand or gravel) and spread it out on a tray. Rats and mice will consume this mixture and plug up in 3 hrs. and die. You can also "plug up" rodents by putting out instant mashed potato flakes next to a small jar lid of water.

To catch a skunk, use a long pipe with a cable or wire threaded through it to create a snare. Slip the loop over the skunk's head and quickly lift it off the ground. A skunk cannot spray with his hind legs off the ground.

To catch squirrels, put a bucket in the ground and fill it halfway with water. Float a few peanuts on the surface of the water. The squirrel will jump into the bucket to get the food and will not be able to escape. To catch chipmunks, which chew insulation off wires, use a piece of PVC pipe about 20 in. long. Put a piece of screen over the bottom of the pipe using a clamp or piece of wire. Make peanut butter ball about the size of a golf ball and roll it down inside the pipe. Tie the pipe to a tree so the bottom is off the ground about 2 in. The chipmunk will go down into the pipe

and will not be able to get out. This idea also works on rats and mice.

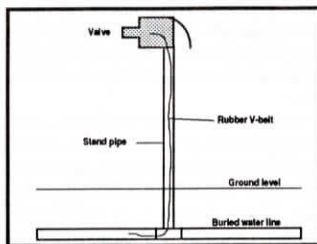
Here's two fishing ideas. Make holes in the center of Alka-Seltzer tablets and put them on the hook with your bait. The sizzling will attract a lot of attention and when you catch a fish it will already be de-gassed! To make a simple heater for ice fishing (for use only out in the open, not in a fish house), punch a few holes in the side of a 5 gal. metal bucket and fill it with dry sand and about a gallon of kerosene. Mix well and then throw a lighted match on the surface. The sand will catch fire with a nice blue flame.

To get rid of bees or wasps bothering you in a picnic area, coat the bottom of a pie pan with honey. They'll go for the honey and get stuck in it. You can also put a little orange juice in pie pans. It'll ferment in the sun and the bees will drink the juice and drown. (Harold E. Bailey, "The Friendly Trapper", 3014 Middletown Road, Columbiana, Ohio 44408 (ph 216 549-2010))

I had a letter published in the Vol. 15, No. 3 issue offering to buy back issues of FARM SHOW (issues that are no longer in print). I bought seven issues for \$5 apiece from a reader in Oklahoma. Now I only need 5 issues to have a complete set: Vol. 1, No. 1, 2, 5, & 6 and Vol. 3, No. 5. I would pay \$10 for each of these issues. I had several people write to me also looking for back issues, including one fellow from Hawaii.

I keep all my issues in a file cabinet. Each year (6 issues) has its own manilla folder. This system keeps all my issues in perfect condition and makes it easy to find what I need.

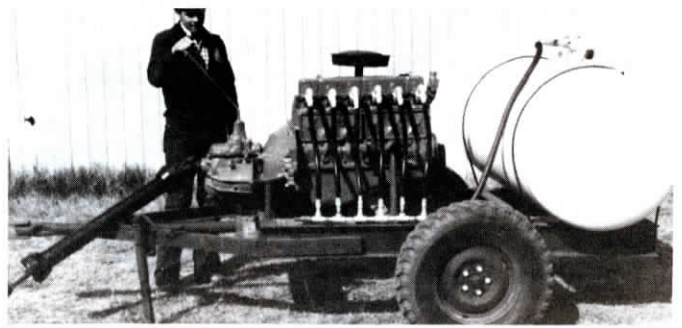
I would be willing to set up an exchange for back issues if people want to write me with the issues they'd like to sell or the issues they'd like to buy, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. I'll send buyers a list of people with issues to sell. (Tom F. Crittenden, 207 Crittenden Dr., Mansfield, Penn. 16933)



Here's an idea I came up with to keep stand pipes from freezing in winter weather and to save the expense of a frost-proof hydrant. I shove a rubber V-belt under the pipe to where it T's into the underground line. I leave 1/2 to 3/4 in. of the belt sticking out the top of the stand pipe so the belt extends into the back of the valve and so that it's easy to pull out in warmer weather when you need the full flow of water. The rubber in the belt gives room for freezing, preventing damage to the pipe. (Karl Pfaff, 1632 Ryder Rd., Dansville, N.Y. 14437)

Does anybody know of a conversion, update or other method to smooth out clutch operation of Case 70 and 90 Series Power Shift tractors? It's a hydraulic dump valve system which uses oil pressure to lock up the planetary gears. I would appreciate any help you or your readers could give. (Bob Scharlau, 1761 Lewis Valley Rd., Arcadia, Wis. 54612 ph 608 323-7297)

This handmade scale model of a 1915 65-hp. Case Steamer is the work of Derald Cink of Sioux Falls, S. Dak. It's a 1/15 scale.



I do some sandblasting and can't produce enough air with my existing 5 hp. compressor. I remember a farmer featured in FARM SHOW who built one out of an old car or truck engine. Could you please give me more information about it? (Roger T. Homier, New Bavaria, Ohio)

David Seifert, Gardwood, Texas, was an 11th grade FFA student at the time of our report in 1983 (Vol. 7, No. 2). He converted an old 292 6-cyl. Chevrolet pickup engine into a low-cost, high-volume air compressor that'll pump up a 250-gal. tank to 120 lbs. in 5 min. For sandblasting, it'll maintain 100 to 110 lbs. of pressure under load. "I first removed the head and then drilled out the spark plug holes with a 3/4-in. bit. Next I tapped the holes with a coarse pipe threader and inserted check valves that let compressed air go one way only - out of the engine. I also removed the intake valve springs from the engine head, and replaced them with lighter tension coil springs. This allows air to enter the cylinder block when the crankshaft pulls the piston down. When the piston is pushed up, pressure closes the intake valve and opens the check valve.

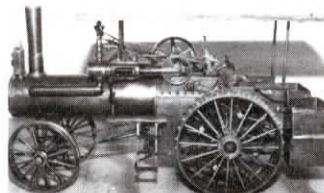
"I took the driveshaft off the old pickup and welded a pto coupler to one end and

use a tractor pto to drive the engine air compressor. I mounted it all on a 2-wheel trailer together with a 110 gal. air tank.

"I fitted the check valves with hydraulic hoses and connected them to a manifold made of plumbing tees. With another piece of hydraulic hose, I connected the manifold, made from the tees, to the tank. Next, I removed the exhaust manifold and fitted the intake manifold with a homemade air filter. I took off the radiator and water pump but to keep the compressor from overheating I ran a hose from the water drain plug on the side of the block to the fuel pump, and then ran another hose from the fuel pump to the thermostat opening at the top of the engine. The fuel pump circulates water through the hoses and block just enough to cool the compressor.

"I left the transmission on the compressor so we can throw it out of gear without going back to the tractor. We run it in high gear. As a compressor, the engine runs backward.

"I outfitted the driveshaft with a safety sleeve made out of plastic pipes. For further safety, the tank is outfitted with a pop-off valve and a pressure gauge. I bought the check valves out of a wholesale motor parts catalog."



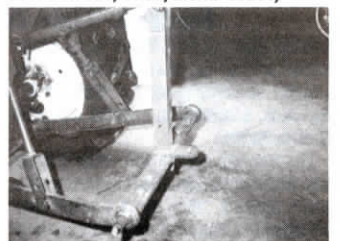
He took many pictures and measurements of a full-size machine before building it and later he got hold of a parts book which he used to make all the internal parts. He can run it on air pressure. Everything works on it. He even has miniature old-style tools in the toolbox. He also built a scale model 8-bottom John Deere sod buster plow to pull with the tractor. (Vernon Staebell, Rt. 2, Box 143, Parker, S. Dak. 57053)

I came up with this idea to make it possible to convert an old belt-driven hammermill to pto drive using an old plow tire and axle. The hammermill should run at 2,000 to 3,000 rpm's - the pto runs at 540 - so the tire speeds it up. I mounted a driveshaft in the middle of the wheel and the tire runs against the belt pulley. I bought the old hammermill for just \$5 and got the plow wheel for free. It grinds up 3,000 lbs. per hour. (Bill White, Box 975, Twisp, Wash. 98856 ph 509 997-3006)

In regards to the article in your last issue about the new "Liming Method" to keep farm ponds clean, I'd like to say that I've been using bluestone (copper sulfate) to clean blue-green algae out of my stock dams for years and years and have never had a bit of the trouble those Canadian pond-limers claim one can have. In fact, I use copper sulfate as

a short term calf coccidiosis preventative in drinking water tanks and pour in enough to turn the water real greenish. No problem - and the concentration used to clean up a stock dam is far, far weaker. The cows don't mind it - so I wonder if there wasn't a bit of disinformation in the article.

All you need to clean up a smaller farm pond is a pound of bluestone (use an additional pound for larger ponds), two old socks, a piece of wood that'll float, and some strong twine. Put the bluestone in one of the socks, and tie it to the twine. Attach the wood to the twine about 2 ft. from the sock with the blue stone and put a rock in the other sock and tie it to the other end of the twine leaving enough twine to reach the bottom of the pond. Throw the socks, twine and wood out into the pond so the sock with the bluestone is suspended below the surface of the pond. The sock with the rock acts as an anchor. In three days the pond will be cleaned up. One treatment lasts a whole season for me. It's best if you start before any scum shows up on top of the water. If there's lots of scum on the surface, it'll still work but the breakdown of so much blue-green algae at once may create problems. (John H. Barton, Barton Ranch, P.O. Box 328, Saco, Mont. 59261)



I designed this "3-pt. drawbar" for my 35 and 15 hp. tractors. It fits between the two 3-pt.