

Reader Letters



Here's a cheap way to make a high-capacity electric heater for a shop or garage. I took the squirrel cage fan out of a gas furnace and attached it to the back of a heating element out of an electric furnace. It heats a big area in a short amount of time and cost almost nothing to put together. **(Norman Smith, 7302 Walsh Rd., Walsh, Il. 62297 ph 618 774-2960)**

You can pull this dump trailer behind any pickup, car or tractor because it needs no hydraulics to dump. A hand winch on front tips it to the back.



It holds 6 cu. yards and measures 5 by 8 by 4 ft. high. Key to its success is a rolling gin pole that slides down the front of the box as it's raised. Once you've emptied it, it's weighted so you just release the winch to let it fall back down into place.

It cost \$800 to build it from all new parts except for the wheels and tires. We use it to haul all kinds of trash, mulch, firewood, and so on. I could make plans available if there's enough interest. **(Thomas E. Hoover, 3386 FM 1798, Laneville, Tex. 75667 ph 903 863-5524)**

The article on our company in the last issue of FARM SHOW had an almost unbelievably good response from your readers. It's a testament to the large number of people who read your publication.

You are to be congratulated for establishing this fine publication and making it into the fine publication that it is.

I'd like to tell your readers a little more about our company. In addition to stocking more than 5,000 reproductions of original farm equipment owner's manuals and service manuals, we also offer hundreds more 1/16-scale farm tractors and other hard-to-find non-production toys. What's more, we can customize almost any toy tractor with our custom modifications like 3-pt. hitches, quick couplers, rock boxes, front weights, cabs, saddle tanks, chrome wheels, and many other components. We employ a master craftsman who has won national awards for his custom work with toys.

We offer a free estimate service over the phone or you can send a picture of your tractor. **(Warren D. Jensen, Jensales Co., Box 1203, Albert Lea, MN 56007 ph 800 443-0625; fax 507 377-9727)**

FARM SHOW readers might be interested in our line of miniature farm buildings and accessories for children and toy farm machinery collectors. We design, build and hand-paint the 1/16-scale farm buildings. The buildings are made of plywood and come completely assembled. We now make a complete farmstead including farmhouse, corn crib, machine shed, farrowing house, finishing



building, silo, and people and animal figures. **(Wylie & Carolee Robinson, Makers' Miniatures, RR3, Springlake Rd., Streator, Il. 61364 ph 815 673-1137)**

I think FARM SHOW should start running farm machinery reliability ratings, like in Consumer Reports. The machinery manufacturers have no way to be checked up on. You could have totally objective looks at new equipment by farmers and engineers. The problem now is that we buy something with long-term problems that have not been fixed and the manufacturers are super secretive. When I E-mail Deere & Co. with my problems, they give me a spin to keep me quiet. We need real testing that manufacturers can live up to. **(Bert Loehrer, 48304 152 St., Milbank, S. Dak. 57252)**



We built this off-road trailer for a local logging company. It's designed to be pulled by a Steiger tractor and will haul almost two full highway loads out of the woods where it can then be loaded onto trucks. We designed and fabricated it from scratch. **(C. Keith Capdepon, P.E., Tensas Machine & Manufacturing, L.L.C., Rt. 1, Box 139, Newellton, La. 71357)**

We've averaged one call a day from all over North America since FARM SHOW published the article, "Suspicious Tractor Fires Provoke Lawsuits", about Ford-New Holland-Versatile bi-directional tractors (Vol. 22, No. 2). Most come from farmers, but some come from attorneys and insurance companies, too.

From what we've learned since the article appeared, the specific areas of the tractors that need to be closely inspected and monitored are: the main wiring harness between the back of the cab and the front of the engine compartment; proper positioning of the grommets; watch for signs of wear on the armoring or wiring insulation; and condition of the battery cable insulation. I encourage all owners and operators of Versatile and New Holland tractors to inspect these areas frequently.

Contact your dealer if you find trouble in any of these spots. Thanks again, FARM SHOW, for bringing these concerns to readers' attention. **(Larry Mills, Dakota Claims Service, Box 400, Pierre, S. Dak. 57501)**

Our new Dion model 1224 pull-type forage harvester can be equipped with an optional kernel processor. It mounts between the cutterhead and blower and uses a 6-in. dia. roller and a 10-in. dia. roller to crack the kernels. It improves digestibility, decreases grain in the manure, and can boost milk production. The option sells for about \$7,500. **(Howard Eichhorst, 307 N. Ludington, Columbus, Wis. 53925 ph 920 623-4676; fax 4687 or Dion Machinerles, 420 Cote Sud, Boisbriand, Quebec, Canada J7E 4H5 ph 514 430-1022; fax 1137)**



Here's a home-built "pickup" that I came across in my travels. Built by Bob Howard of Winchester, Ill., it's nicknamed the "Brush Buggy". Howard started with a 1966 Ford 3/4-ton truck chassis and installed a 455 Pontiac engine. He equipped it with 2-ton Rockwell off-road axles and 20-in. military tires. He built a cab out of sheet metal. The truck has a 20,000 lb. winch and a long-stroke swing-arm log splitter that mounts on the side of the truck. There are a number of different hitches on board for pulling various loads.

Howard says its great for all kinds of jobs, but works especially well for cutting and hauling wood from the wooded bluffs along the



Illinois river. **(C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075)**

After being flooded out by the James River two years in a row, we wanted to let FARM SHOW readers know that the F.I.S.H. carburetor company is up and running again.

We produce a single-barrel "Monarch" carburetor (\$385) which can be installed on any engine using the proper adapters. We also produce the two-barrel "Columbian" (\$575) which runs on a 1 1/2-in. barrel and has a 2 1/2-in. secondary. It fits all four-barrel manifolds. Both carburetors have dash-mounted mixture controls.

We also manufacture a vacuum operated fuel pressure regulator (\$50). It is fully adjustable and comes with a mounted pressure gauge. **(Rich Ackerman, F.I.S.H. Sales & Service, 12730 Tacoma Loop, Columbia, S. Dak. 57433; ph 605 225-3231)**

The cement pipe mover you featured in Vol. 21, No. 6 isn't really so new.

I first saw a lighter-built version of it in 1975 used by a contractor to move 30-in. dia. pipe. The tool was made out of 3/4-in. thick flat iron and was being used to install a culvert parallel to a highway.

In 1988, I had a welder build a bigger, heavier model out of old earth mover and road grader cutting edges. We used it to install 6-ft. dia. culvert pipe with a Caterpillar 235 backhoe. **(Ken MacDougall, P.O. Box 5088, Drayton Valley, Alberta, Canada T7A 1R3; ph 403 542-2510)**

I'm a long-time FARM SHOW subscriber and I've got an idea that just might go gangbusters at North American farm shows.

I'd base a show attraction on FARM SHOW's "Best and Worst Buys". I'd build a huge lemon-shaped yellow tent with an enormous stage. I'd hire a really hot band and a wisecracking host like David Letterman who would invite farmers up on stage to rant about their worst buy or rave about their best one. For example, they could drive their favorite or least favorite tractor on stage, get out and just "tell it like it is".

On a more serious note, I'd take out ads two or three months in advance of a show and invite farmers to haul their best "born-in-farm-shop" inventions to the show.

Unfortunately, my idea is bigger than my budget. I'll have to win the lottery before I'll ever be able to afford to do it. **(Ron Nelssen,**

Rt. 1, Inavale, Neb. 68952; ph 402 746-2920)

I'm astonished at the number of inquiries I've received since FARM SHOW's article about my business, "Barn Restorer Brings New Approach To Big Jobs", (Vol. 20, No. 6). Thanks again for the exposure.

Meantime, due to my barn repair and restoration work, I've also become a barn historian. As such, I'm always searching for books, catalogs, plans, pictures, articles and other information about, and related to, old barns and their uses.

Should FARM SHOW readers have any such information, please contact me at the address and phone number listed below.

Although not all barns can be physically saved, their history can be documented before fading into the past.

Thanks in advance for your help. **(Ted Micka, Barn Repair & Restoration, 12346 Sharon Valley Road, Brooklyn, Mich. 49230; ph 517 536-4371)**

We built this bunk wagon out of odds and ends in the late 1960's. We quit using it 10 or 12 years ago when we got our first mixer/weigh wagon but it was ideal for feeding small groups of cattle. The idea would probably still be good for smaller operators.

We started with an old World War II howitzer ammunition carrier. It was like a small pickup box with a cover, which we removed along with the "tailgate". We mounted it on the undercarriage of an old field digger which was equipped with two fixed 15-in. wheels. We mounted a third 10-in. castor wheel off an old Deere Van Brundt seeder on "front" of the

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