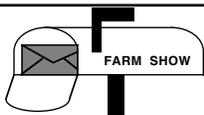


Reader Letters



We use recycled plastic to build heavy-duty polyethylene corral panels, stall grilles and bale feeders for horses, llamas and goats.

Our Porta Paddock panels weigh as little as 17 lbs. They feature special plate metal corner brackets that lock together at both top



and bottom crossmembers as well as at the uprights for extra sturdy service and easy set-up. Panels are commonly 4-ft. high by 6 or 8-ft. long, although we custom build other sizes, too. They start at \$60 plus freight. Four-panel portable paddocks start at \$300. (**Frank Pederson, Black Rock Inc., 10425 No. 60th Ave., Merrill, Wis. 54452; ph 800 560-4515 or 715 675-4515.**)

I built the body and flatbed for this truck over the last two winters in my spare time. The "doorless" design allows me to hop in and out either side with ease.

I started with a rusted out 1974 Chevy 4-WD 1/2-ton pickup equipped with 350 cu.



in. engine. I stripped it down to the chassis and built the hood and cab out of 3/8-in. thick sheet steel. I put a step at the bottom of each door and used a bucket seat out of an old van for the driver's seat.

The 8 ft. sq. flatbed is built from galvanized bleachers I got from a nearby high school. The bleacher seat sections mount on crossmembers I made out of I-beam.

The truck comes in handy for everything from fixing fence to picking rocks to hauling two 5 by 7-ft. round bales. Cost \$1,200 to make the conversion. (**Cash Biros, R.R. 1 Reed Rd., Mazon, Ill. 60444; ph 815 448-2207.**)

FARM SHOW readers might be interested in my low-cost way of keeping the waterline and hoses in my barn from freezing, even down to 30 degrees below zero.

I got a junked G.E. chest-style deep freezer for free from a scrap dealer. I removed the motor, which didn't work anyway. Then I cut a 1-in. dia. hole in the bottom of the freezer, the same size as my waterline. I unscrewed the tap and set the deep freeze down over the waterline, then screwed the tap back on. I stuffed insulation around the hole and mounted a 40-watt heat lamp with 4-ft. extension cord on top of the door so the lamp swings up and out of the way when you open it. I coiled up the waterhose we use to fill our portable outside trough in the bottom of the freezer. To use, we simply uncoil the hose, fill the trough we use to water our 25 cows once a day, then coil it up again and put it back in the freezer. Haven't had a frozen waterline or hose since I did this three years

ago. (**Percy McNabb, R. 1, Scotland, Ontario, Canada NOE 1PO; ph 519 443-8067.**)

There's nothing on the market like the quick-tach 3-in-1 hitch I built. I used scrap metal so it didn't cost me anything, but it saves me a good hour in switching from one hitch to another.



It consists of two 3-ft. uprights 50 in. apart and two crossmembers built of heavy-duty 2 by 4-in. tubing. The top crossmember is fitted with a detachable 2-in. dia. ball hitch, while the bottom crossmember secures to the 3-pt's top link. You can use the hitch to hook up to all 3-pt. mounted equipment, 5th wheel gooseneck trailers, or ball hitch trailers.

Takes only minutes to switch, and the design could be adapted to any tractor with a 3-pt. hitch. (**John O. Johnson, R.R. 3, Osakis, Minn. 56360; ph 320 859-3514.**)

I'm tickled with the response I got after FARM SHOW's story on my low-cost Dust Eliminator for all Deere combines (Vol. 21, No. 4). I've received many calls and letters from all over the Midwest.



Response was likewise exciting recently at Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Minn., where I sold four units.

FARM SHOW readers who saw my invention there are aware of a few minor design improvements I've made since your article. For example, I changed to steel drive unit and bearings and now have my own logo painted on the units.

Since Farmfest, I've found a manufacturer and reached a marketing agreement with Kevin Brovold, Clear Vision Inc., 16949 Elm Ave., Prior Lake, Minn. 55372 (ph 612 440-1937; fax 1932). The kits sell for \$1,199.

Thanks again for the article. (**Harold Kruckman, 232 Laurel Ave., Hazel Run, Minn. 65241-3010; ph 320 383-2389.**)

We've had tremendous success with our E-Z Eye Bin Level Indicator that FARM SHOW featured several years ago (Vol. 18, No. 4).

We recently unveiled a new, improved model. It won awards at both the Minnesota Inventors Congress at Redwood Falls, Minn., and the Western Canada Farm Progress Show at Regina, Sask., this summer.

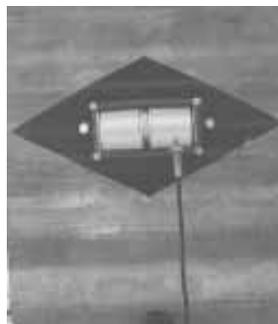
We call the new bin level indicator the LevAlert. It still provides a handy visual color change to indicate the level of grain in the bin. However, the LevAlert installs com-



Last winter, FARM SHOW featured my husband Larry's and son Kyle's shop-built splitter hitch that allowed them to pull two Case-IH balers at a time behind a single tractor (Vol. 20, No. 6). The hitch also serves as the hydraulic reservoir for the pumps and 50 hp motors that drive the balers. The hitch worked so well last season on more than 100,000 3 by 3-ft. by 14-in. bales, the men decided the only possible way to improve it was to add a third baler.

Here's a photo of the new splitter hitch they used this season to pull three Case-IH balers. It's built from 8 by 8-in. sq. tubing and is 16-ft. wide with 8-ft. long hydraulic

arms to which the balers hitch. Balers are spaced 32 ft. apart from center to center when the arms are extended with the third baler positioned directly behind the tractor. This rig allows Larry and Kyle to bale three 16-ft. windrows at a time, producing 750 bales an hour. Distance between the balers can be adjusted with hydraulic arms to allow picking up closer windrows, too. For transport, the hitch raises up on the 3-pt. and the arms pull in so balers come to within 1 ft. of each other for an overall transport width of 24 ft. (**Sherry Robinson, 8001 E. Farmers Ave., Amarillo, Texas 79118; ph 801 373-5891.**)



pletely from outside the bin by drilling a 1 1/8 in. dia. hole in the wall where you want to position it. It now features an activator, which rotates a black and yellow 1 1/2-in. dia. color tube as material pushes against it, instead of a pressure plate and fluid-filled tube. The LevAlert can be seen from 300 ft. away in daylight and is also reflective for easy night viewing. Can be electronically monitored. Sells for \$99. (**Tom C. Johnson, LTJ Enterprises Inc., Roseau, Minn. 56751; ph 800 962-8896 or 218 424-7499.**)

When the body and cab of our 1968 Dodge 3/4-ton pickup rusted out beyond repair 10



or 15 years ago, my late brother Frank and I mounted a tractor cab on the frame. We also fashioned a new hood and fenders and added an oak flatbed to the rear.

We call it 'Baby Mac' because of the way the cab is offset to the left side. It gets a lot of looks everywhere it goes.

We found the used Year 'Round tractor cab at a local implement dealer. It came off a tractor that had a two-row corn picker

mounted on it. All the glass was still good. We lengthened the cab's four mounting brackets with steel in order to rubber mount the cab, which is offset 6 or 8 in. to the left. We mounted the pickup's dashboard inside the cab and installed a rear seat out of a station wagon in order to make it a two seater.

We mounted an air cleaner and fuel tank off a 400 International diesel tractor on the right side and made square-shaped fenders and a hood out of sheet steel. The hood is hinged so it tips forward for service like some semi's.

Finally, we built a flatbed the size of the pickup's original bed out of oak lumber we got from the local lumberyard. It cost us \$700 or \$800. (**Lee Schmitt, S-2541 Alligator Slide, Fountain City, Wis. 54629; ph 608 323-3730.**)

We feed Japanese beetles to fish in our farm pond. We just cut the bottom out of a beetle trap and hang the trap over the water by running a wire between stakes across the water. When beetles enter the trap they fall into the water. (**Joe Bowman, Jr., 9515 Falls Of Rough Rd., Falls Rough, Kent. 40119**)

We designed this mini backhoe for kids. It's much higher quality than other similar units on the market. It features a boom reach of



36 in. with a full 360° swing. It has four adjustable outriggers so it can be used anywhere. Rides on four small wheels. Two levers do the digging and open and close the bucket. It's built from heavy gauge steel. Weighs 35 lbs. We put circular safety guards over the joint on the boom. We sell these