

Reader Letters



Since so many of my stories over the years have appeared in FARM SHOW – as well as Farm Journal, Successful Farming, and many other national magazines - I thought your readers might be interested in the fact that my farm-related photos and story files have been donated



to the archives at the University of Illinois.

Back in 1988, I gave the University of Illinois most of my black and white pictures covering the period from 1948 to 1982. Now I've given them my files covering the period from 1982 to 1995.

My story files generally represent what was the leading edge of farm technology at the moment. I wanted to make these files available for the benefit of people in the future who might want to see what agriculture looked like in the second half of the 20th century. **(C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 ph 217 563-2588)**

When those small match lighters - the kind that you use around the house to light candles or fires - run about of fuel, you can still use the igniter for lighting torches, small propane burners, furnaces, etc. They work great. **(ph Milton Nesiba, 910 Padua Ave., Ravenna, Neb. 68869)**

Thanks to all the FARM SHOW readers who've ordered products from us over the years. We've got a couple exciting new livestock sorting ideas that we think you will be interested in.

Our new Flag Stix is a 3/8-in. dia. vinyl-coated shaft with a flag on one end. It has a golf grip handle. It's tough, lightweight and flexible. Weighs less than 1 lb. There are two sizes - 48 and 54 in. long. They come in bright blue or red so they're visible to livestock without rough handling. The flag is double stitched to prevent unraveling. You can also purchase the flag separately to attach to any 1/2-in. dia. sorting stick on the market. The Flag Stix sells for \$12.75 plus S&H. The flag alone sells for \$3.95 plus S&H.

We also have a new aluminum cushioned sorting cane. It's got a clear, vinyl coated cushioned grip that elimi-



nates slipping and a hand shock for a firmer hold. It's tough, durable and lightweight and only weighs 1 lb. The shaft is 1-in. round heavy-duty aluminum, 42 in. long. It has a wear resistant plug cap inside the tip end. Sells for \$16.70 plus S&H.

(Koehn Marketing, Inc., P.O. Box 577, Watertown, S. Dak. 57201 (ph 800 658-3998 or 605 886-2120; Web site: www.koehnmarketing.com).

Paul Cheatam and I have used this idea for years to save a little money when drying corn. We capture heat off the 10 hp. Motors that run the fans on our bins. The fans pull about 1 kilowatt of electricity,



which produces something like 42 btu's of heat per hour. This is heat that would otherwise be lost. We built ductwork around the tops of the fans to suck the air away from around the motors and into the bins. Once you set it up, there's nothing to do. It's money in the bank. **(Irvin Thompson, Seven Hickory Township, Arcola, Ill. 61910 ph 217 268-3293).**

Here's an idea I came across in my travels. It's an "emergency" hopper for a bin-fill auger. You just dig a hole in the



ground for the end of the auger, and then put a piece of plywood on either side of the hole. Just cut a half circle in the side of both pieces of plywood to fit around the end of the auger. Then drop the grain onto the plywood. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

In your last issue you showed a "lazy susan" iron rack. Shown in the picture are several unsecured gas cylinders, one with a regulator and flowmeter attached. If that cylinder should happen to fall over, the valve on it would break off and it would become a rocket. I just wanted to point out that this cylinder should be secured to prevent an accident. **(Hilton Slayton, H.H. Slayton Co.)**

Recently we installed a cistern for our rural home. To pump water to the house I use a deep-well pump like in a drilled well. I lay it down on 4 by 8 by 16-in. solid concrete blocks with a plastic pad between the pump and the blocks. I use a line valve to make sure the pump

doesn't drain. We use a control so that if the cistern goes dry and the water pressure drops below 20 lbs., the control must be turned on when water is put back in the cistern. This works much better than a jet pump. **(Virgil T. Robertson, 630 Robinson Hollow Rd., West Union, Ohio 45693)**



About a year ago I needed to rebuild my stock trailer. I use it often, so I thought that for more safety I would put an extra gate on back. It works really well. When I go to stock sales, people are really in-



terested in it and how it works. The extra gate mounts on hinges on one side. The other end of the gate hooks onto a bracket on the main door when it's closed. The extra gate helps load animals, yet stays right on the trailer so it's easy to use. **(Kenneth Hubbell, 3141 Goodwill Rd., Hastings, Mich. 49058)**

Our new front-end disk cultivator quick-tatches to most newer model skid steer loaders and can quickly maneuver in tight areas. It's equipped with two gangs of discs and can be used when going either forward or backward with the rig. The back blades are notched for a more aggressive cutting action and the front blades are plain for a cleaner cutting action. The angle of the discs on both gangs can be hydraulically reversed when going backward by simply pulling on a lever. Pulling the cultivator backward leaves no track marks.



We originally developed the unit for cleaning up construction sites. However, we've found that it also can be used for chores around the farm, such as controlling tall weeds and grass, cutting and leveling trenches, breaking up hard-packed soils, and even cultivating small acreages and shelter belts. We recently displayed it at the Big Iron Show in Fargo, N. Dak.

We offer two different models - a 20-disc model designed for 40 to 60 hp skid loaders and a 24-disc one for 60 to 75 hp loaders. **(Cory Halischuk, Wolf**

Products, Ltd., Box 252, Clandeboye, Manitoba, Canada R0C 0P0 ph 800 493-5939 or 204 785-1016; fax 1233; Web site: wolfprod@mb.sympatico.ca).

We've been making this ground-driven, pickup-mounted wire roller-unroller for many years but it's just as popular as ever. It lets you drive beside the fence and unroll or roll up wire as fast as you can drive. It uses three pul-



leys and a reel that mounts at one end of a steel shaft that mounts across the width of the pickup bed. The bottom pulley is fastened to a frame that attaches to the pickup wheel rim. The pulley sets out 10 in. from the center of the wheel hub and has adjustable spokes to fit different wheel sizes. A spring-loaded idler arm keeps the belt tight even when you go over bumps.

The reel holds more than a mile of smooth wire or up to 80 rods of barbed wire. It's really a time saver when putting up or taking down electric fence.

Sells for \$259 plus S&H. **(Grainfield Supply Inc., Box 169, Grainfield, Kan. 67737 ph 785 673-4321; fax 4314)**

Several months ago you published an article about a new-style rock rake made in the Netherlands and called the "Stonebear" (Vol. 23, No. 2). We recently began selling it in the U.S. and Canada.



The pto-powered rig hooks to the tractor drawbar. The entire rear rock box lifts up high via 6-ft. lift cylinders to dump on top of rock piles or into pickups or trailers. The rake fingers work down to about 6 in. deep, pulling rocks to the surface and then windrowing them. The 14-ft. wide machine shakes dirt off the rocks before depositing them into the rear hopper. **(Kongskilde Limited, 19551 N. Dixie Hwy., Bowling Green, Ohio 43402 ph 419 354-1495; fax 419 353-5892; in Canada contact Kongskilde Limited, 231 Thames Rd. E., Exeter, Ontario, Canada N0M 1S3 ph 519 235-0840; fax 2931).**

We make custom-built steel or aluminum utility boxes for used golf carts that turn the carts into low-cost utility vehicles. The

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