

Reader Letters



We ran into a problem with local zoning rules when we wanted to put up a carport using wood posts. So we made this portable carport using the steel frame off



an old Allis Chalmers planter. For some reason, no zoning permit was needed for this.

We made a large rectangular frame on each side with three uprights. The frames are anchored to the ground at each corner with anchors that screw into the ground. Metal crossbars join the two sides together but wooden trusses were used for the roof.

It's very strong and I can move it easily, if needed. **(Roger Strang, 5229 County Shed Road, Virginia, Ill. 62691 ph 217 452-4020)**

When Marshall Litchfield, Macomb, Ill., put up a new house, he wanted to build a deck overlooking a scenic stream running behind the house. He hit on the



idea of using some large 45-ft. long steel beams that he had picked up several years ago but never found a use for. I took this picture of Marshall standing in front of it.

The beams measure 16 by 8 in. He welded them together in his shop and then raised them into place, supporting them with steel posts at each end. Then he simply laid deck boards over the top with a railing around it. The nice thing about the design of the big deck is that it only requires the posts at either end. There's no posts in the way along the span of the deck that block the view from down below. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

I wish I had made this portable gas tank with front-mounted tool box years ago. It's very handy when we're doing fieldwork - I just pull it out to the field and



leave it there. It saves a lot of tractor riding back and forth just to get gas. The tank is a standard 500-gal. fuel tank that mounts directly over the axle, which came off a pickup. An inexpensive hand-

cranked pump mounts on top of the tank.

The front-mount tool box is 3 ft., 8 in. wide. It's made from plywood with an angle iron frame. It slopes to the front. The rear angle iron uprights are 21 in. long. The front ones are 19 in. long. The lid hinges backward.

The frame of the trailer is 8 ft. long and 3 ft., 8 in. wide. The tongue is made from 3-in. I-beam. **(Bayard Young, 18172 Youngs Lane, Elkwood, Va. 22718 ph 540 399-1438)**

Here are a pair of simple gate latches that might help others out. They didn't cost anything and were easy to make. Neither of them extends out into the gate opening when unlatched.

The first consists of a 1/2-in. dia. rod that extends all the way through the wooden fence post and then 2 to 3 in. into the top rail on the gate. A simple lock hasp, that closes over an eye screw,



logs the pin in place.

The other latch I made consists of a U-shaped metal bracket welded to the end of an old barn door hinge. It simply flips down over the top of the gate.



Works good for lightweight walk-through gates although you could build it as heavy as needed for any size gate. **(Marland M. Old, Rt. 1, Box 141B, New Boston, Texas 75570)**

I thought your readers might like to see what a brand new chainsaw looks like after an Arkie father-in-law runs over his Texas son-in-law's saw with a large ro-



tary mower. Fortunately, my son-in-law - Dr. Mike Karleskint of Howe, Texas - is still talking to me. **(Larry Zenz, HC 60, Box 154, Parks, Arkansas 72950)**

FARM SHOW is a great publication that provides a wonderful service to people like me. I am a milk hauler in central



Minnesota but when I'm not on the route, you'll find me in the fields tending crops.

I'm sending along a picture of a recent conversion of a milk truck to a fire department water tanker. Last summer the Upsala, Minn., fire department purchased a used 1986 Freightliner milk truck from one of their volunteer members. With help from their friends at CAP Enterprises, Melrose, Minn., they removed the back cabinet from the tank and installed loading and dump valves on the back. A rack on the right side of the truck was built to carry a collapsible, 3,500-gal. drop tank for fighting rural fires.

After the conversion, the truck was painted and lights and sirens installed. This resulted in a very low cost and effective water tanker. For more information, contact "Diesel" Dan Burgraff, Box 142, Upsala, Minn. 56384. **(Jason Malisheske, Box 62, Sartell, Minn. 56377 ph 320 253-4106)**

Here's a pretty simple idea that works well for us. We tear down chicken houses and we added these booms to



the sides of our Ford truck to take down the trusses. They bolt to the frame and support the truss while we disconnect it at the ends. They simply hook over the



side of the truck bed and telescope out as needed. **(Gordon Brevik, 193 Polk 659, Mena, Ark. 71953 ph 501 394-5599)**



Here are photos of a couple tractor additions we put together.

The first is a companion seat we added to our Farmall BN. This is not intended to be a seat for kids. It's just for fun when we show the tractor at our local antique tractor show. Guys call it "Charlie's Courtin' Tractor". Our dog likes to sit on it.

The other idea is a 3-pt. boom that we rigged to our Deere tractor's loader bucket to give it more reach and height. The slick thing about it is that neither the boom nor the bucket had to be modified. We just set the boom in the bucket and run a steel cable with hooks on either end back to hooks on the bucket. We tighten them down with come-alongs.



The boom gets wedged in and stays in place. **(Charles & Laura Ballein, 1302 E. National Pike, Scenery Hill, Penn. 15360 ph 724 945-5289)**

I'm writing about an article in the last issue of FARM SHOW about a "new" kind of fence stretcher from the Stewart Fence Co. (Scappoose, Ore. ph 503 543-5871).

Was this a new article or did you take it from a 50-year-old ad? I have one of these in my antique farm tool collection that is the very same idea, but it's just 42 in. long. It was used on fences when the railroads were being built. The man I got this one from had two of them.

If this isn't the same idea, it's so close you can't tell the difference in a picture. **(Mark Keller, 2394 Osage Ave., Fairfield, Iowa 52556)**

The article, "Slick Way To Remodel Barn" (Vol. 23, No. 6) was of interest to me. Utilization techniques for old farm buildings is one of my interests and I have assisted with renovation on several old buildings.

Some cautions came to mind, however, as I read your article.

The procedure explained is workable although no dimensions were explained about the size of the hay mow floor sections that were raised and relocated. The barn width and length would affect the weight involved. Anyone who's ever used a handyman jack will quickly recognize the instability problem with using several jacks to raise up sections from 7 to 11 ft. Some sort of post-beam system would be needed for temporary support should any jack tip over.

Although no mention was made, I would hope the barn had side sheds or braces to support the main barn walls. With the mow floor raised to the top plate, that becomes a pivot point unless there is bracing to keep the walls plumb for maximum strength.

The idea of using the overhead hay carrier to raise or support the raised floor should work for awhile. A stronger brace system is needed, however, to carry the sustained loading at the ridge. Otherwise it will gradually sag. The added load on the sidewalls will force them to move out again unless properly braced. **(Dexter W. Johnson, Agricultural Engineer, 1237 N. 3rd St., Fargo, N.Dak. 58102)**



We built an onion harvester in 1993. It's all hydraulic powered and picks onions

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