

Reader Letters



Editor's Note: Many readers noticed a mistake in our last issue in a story about a 4020 fitted with a heavier 5010 front end. The picture cutline said it showed a 4020 but, obviously, it showed a 5010. There was a second mistake when we said the story was about Lynden Jenkins' "brother-in-law" when it was actually his brother. Sorry about that Lynden.



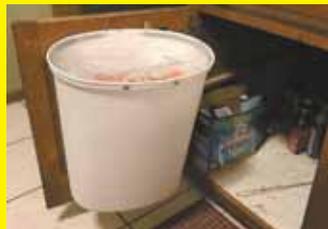
I bought a wheelbarrow at a hardware store and the tire went flat and the bearing gave out. Instead of replacing them, I made a wheel out of plywood. It solved the problem and never went flat. (George McConnell, Nebraska City, Neb.)

I have tried both traps and poison to kill moles with no luck. I finally kicked open the top of each tunnel and poured about 1/2 to 1 qt. of gas into the holes and covered them back up. It doesn't kill the grass and seems to work well.

For ants, I sprinkle powdered Tide over their mounds. The soap disappears when the ants carry it down into their nests. Pretty soon, no more ants. (Robert Kleiman, Evansville, Ind.)



Over the winter I cover my trailer with a tarp. But the wheels and tires are still exposed so I use 55-gal. garbage bags to fit over the 16-in. tires. As you can see, they fit tightly. Works great. (Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.)



Here's a handy way to mount a garbage can in your kitchen. Mount two small cup hooks to the inside of the cabinet door and make two small holes in the side of the garbage can, making it easy to attach and detach the bin. It works well and you just have to open the door a little bit to drop something into it. (Ryan Van Der Bill, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.)

We use an old Murray garden tractor with the mower deck removed to spray and unwind fence wire. It's much better than an ATV for many chores because it has a governor so it maintains speed up and down hills and when one kills the engine, it stays put without rolling away. (R. Schlatter, S. Hutchinson, Kan.)

My father-in-law, Virgil, bought a new Deere 4000 tractor in 1972. It was delivered in November, just as my wife and her brother were getting home from school. They climbed up on the fenders and Virgil started doing donuts on the ice and snow. He always said it was one of the happiest days of his life.

Ten years later, he had a heart attack and had to sell the farm. Five years ago I told my wife I was going to find that old Deere 4000 and see if I could buy it back.

Deere gave us the serial number. For 2 years, I searched dealers from Florida to California, at dealers, auction companies, and so on. Finally I ran an ad on WNAX radio, telling my story and giving the serial number, noting that the tractor was sold at an auction near Utica, S. Dak., in 1982. Two days later, I got a call from a guy who said he'd bought his 4000 from a fellow at his church who had bought it at an auction. The serial numbers matched.

He was only about 120 miles away so my son and I traveled to see it and took pictures. The man who owns it doesn't want to sell it but it sure was fun to see it and sit on it. (Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.)

Kids hot and bored on a summer day? Make an instant swimming pool by covering a pickup box with a big tarp and then add water. When you're done, use the water on your garden.

One great tip I got from FARM SHOW has become a regular practice of mine for many years – putting 6 to 8 oz. of acetone in your gas tank after you fill it up. It keeps engines running like a Rolex. You can also put it into lawn mowers and other small engines. It's a lot cheaper than name brand additives. (William "Redd Kneck" Ceilky, Lakeland, Fla.)



Thanks for the report in your last issue on how a neighbor used an electro-hydraulic cylinder from an old Deere small square bale thrower to automatically raise or lower the deck on my Ferris zero-turn riding mower. The cylinder is wired to the mower battery, so I can use a toggle switch instead of a hard-to-push-down foot pedal to raise or lower the deck.

If anyone is interested in doing this on their own, a commercial hydraulic-electric actuator will work, too. You can find an actuator and related components, such as mounting brackets and toggle switches, at Surplus Center (www.surpluscenter.com) or in their 2017 catalog (no. 290) on page 164. (John Travis, Dundee, N.Y. ph 607 243-7359; jandjtra@icloud.com)

I'm concerned about the article in your last issue regarding someone who used a pto-powered cart to push a tractor at high speeds. The pto-powered cart was built on a Roadster axle. When the driver

wants to travel faster than the tractor can, he puts the pto in gear and takes the tractor transmission out of gear.

I think this practice could be dangerous, especially if you're using a lighter tractor. A neighbor tried this idea a few years ago on a Ford tractor and accidentally jackknifed the tractor because he had no control over it. Fortunately, he didn't get hurt. (Roy Hartman, Dickinson, N. Dak.)

I used to farm some land that was unsuitable for crops but great for wildlife. I'm not a hunter, but I usually give permission to hunters who ask.

One day when my pasture renter was checking on his cattle, he found someone who had just finished up ruining a 20-ft. tall, 21-in. dia. walnut tree. He made a deer stand in the tree and screwed 11 metal climbing steps onto the trunk.

A true sportsman would know better than to drive steel rods into walnut, as it ruins the wood's veneer. The walnut stock on a gun is a source of pride for many hunters, and I'm sure this guy wouldn't laugh it off if I drove a railroad spike through his walnut gun stock. He wasn't even considerate enough to unscrew the steps so the tree could try to heal itself.

Mindless hunters like him can cause a lot of "no hunting" signs to go up, and more private land to be leased out to groups with more money to spend. It can mess up hunting for those who appreciate being able to hunt private land and do things the right way. (Richard Stout, Washington, Iowa)

On page 28 of your last issue is an article titled "Handy Chain Hook-Up Device". Using a bolt on any lifting or pulling device is very unsafe, as the bolt is not designed for that purpose and could fail with catastrophic consequences. Using un-welded chain (as shown in the right hand photo in the story) for any lifting or pulling job is not a good idea. Use only products that are designed and recommended for this purpose.

Having sold chain and lifting products for more than 30 years, I've seen way too many failures caused by the use of chain or cable products in an unsafe manner. It only takes one failure to kill or maim someone, and usually the first one is the last. (Doug Nicoli, Vancouver, Wash.)

The Village of Froelich is an amazing place. It was here that John Froelich built the first tractor, and there's a bronze plaque recognizing this amazing feat. It states, "In this Village John Froelich built the first gasoline tractor that propelled itself backward as well as forward. Far-reaching in its effect on modern agricultural history, it moved out of this village and into the world in 1892.

Later that year Froelich joined others in organizing the Waterloo Gasoline Traction Engine Company, which later became the John Deere Tractor Company.



Besides the plaque, the Village has a general store and post office that serves as the Froelich museum, a blacksmith shop, railroad depot and several other buildings along with replicas of the Froelich tractor.

Village volunteers took time to create their own tractor teeter totter. It's made from steel wheels, a long painted board, and metal antique tractor seats. Children who come to visit can frolic on the tractor teeter totter before they learn more about John Froelich and the tractor he built that started an agricultural revolution. To find out more, log onto <http://www.froelichtractor.com/index.html>. (Cindy Ladage, Springfield, Ill.)



I design and build attractive wooden "meter houses". City utilities will give their approval for the houses as long as they can access the meter. (Alvin Graham, Albert Lea, Minn.; alvingraham62@gmail.com)

I made this rocking chair almost entirely from junk parts. The wheels are off an old horse-drawn cultivator while the rockers are the leaf springs from a Chevy 3/4-ton pickup. A pair of old fence posts are welded crosswise to the wheels and to the springs.



The seat is made from 1 by 4's set inside an angle iron frame and covered by a cushion. The backrest was made from more 1 by 4's and has horse hames with brass knobs welded onto both sides just for looks. Horseshoes welded on top of the wheels add to the effect. (Henry E. Berry, 22422 150th Ave., Box Elder, S. Dak. 57719)

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