

Reader Letters



I've been a loyal subscriber to FARM SHOW for years and thoroughly enjoy each issue. Honestly, if you ever offered a lifetime subscription, I would seriously consider it before any other subscription I get. Keep up the great work assembling fantastic inventions and solutions from your readers. And thank you for providing a forum where the most resourceful and sustainable people on earth can network. **(Steve Morris, Bentonville, Ark.)**

In the most recent issue of FARM SHOW, there was a story on "ice spikes" that you screw into the bottom of your boots. We've been doing the same thing for years by simply using 3/8-in. hex head sheet metal screws.



I welded a bolt to a bicycle wheel and attached it to the end of a gate, so it rolls back and forth. I stretched a piece of 3/4-in. hose around the wheel rim, held in place with hose clamps. You could also just use a wheel with the tire still in place. The big wheel works well on uneven ground. **(Fritz Groszkruger, Dumont, Iowa)**

The Grammer seat (#MSG95A) on our Deere 6130 tractor would leak down about every minute. This is in a regular Deere cab - not a premium cab - where the up and down controls are near the bottom of the seat. Replacement parts are available but they're very expensive and hard to replace. Here's what we did instead:

We ordered a switch for a Deere 6130 Grammer seat that's made for a

Premium Cab (Part #RE225257). The switch normally mounts on the armrest. It cost \$67. We installed it by taking out four Allen bolts that hold the seat on the raise and lower mechanism and laying the seat out the open back window, being careful not to break the switch wire. Then we blocked up the raise mechanism with wood blocks and removed the cables on the left side where 2 screws hold it in place. We unhooked the wire and 2 air hoses that go to the air block mechanism, leaving the wire and hose tightener. We rerouted the wire and hoses to the front of the raise and lower mechanism. I used a Dremel tool to modify a metal 4-in. electrical box cover and mounted the new switch on this plate. We mounted the plate and switch close to where the original mechanical lever was, leaving most of the cover sticking out, held in place with pop rivets. Be sure the wire and air hose don't get crushed by the seat mechanism when raising and lowering. One of the air hoses gets crimped off and the other goes to the new switch valve. The old mechanical air valve control can be left in place or removed. Put the seat back on and it'll work great. For questions, contact my mechanic Steve Harris at sdharris@empireaccess.net. **(Name Withheld)**

If you have a layer of frost on your windshield and no scraper available, a plastic soda bottle cap works amazingly well to scrape it off. **(Gary Meeks, Verona, Va.)**



I installed a post on my zero-turn lawnmower to make it safer to mount and dismount. It cost \$25 total for a 24-in long piece of threaded 3/4-in. black pipe, a floor flange, four 5/16-in. hex head bolts and nuts, an end cap, close nipple, and an elbow bend. I tack welded each end of the close nipple to ensure rigidity. **(Jack Norris, Lafayette, Ind.)**

In a recent issue, one of your readers wrote about using RESCUE Japanese beetle traps to get rid of beetles around his linden tree and string beans. I bought some of the traps but never used them because further research showed that the traps attract beetles from as far away as 5 miles. I didn't need any more beetles, so I did more research and found "Milky Spores" which not only take care of the beetles but also help eliminate my mole infestation. The moles are attracted by grubs that turn into beetles. So, I got rid of two infestations at once. Milky Spores chase off Japanese beetle grubs for up to 10 years. I first used it two years ago and I haven't seen any beetles

or moles since. Milky Spore powder does not hurt vegetables, flowers or animals. Make sure to wear a mask and gloves when applying. You can buy milky spores at Walmart and other retailers. **(Cheryl Burns, Sackets Harbor, N.Y.)**



I often leave my truck parked on job sites in the dark. It's not practical to run the flashers for hours so I salvaged some reflective pieces off broken highway signs and attached them to the front and back of my truck. Works great and might be a good idea for farm equipment, too. **(John Rochester, Deerfield Beach, Fla.)**



I rescued a Deere LX178 tractor that was on its way to the scrap yard because it had no engine or mower deck. I installed an engine and turned it into a light-duty plow and light-duty trailer puller. I made the plow from a grease barrel and used a garage door cable and chain for the lift. It works well on light snow on level surfaces. **(Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.)**



I made a very useful piece of equipment out of a discarded plastic truck liner which is made from a very durable material. I use it as a sled that I pull around my yard to haul debris. To pull it around, I installed a 2 by 4 to the front of it with I-bolts attached to chain on the outside. These liners can often be obtained for free from bed liner companies when they remove them to apply spray-on liners. **(Jeff Binion, Newnan, Ga.)**

I love tinkering with projects that make life easier. My fingers don't work like they used to, which makes opening plastic bags with "zipper" enclosures challenging. I've solved this problem by taking the bags out of the box and cutting a u-shaped notch in the short side, with the bottom of the "u" touching the zipper. Now it's easy to open any bag, even in the dark or behind my back. All I need

to do is pinch the middle of the top of the bag, in the notch, where it's just one layer thick. I bend the part I am pinching sideways, and the short side will stick upright so that it's easy to grab with my other hand. If the end isn't standing up, I've bent the bag the wrong way and just need to go the other direction to open it. It's an easy solution. Now my wife and I can enjoy brown sugar in our morning oatmeal without worrying about the sugar drying out in an open bag. **(Tony Bunniss, Webster, Minn.; glennlee1964@gofast.am)**



I recently bought an old tractor that did not have a pto guard. I made a pto shield using heavy-duty pvc and a reusable wire tie. I have read that if you get caught in a pto at 540 rpm your brain doesn't know you are in trouble until you have made four full revolutions. Some of us old guys may take even longer. **(Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.)**



My wife was looking at old pictures and found this barb wire unroller I made several years ago. I made it from two 2 by 4's with threaded metal and bolts that attached it to the 3 pt. of my tractor and also

were used to hang the spools of wire from. It was simple to make and worked well. **(Bob Conklin, Corydon, Ind.)**



Being almost 80 years old and with a back that doesn't work as well as it used to, I couldn't stand to bend over a digging fork anymore. I replaced the wooden handle on the fork with a metal one and attached a broken tooth from a spring tooth harrow on the bottom side to act as a fulcrum. Now I can get down on my knees and dig potatoes. Sure saves the old back. **(Mike Frantz, Seymour, Mo.)**

Easy Way To Send Your Ideas

How often do you see an idea when you're out and about and say, "Hey, that should be in FARM SHOW"? Next time that happens, just take out your phone and send us a photo or two. Just text them to us at **952-465-5019**. If you want to leave a voice mail explaining what you're sending, this phone is dedicated to FARM SHOW stories so it's on and available 24/7. No need to worry about disturbing anyone. Call or text day or night with your ideas, comments, or suggestions.



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