

Reader Letters



The Pratt buggy jack shown with Gary Sampson's letter in Vol. 49, No. 6, doesn't have a screw-ratcheting mechanism but rather a cogged vertical lift mechanism. (Cal Miner, Willmar, Minn.)

We're Amish and have no desire to be part of the "screen generation." Thank you for mailing us a magazine we enjoy! (Andy J. Yoder, Fort Plain, N.Y.)

I've always liked FARM SHOW. I'm no doubt one of the first subscribers. Around 1980, Harold Johnson stopped by my farm to see the hot water wood-burning furnace I built (Vol. 8, No. 1). My son still uses it in the winter. (Darwin Reyne, Luverne, Minn.)



I have an International 140 tractor that dies or quits on me. It's done this for years. I've done everything I know to do: fuel, fire, grounds, wiring, coils, cond., etc. It runs better on 100% gas with a cupful of diesel or kerosene than on pump gas for cars.

It cranks up well and runs for 5 min. or 1 to 2 hrs., then dies like the key was turned off. It won't crank up for 5 min. or so. The fire on the coil is good. The gas in the carb starts when it wants to.

If anyone has this problem, I'd like to know what fixed it. I've put up with this problem for over 30 years. No one that I've talked to knows what to do either. (Melvin Graves, 300 Back Valley Rd., Speedwell, Tenn. 37870)

My father, Jack Yeary, had an article published in Vol. 41, No. 2 about his carpenter and bore bee traps. He was 89 years old at the time. He sold his traps all over the U.S. and had no complaints. He was very proud of his work and put pride behind every single one. He built them up until the day he passed away on May 15, 2025, leaving several unfinished traps. He was laid to rest wearing a shirt with his "Jack's Bee Traps" logo.

My wife, Sierra, and I have moved into his home and want to continue his work in his honor. Please contact me if you're interested in purchasing a trap. (Alan K. Yeary, Jack's Bee Traps, 647 Cannery Hollow Rd., Speedwell, Tenn.; ph 423-201-8214)



When pouring wet or dry material, place a bowl or a larger container underneath to catch any spills so there's no waste or mess. This works in the kitchen or the shop.

I use painter's tape in the kitchen and shop to make easy-to-read labels. If you need to change a container's purpose, simply cover it with a new piece of tape. I use this method everywhere, even in the file cabinet. (John Rochester, Charlotte, N.C.)

I take my "used" FARM SHOW magazines to the local high school ag class. (Gary Sampson, Freedom, N.Y.)



In Vol. 48, No. 3 (2024), Gary C. Brown told of his worst buy, a Black Flag Bug Zapper. In Vol. 48, No. 4, I described how I reconfigured the outer hardware cloth cylinder to make it work.

Now, I have found another design flaw. The bugs must fall through the 1/4-in. hardware cloth holes. If they don't, they accumulate until they start on fire.

My advice is to put these bug zappers in the garbage! (Ralph Volkman, Black Creek, Wis.)

I have a pen for four chickens. There's no smell because I covered the ground with sand; it soaks up the droppings. (Del Bigelow, Sandy, Utah)

A subscription to FARM SHOW was a good idea on my part. The first thing I look for is Ole and Sven. Whoever writes this is really good at it. What a lot of people don't know is that Ole from the north is Bubba in the south.

Great magazine, but it'll take me a while to get over people in Nebraska wanting to grow crops on Mars. (David Franklin, Youngsville, N.C.)

In Vol. 49, No. 5, you reported comments from a reader who wasn't in favor of printing the "Best & Worst" information in FARM SHOW. I think this information is one of the best features of your publication because it offers comments from a large number of readers and is therefore accurate. Keep this feature in print. (David Johnson, Moore Haven, Fla.)

In Vol. 49, No. 6, Ron Schmidt from Mandan, N.D., wrote a letter about his frustration with the lack of lawn mowers with a front lift-up. He should look into Deines Manufacturing for lawn mowers with a front deck that lifts 90 degrees for servicing. I've used two of them for years, and they're virtually trouble-free mowers. (Harold King, Three Hills, Alberta)

Years ago, after reading an article in FARM SHOW (Vol. 32, No. 2), I bought the Delta Hook Rapid Hitch System.

While Alexander Equipment has gone out of business, I heard that another manufacturer (or machine shop) was producing them.

Do you know where I can find additional pieces of this excellent self-adjusting 3-point hitch system?

It seems that a number of people have posted similar requests on the internet over the years.

Hope your readers can help. (John Walker, Vallie Ranch, Colo.)



I took a plastic snow fence and zip-tied it to a 16-ft. cattle panel. It looks good, will not sag, and one person can put it up. It can be used year after year. (Jim Carlson, Osceola, Neb.)



An old refrigerator with a lightbulb on keeps a hydrant from freezing in subzero weather. It's cheap and easy to make. (Scott, Chippewa Falls, Wis.)



I was hurting my back pulling my wood splitter from the shed to the woodpile by hand. My son, Sam, said I should have some kind of dolly built to move the splitter more easily. My dad, John, is a longtime FARM SHOW subscriber and a wizard with a welder. He had a couple of old tires from a junked hay conditioner in his shop and built me this dolly. It works great! (Matthew Urch, Viroqua, Wis.)

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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