

of hamburger for 25 cents, weiners for 25 cents, and smoking tobacco 3 packs for 25 cents. Then a farm was 80 to 160 acres. Now they have to be 500 acres and up to make it. In the last 25 years, within a mile radius of where I live, 10 sets of farm buildings have been torn down. That gives you an idea of the kind of changes we're seeing out here. **(Claude Nolin, Rt. 3, Box 16, Williamsport, Ind. 47993)**

I'm writing in regard to one of the ideas featured in your 435-page Encyclopedia of Best Ideas. It's called a loader ladder and shows a farmer who welded steel rungs along one side of his front-end loader to make it easy to climb up into his loader bucket to paint buildings and do other maintenance chores. Although this may seem like a "best idea" to a magazine editor, it's one of the worst possible examples there is of product misuse. Your promotion of this idea through your magazine and book implies that it is an appropriate use of a front-end loader while the loader industry itself painfully tries to prevent people from ever riding on, climbing on, or working from a loader bucket.

Your magazine should do whatever is possible to let farmers know this idea is very unsafe and not to be tried under any circumstances. Aside from the danger of climbing on the loader, welding ladder rungs onto the loader boom could cause structural failure if welding is done improperly. In most cases, it will void the manufacturer's warranty.

I think this idea should have been named one of the "worst" ideas ever submitted by your readers. I encourage farmers to read and observe safety information in their loader manuals and on safety decals, rather than what is printed in FARM SHOW. **(Leroy Stumpe, Woods Equipment Co., Box 5041, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57117 ph 605 336-3860)**

Some FARM SHOW readers may be interested to know that for the last 3 years, at Coolsprings, Pennsylvania, there has been a get-together for owners of gas-powered vehicles that have been converted to diesel. This year the "4th Annual Northeast Diesel Confab" will be held Oct. 15-16, 1994. This laid-back event not only features repowered trucks but also vehicles like jeeps and scaled-down "B" model Macks. One of the purposes of this meeting is to exchange ideas and thoughts on repowering gas-powered vehicles to diesel. There is also a swap meet of parts needed for different conversions. It's held at the Coolsprings Power Museum grounds along with an annual fall swap meet of antique gas engine and tractor parts. For more details, contact Dan Harry (814 432-2610) or Jerry McDowell (412 253-4604), or myself. **(Bob Hamilton, Rt. 1, Princeton, Ontario N0J 1V0 Canada ph 514 458-8024)**

The money I've saved by using ideas from FARM SHOW would probably pay for 166 years of subscriptions to the magazine at today's prices. I figure that's a pretty good bargain. **(Roman Schroeder, Washington, Mo.)**



Thanks for your article in the last issue of FARM SHOW on my husband Tom's big bale "creations". I'm sending along a picture of his latest project - a motorized bathtub. He took a zero-turn lawn mower and lengthened the frame to fit a standard bathtub. He cut a hole in the bottom for the mower control

levers and a hole in back for the motor. He built a seat in the back of the tub. It'll turn in its tracks, run in circles, and go forward and back. He runs it up and down our driveway and has certainly created a lot of excitement in our neighborhood. Cars going down the road can't believe it. **(Shirley Patton, 114 Unger Road, Jamestown, Penn. 16134 ph 412 932-5862)**

Years ago I sold this add-on attachment to farmers for collecting crop residue for livestock feed. It fit on the back of the combine. An auger carried residue to a



blower that blew it out to a trailing wagon. It worked very successfully and many were sold to cattle producers. In milo or grain sorghum, the crop residue equalled in weight the weight of the grain harvested. For example, milo that yielded 2 1/2 tons per acre would also produce about 2 1/2 tons of feed. The great thing about loading it out direct from the combine is that the crop material was free of dirt and other trash that balers or stackers would have picked up. Also, it collected all the fines and cracked grain coming out the back of the combine that otherwise would have been wasted. A company manufactured it for me. The problem in selling it was that farmers worried that manufacturers would discontinue their combine model and the unit wouldn't fit their new machines. The manufacturer finally gave up on it and retired. **(Edwin Bredemeier, Rt. 1 #13, Steinauer, Neb. 68441)**



We make decorative mulching material for plants using shredded newspapers for use around garden plants, newly planted trees, and indoor plants. "Magic Mulch" conserves soil moisture, restricts weed growth, and provides disease control. It's also biodegradable so it can be worked into the soil at the end of the growing season. We've converted newspapers into the form of discs, sheets, and pellets. Colors include greens and earth tones as well as undyed or gray.

The 1/4-in. thick discs have a hole in the middle and a slit that extends from it to the outside edge of the disc, allowing the disc to be bent and slipped around the base of the plant. Rectangular sheets are designed to be placed between rows of plants, and pellets can be used with potted house plants. **(John & Bev Beck, Rt. 8, Box 496, International Falls, Minn. 56649 ph 218 286-3296)**



Unloading grain from your truck into hoppers or augers - without spilling it - is an easy job

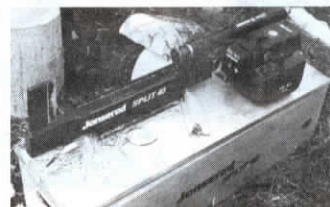
with our new grain discharge chute that adjusts the width of the opening in the endgate. The chute consists of two 6-in. high, 21-in. long hinged steel plates mounted on an angle iron framework with a steel pan on bottom. The add-on chute bolts to the truck floor with three bolts. The two sides adjust from an 8- to 16-in. wide opening. The width of the opening is adjusted by changing the position of a pin on each side plate. The top of each plate is coated with rubber to protect your hands. Fits all types and sizes of grain truck bodies. I'm looking for a manufacturer. **(Michael J. Urban, Mike's Welding & Repair, 521 Wisconsin Ave., Kewaunee, Wis. 54216 ph 414 388-0178)**



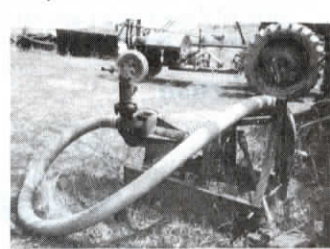
I made a handy utility pull-cart out of an old golf cart that no longer ran. I removed the body of the cart behind the seat and lengthened the frame by 24 in., moving the rear axle back. Then I fitted it with a wood cargo box and attached a wagon tongue to the single front wheel and fitted it with a ball hitch.

I use the cart on my Christmas tree farm for carrying prospective tree buyers around. I can carry two people plus cargo. If they buy, we put the tree in the box. I pull it with an ATV. My customers really appreciate being able to ride around in comfort. A friend of mine, Phil Penderoy, helped cut and weld the frame and build the cargo box. **(Jerry Butler, 2108 N. 3rd Ave. E., Newton, Iowa 50208)**

Our new portable Jonsered wood splitter weighs just 65 lbs. and can be powered by



either a pull-start gas engine or an electric motor. The splitter has a 16-in. stroke and develops 3 tons of pressure, enough to split even the hardest hardwoods. It's small enough that you can use it on your pickup tailgate. Splits logs up to 12 in. in diameter. Sells for \$1,379 (Canadian). **(Josa Corporation Ltd., 200 Hamford St., Lachute, Quebec J8H 4L2 ph 514 562-8872)**



I put together my own 3-pt. mounted irrigation pump using an old industrial pump mounted on a channel iron frame. The pump is pto driven through a 4 to 1 gearbox that speeds up the pump. I used other assorted scrap metal to fashion a 3-pt. hitch and fitted it with a new 4-in. suction hose and check valve and a 10-ft. section of 4-in. plastic drain tubing for discharge.

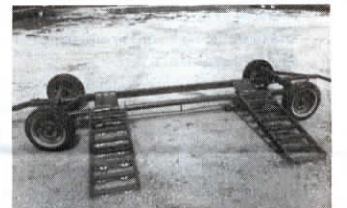
It cost me just \$110 out-of-pocket and

moves large volumes of water at about 40 lbs. pressure. You can find pumps like these at industrial equipment auctions or salvage yards. **(Alvin Van Den Bruck, 6740 120th Ave., Fennville, Mich. 49408 ph 616 543-4403)**



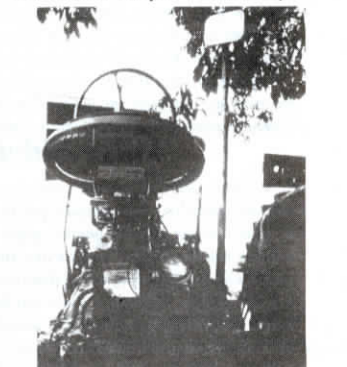
A "driverless" Super H International tractor with all controls extended up to the front of the tractor makes an easy-to-handle buggy for spot spraying weeds. The Farmall carries a large spray tank on a 3-pt. mounted platform and has a heavy bar mounted across the front that's fitted with three padded automotive seats, each shaded by an overhead sun canopy.

Clutch and brake controls were moved to the front of the tractor by use of connecting rods running back to the foot pedals. Steering was set up in front using a steering sector from a 114 International cotton picker. The steering wheel mounts vertically to the left of the center seat. The tractor is fitted with a single front wheel. The operator has all the controls at his fingertips so he can easily spot spray weeds while driving. The tractor can still be driven normally from the main seat without disconnecting the modified up-front controls. **(Dave Laxton, 506 N. Main, Rector, Ark. 72461 or Matt Hauck, 13862 Hwy 49 N, Rector, Ark. 72461 ph 501 597-2387)**



I built a swather transport in 1976, years before commercial models were ever made. I put an end to driving the swather down the road and has saved me a lot of time. I used an old wagon running gear and bolted a pair of steel cradles between the frame rails. Scrap steel and old worn-out combine rasp bars were used to build a pair of ramps that are hinged to one side of the frame.

We drive the swather's front wheels up the ramps and onto the cradles, leaving the two rear caster wheels on the ground. Then we raise the ramps and chain them to the bottom of the swather. In transport the swather sits sideways with the rear castor wheels riding along on the ground. **(Wayne Husak, Box 1228, Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada R0J 1H0 ph 204 476-3868)**



I mounted a pickup mirror on top of a telescoping piece of pipe that can be easily adjusted for height and angle. Then I clamped the bottom of the pipe to the tractor axle with U-bolts. **(Richard Ward, Rt. 6, Box 71, Crawfordville, Ind. 47933 ph 317 794-4321)**