

You Ask We Answer

This column is for readers who have questions but don't know whom to ask for answers.

"You Ask—You Answer" is for non-cooking questions. When a reader sends in a question, it will be printed in the paper. Readers who know the answer are asked to respond by mailing the answer, which will then be printed in the paper.

Questions and Answers to this column should be addressed to You Ask—You Answer, Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522. Attention: Lou Ann Good.

There's no need to send a SASE. If we receive an answer to your question, we will publish it as soon as possible.

QUESTION — A faithful reader would like to know where she could purchase some Alice and Jerry readers that were used in school many years ago. She especially would like a copy of "Singing Wheels" and others from that series.

QUESTION — Marian Mosemann, Summit Hill, is looking for a wire jig that can be used for making patterns in any shape and size by bending the wire.

QUESTION — Marian Mosemann, Summit Hill, would like to know where to purchase gift boxes for jellies and breads. Candy boxes are too small.

QUESTION — Marian Mosemann, Summit Hill, would like paper puzzles that were sometimes given away by the John Deere tractor franchises. The puzzles were made either out of thin cardboard or thick paper. The puzzle pieces were packaged inside a letter-sized envelope with instructions to solve the puzzle printed on the outside of the envelope.

QUESTION — Betty Staman, Danville, lost the dough hook for her Bosch mixer. She has written to the company address at Salt Lake City, Utah, but they have moved and the forwarding time has expired. The name of the company is Magic Mill Co.

QUESTION — Blanche Hertzler, Mt. Wolf, would like to purchase some old readers used in public school in the 1930s. She wants the third through sixth reader of the Baldwin and Bender series, copyrighted 1911 by American Book Company. She has the second reader. One of the readers has the poem "Taming the Colt," which she wants.

QUESTION — Karen Kinnane, Box 212, Shartlesville, P, 19554 (610) 488-7792, is searching for Christmas dinnerware picturing a winter outdoor scene, marked on the back with Sango 3900 Silent Night, Korea, Joan Luntz.

QUESTION — Cindy Eshleman, Jonestown, would like to know where to locate a Cub Cadet tractor hat.

QUESTION — John T. Los, 2350 Croll School Rd., York, PA 17403, would like to talk with someone about the lithographs with the following information on them: Artist signature — Fred S. Cozzens 1893. Armstrong & Co. Lith. Boston Copyright 1893 American Publishing Co — Hartford, Conn

QUESTION — A faithful New York reader would like a wholesale source for goose feathers to use to make old-fashioned feather Christmas trees.

QUESTION — Edgar Jackson, Ligonier, would like to know how to puff wheat, rice, and corn for making cereal.

QUESTION — Tom Hicswa, Hammonton, N.J., would like to purchase sheet metal parts for a Case tractor model 300B made about 1960. He wants a grille, gas tank cover, etc. Please send information to Hicswa at Box 2169 Elwood R1, Hammonton, N.J.

ANSWER — Martha Hertzler, West Salisbury, wanted an address to send for a gasket for a stainless steel Flex-Seal pressure cooker Model 908, which is made by Vischer Products Company, Chicago. Thanks to Elinor Klotz, Leighton, who writes that she received a gasket from the following address: Vischer Products Co., Mfgs of Flex-Seal Cookers, 2815 W. Roscoe St., Chicago, IL 60618.

ANSWER — Evelyn Michaels, Beaver, was trying to locate Dr. Peter Farhney and Sons Company in New York City. Thanks to Marian Wile, Southampton, for writing that she ordered a shipment of products last year from Dr. Peter Farhney & Sons Co. 103 Whittier Ave., High Point, N.C. 27260

ANSWER — Thanks to Mildred Hess, Myerstown, for sending another method for storing sweet potatoes requested by Nancy Cummings. Place ventilated crates or baskets of freshly dug sweet potatoes inside a building. Let the potatoes dry out or air 8 to 10 days. This helps heal cuts and bruises that may have occurred and toughens the skin for winter storage. After the potatoes are dried out, place them in a permanent storage area where the temperature is between 50 to 60 degrees. Layer sweet potatoes in a heavy cardboard box with newspaper placed between each layer. Store where temperatures do not fluctuate severely. Do not let a sudden drop in temperature chill the potatoes. Avoid unnecessary handling. Sweet potatoes should keep until next season's crop.

ANSWER — A reader said that she had heard there are many uses for white vinegar in addition to cooking and window cleaning. She asks if readers know of other uses for white vinegar. Thanks to many readers for sending uses.

Shirley Martin of Elliottsburg, writes that vinegar is the enemy of soft water. Use vinegar wherever there is a scale build-up on coffee makers, irons, faucets, shower heads, etc. Put white vinegar in a spray bottle and use it to remove lime build up on tile. Commodes can become non-functional from the buildup. To remove build-up inside commodes, turn off the water, flush the commode. Quickly dump a bucket of water into commode to cause a super flush. Pour vinegar into the tank and one to two quarts in the commode. Be sure holes around the rim are not clogged. If it is badly caked, spray the entire bowl and place vinegar-dampened paper towels on the area. Usually 30 minutes is long enough to remove the scale from tiles, faucets, screens and showerheads, but it may take overnight for commodes. It is possible to find large pieces similar to oyster shell in the morning. Vinegar also removes soap scum. Vinegar is good for pipes, porcelain, and not harmful to septic systems. Bleaches and many cleaners are toxic and ruin septic systems. Why have separate cleaners that smell and are expensive for commodes, coffee makers, tubs, and every other item? Vinegar is good to eat with, wash with, and clean with. Why make life hard and expensive?

Ruth Shirk of Lebanon writes that she uses white vinegar to press permanent creases into homemade garments such as dress pants. On double knit and Swedish knit fabrics, the creases will stay even when laundered. To make a permanent crease, wet a cloth with white vinegar, lay it on the garment to be creased and press with an iron set at the perma-press temperature. Avoid breathing the steam that rises from the pressing cloth as it has a strong irritating odor.

Brenda Breisch, Bloomsburg, writes that using vinegar, a natural cleaner instead of chemicals gives her greater peace of mind since she has a baby in the house. Since her husband is a mechanic who thinks his pants' legs are shop towels, she adds vinegar to the wash water to remove the grease. Add vinegar to water to clean garbage cans for a fresh smell. Add a few drops to detergent water to clean really dirty floors. Mix equal amounts of salt and flour with small amount of vinegar to polish brass, rubbing with soft cloth. Rinse and dry with soft cloth. Mix equal parts of vinegar and mineral oil. Shake and use with soft cloth to polish wood. Brenda uses it on kitchen cabinets and it cuts the grease like magic

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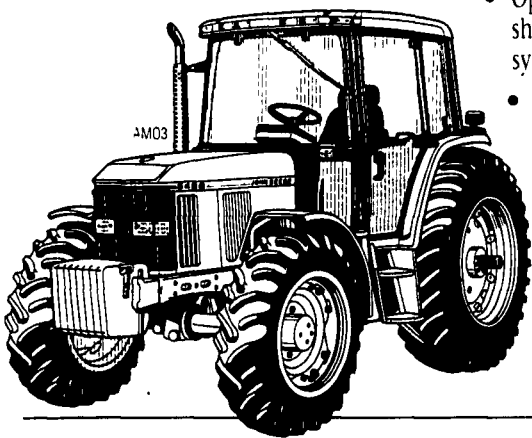
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