



Sculptor Robert Cumpston with some of his creations, most of which are produced from parts off old planters and cultivators.

**FARM ANIMAL SCULPTURES  
SELL FOR AS MUCH AS \$10,000**

## Farmer-Artist Turns Junk Into Money

By Cindy Ladage

Turning junk into money isn't easy but Robert and Donna Cumpston have done it.

The Colfax, Ill., couple, who farmed until 1983, started turning old scrap iron into animal sculptures in the early 1970's. They now go to shows all over the U.S. where their sculptures sell for as much \$10,000.

The sculptures come in all shapes and sizes. Some of the smallest are the baby chicks he makes, while the largest are probably the 17-ft. tall giraffes. The average price is \$200 to \$350. Cumpston makes cows, sows, herons, horses, hippos, ducks, geese, bunnies and even armadillo's.

Some other animals are made on a custom basis. For example, last year he made a flying pig for a woman in Virginia. "She mar-

ried a man that said he would marry again only when pigs fly," Cumpston says. So she ordered the pig for the wedding and her husband loved it, he says.

The sculpting business has become full-time for the Cumpstons, with Robert creating the art and his wife, Donna, managing the business.

Most of Cumpston's art is created from old 2 and 4-row planters and cultivators. "I prefer old metal because it's already weathered and, therefore, ideal for outdoor art," he says.

He depends on a couple of people who gather scrap to get him the parts he needs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert and Donna Cumpston, R.R. 2, Colfax, Ill. 61728 (ph 309 723-4051).

### CARRIES 1 CU. YARD

## Model T Fitted With Dump Box

"In all my years of going to antique power shows, I've never seen another rig like it," says Bob Riebel about his antique truck fitted with a rare old manual dump box.

The Le Sueur, Minn., collector bought the 1917 Ford Model T truck in 1984, and it needed a lot of work. The cab was rebuilt, the 4-cyl. engine was overhauled, new bands were installed in the 6-speed transmission, new brake bands were installed in the rear, the skin was sandblasted and repainted, and new wooden wheel spokes were installed. He made new rear axle seals by cutting up the insulated felt liners from a pair of boots. Restoration took the entire winter of 1984-'85.

A year later Riebel happened across the dump box at an auction sale at Winsted, Minn. "It was in mint condition," says Riebel. "All I had to do was sandblast it, repaint it and mount it. The mounting brackets fit the Model T perfectly."

Patented in 1922, the "Mandt Auto Dump Body" was built in Keokuk, Iowa. It's built out of heavy 1/4-in. thick steel and carries 1 cu. yd. Chains secure it in place on the truck and it's dumped with a lever in front of the



Photo courtesy Patty Lehner, Le Sueur, Minn.

**Bob Riebel gave the rare truck to his 2-year-old grandson, Ryan.**

box and behind the cab.

The box Riebel owns was used on a 1920 Model T between 1920 and '25. It bears the original brass identification tag on the side.

"I paid \$125 for it," says Riebel, "and the name tag alone may be worth that much by now."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Riebel, Rt. 1, Box 163, Le Sueur, Minn. 56058 (ph 507 665-2868).



Wheelhorse tractor is powered by a Stover-Built "Economy" engine that's equipped with an open-topped radiator on front to keep the engine cool.

### 1935 GAS ENGINE RUNS AT 600 RPM'S

## Garden Tractor Powered By "Hit & Miss" 1-Cyl. Engine

"It gets a lot of second looks when I display it at shows," says Steve Kazenske, LeClaire, Iowa, who equipped a 1965 Wheelhorse garden tractor with an old 1-cyl. "hit and miss" gas engine.

Kazenske bought the tractor used without an engine and mounted a 1935 Stover-Built "Economy" 1-cyl., 2 hp gas engine on it that's equipped with an open-topped radiator on front to keep the engine cool. One of the engine's flywheels is used to belt-drive the tractor's original transmission. To make the garden tractor look more like a real, antique tractor, Kazenske removed the fenders, added a cast iron seat, and left the engine out in the open. He also mounted a 15-in. high chrome pipe muffler on front.

"It's definitely a one-of-a-kind tractor," says Kazenske. "Hit and miss gas engines were originally designed to belt-drive water pumps, grain elevators, corn shellers, etc., and have become popular collector's items over the years. I paid \$300 for the engine which had been laying in a barn for years and had to be rebuilt. I paid only \$27.50 for the tractor."

Kazenske made an angle iron frame to support the engine and mounted a pulley on one of the engine's flywheels, allowing it to belt-drive the tractor's original transmission. Belt tension is controlled by three idler wheels.

He replaced the original rear tires with 23-in. high, 6-in. wide agricultural tread tires and painted the wheels white. The 15-in. high front tires are original. The cast iron seat is supported by a spring-loaded shock absorbing suspension system (off an Allis-Chalmers WD tractor) that's bolted to the tractor frame.

"It was a lot of fun to build," says Kazenske. "I start the engine by hand cranking the flywheels. I chose the Wheelhorse tractor because it's equipped with a transmission that's belt-driven down one side of the tractor. The 1-cyl. engine runs at only about 600 rpm's compared to 1,500 to 1,800 rpm's on the original engine so the tractor can't go very fast, but that's not a problem because I don't drive it much. The tractor battery was mounted under the steering wheel. However, the tractor no longer needs a battery because the engine runs off its own magneto, so I removed the battery and mounted a fake gas tank in its place. I plan to replace the fake gas tank with a toolbox. To improve the tractor's looks I also replaced the original knob on the gearshift lever with a glass door-knob."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Kazenske Machining & Welding, 630 Wisconsin St., LeClaire, Iowa 52753 (ph 319 289-3447).



Pulley mounts on one of the engine's flywheels to belt-drive the original transmission.