



Beery and some of the Steiger series III Panthers he keeps on hand. The four at left are for lease; the others kept for parts. Five other tractors were still out with customers.



Burned out and wrecked tractors are salvaged for parts.

By C.F. Marley

He Specializes In Everything “Steiger”

Steiger tractors probably never had a more devoted fan than John Beery of Bement, Ill., who salvages, reconditions, overhauls, re-powers, and also leases out Steiger tractors. He has been at it since 1978.

Beery has never advertised his services, but he has done work for Steiger owners in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, and Michigan.

“As far as I know, no one else specializes in servicing only Steiger tractors,” says Beery. “A lot of smaller farmers can’t justify the cost of a big new 4-WD tractor. I’m doing everything I can to help my customers keep their old Steigers instead of buying an expensive new machine.”

He emphasizes that, like farming, his is a family business. “My wife does the book-keeping and parts running, and even goes with me on service calls. My daughter does the office work, and my son works in the shop with me.

“There are way more Steiger tractors out there than most people think,” says Beery. “If I had to compare them to any other tractor it would be the old two-lunger John Deere. Farmers get attached to them. They’re built tough and have a lot of brute strength horsepower. They’re also designed as ‘com-

ponent tractors’ which makes them relatively easy to work on.”

Beery has built up an extensive supply of Steiger engines and parts by buying up burned out or otherwise wrecked Steigers.

“My salvage parts cost only about half as much as new parts and can often extend the life of a tractor for another 10 years. Why put new, expensive parts into a 25-year-old tractor when used ones will do just as good a job?” he asks.

Beery says the Steiger Bearcat, Cougar, and Panther all use the same frame. “We boost power on one of the smaller models by equipping it with a bigger engine. In effect, we can convert a Bearcat or Cougar into a Panther. We can also take out any engine and put in a 3406 Caterpillar engine. In some cases I’ve taken out V-8 Cummins engines, because the customer said they were too noisy and vibrated too much, and replaced them with 6-cylinder models.”

When FARM SHOW visited Beery, he was beginning the complete refurbishing of an ST 310 Steiger Panther for a farmer from Francisville, Ind. The tractor’s 855 Cummins 6-cyl. engine had developed a bad rod bearing. Beery pulled the engine and installed a new crankshaft and also did a complete bare

block overhaul. Then he split the tractor in the middle and put in new pivot points. The tractor also got a new cab interior. “All of this will add at least 10 years of new life to the tractor, at a cost of only about \$15,000,” says Beery.

He often uses a service truck to go out to the farm and make repairs in the farmer’s shop, saving the time it would otherwise take to haul the tractor back and forth to his shop. Otherwise he uses a semi trailer to haul tractors to his shop for repairs.

While the tractors are being repaired, customers can lease a Steiger from Beery at a below-market rate of \$35 per hour with no minimum hours. Farmers – even those who don’t already own a Steiger – can also reserve a leased tractor for an entire season with a 75-hour minimum. “Most implement dealers charge \$70 per hour to lease a big 4-WD Steiger and require a 150 hour minimum, which adds up to too much money for many smaller farmers,” says Beery. “I can lease a 350 hp tractor for only \$35 per hour if the farmer agrees to keep it for a complete season, and I require only a 75 hour minimum. As a result the farmer might spend only about \$2,000 for a leased tractor to finish out the season, instead of \$5,000 if they leased from

their local implement dealer.”

He even leases some tractors equipped with snow blades.

Beery got started with Steigers back in the 1970s when he was injured in a motorcycle accident and went to work repairing Steigers for a Steiger dealer. In 1986, the year Tenneco bought out Steiger, Beery bought out his employer’s business, including the shop equipment as well as the contract from Steiger for warranty and parts. In the fall of 1987 Tenneco cut all contracts to everyone who wasn’t an International dealer, which left Beery hanging as an independent. He then hooked up with a local Case-IH dealer. “Case-IH still makes Steigers in the same plant with the same design as when Tenneco bought them. The only difference is that they’re now painted red,” says Beery. “If I need new parts I can buy them from the Case-IH dealer. I’m also a distributor for a company that manufactures new parts for Steigers at discount prices.” (Big Tractor Parts, 3061 165th Ave. S.E., Harwood, N. Dak. 58042 ph 800 982-1769).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Beery, 620 N. 500 E. Rd., Bement, Ill. 61813 (ph 217 763-2311).

Heavy-Duty Rolling Cultivator Adjusts With Just Four Wrenches

You won’t need your entire toolbox to set up or adjust the new rolling cultivator from Fasse Manufacturing and Distribution, Inc., Cozad, Nebraska.

“Our goal with this machine was ease of adjustment,” says Steve Pawley, Fasse’s sales representative. The machine can be adjusted with a 3/4-in. wrench and socket, a 15/16-in. wrench, and 10-in. and 12-in. adjustable (Crescent) wrenches.

The cultivator features swivel coulters to cut through residue, permanently angled 14-in. barring-off discs that can’t slip and slice the crop, two gangs of spiders and a rear sweep on a shank with a break-away foot piece. The rear shank is square, so it can’t twist and adjusts for depth with just a pin and clip. The rear shank is also built to handle optional ridging wings.

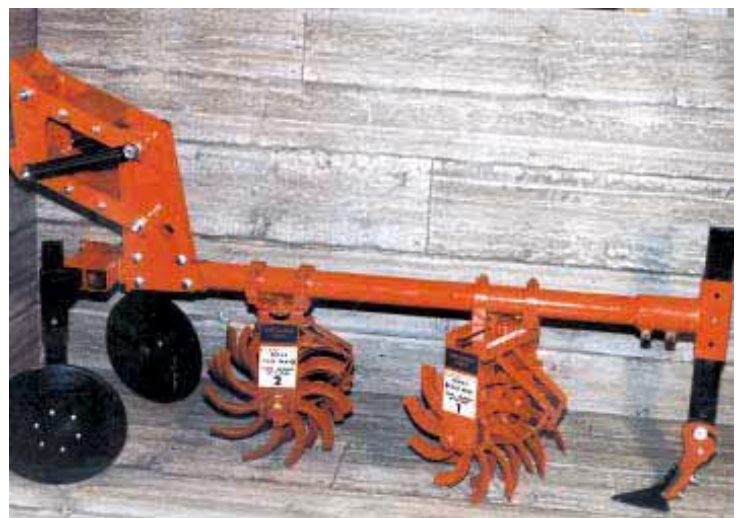
Fasse’s rolling cultivator looks somewhat like the Lilliston Rolling Cultivator. Pawley says Lilliston cultivators can be changed over to incorporate the increased down pressure

offered by the Fasse cultivator.

The cultivator has a heavy-duty parallel linkage with greasable full-width shafts and machined bushings. Heavy-duty springs maximize down pressure on the gang pipe to keep the spiders in the ground. The spiders are easily adjusted to increase or decrease tillage action. The rear gang of spiders is mounted 1 1/2 in. lower than the front gang so they continue the tillage started by the front gang. A long gang pipe allows the gangs to be spaced farther apart for better crop residue flow and virtually no plugging.

Steel full-tent shields protect crops up to 14 in. tall, allowing faster cultivating speeds in taller crops. The shields can be precisely adjusted to crop height by a combination of chain link and threaded rod.

Fasse Rolling Cultivators are available in four, six, eight, 12 and 16-row configurations. The company also sells cultivator units you can mount on your own toolbar.



Cultivator is equipped with swivel coulters to cut through residue; permanently angled 14-in. barring-off discs that can’t slip and slice the crop; two gangs of spiders; and a rear sweep on a shank with a breakaway foot piece.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fasse Manufacturing and Distribution, Inc., 75682 Rd. 421, Cozad, Nebraska 69130 (ph 800 332-7411).