Don Chana built this miniature "Oil Pull" Rumely tractor mostly from scrap iron.

RUNS ALMOST LIKE THE REAL THING

Miniature "Oil Pull" Rumely Tractor

Don Chana, St. Edward, Neb., built a miniature "Oil Pull" tractor modeled after old 1920's-era Rumely tractors that ran on kerosene.

The miniature steel-wheeled tractor, made mostly from scrap iron, runs, rides and drives almost like the real thing. It's 5 ft. long and 3 1/2 ft. high to the top of the steel roof and is powered by an old 2 hp Fairbanks-Morse gas engine. Its 3-speed Model A transmission is belt-driven off the engine. A pair of chains wrap around the steering shaft and front axle to steer the rig. There wasn't enough room for a seat so Chana pulls a cart, built by mounting a wagon seat on two steel wheels.

"Our kids love to drive the tractor. They spend hours driving it around the yard," says Chana. "Top speed is 3 mph, about the same as the real Rumely tractors. The tank on my miniature Rumely is mainly for looks. Engine exhaust runs through a pipe and into the tank where it makes a mellow sound just like the old tractors did. The exhaust comes out of a 4-in. wide opening in the top of the tank so it looks just like the real thing. After the engine has run for a half hour or so, the radiator is hot enough to send steam out the top of the tank, too," says Chana, who notes that he didn't build the tractor exactly to scale, but simply proportioned components according to the size of the wheels.

Chana borrowed the front and rear axles and the steering shaft from a Woods Dearborn 1-row pull-type corn picker. He used 9-in. high steel press wheels off a drill for the tractor's front wheels, and 18-in. high steel press wheels off an old Deere 490 corn planter for the rear wheels. "The tractor should have spoked wheels to make it more authentic," notes Chana, who hand-cranks the tractor to start it. He can convert the tractor's posi-traction rear end to 1-wheel drive by removing a pin from the rear axle.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Chana, RR 1, Box 209, St. Edward, Neb. 68660 (ph 402 678-2858).

HUGE 6-OZ. EGG WAS "ONE IN A MILLION"

She Found An Egg Inside Of An Egg!

Commercial peacock raisers Dennis Fett and Debra Buck have seen a lot of strange sights on their exotic poultry farm near Minden, Iowa but none more unusual than the big goose-egg size egg laid by their neighbor's chicken.

Alice Falk is 71-years old but still raises 250 laying hens. She's tended a flock of chickens for more than 50 years and now sells her eggs to a local wholesaler as well as direct to local residents.

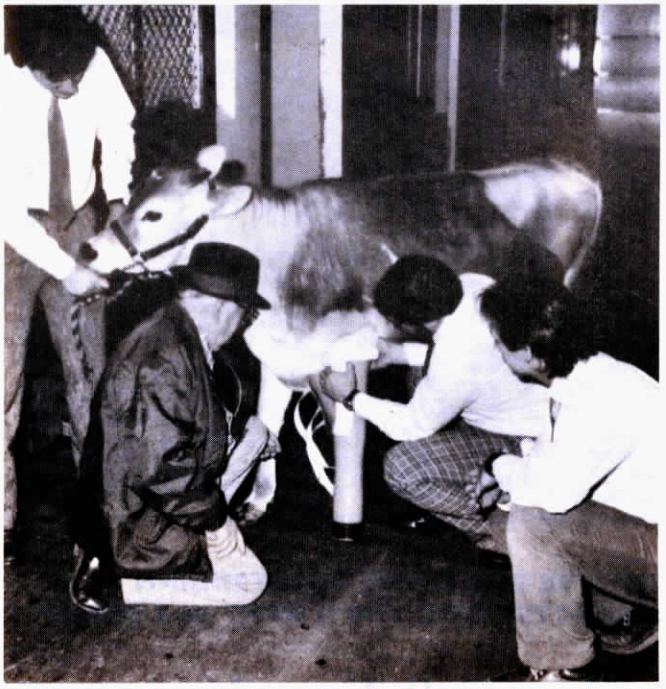
Last March Alice found a giant 6-oz. egg in her henhouse and called Dennis to photograph it for her. Since Dennis also specializes in blowing out eggs, he later attempted to blow the white and yolk out of the egg.

"It felt as if there was something inside the egg. When I poked holes in the egg and tried to blow it out, the whole end moved as if it was going to blow off. We used a syringe to remove the egg white and then realized there was something hard in there. That's when we realized there was another egg," says Dennis.

He proceeded to break the egg open to extract the perfect, normal-size 2 1/2-oz. egg. It contained a normal yoke and white, which Dennis blew out so that Alice could put the double-egg on display.

Dennis and his wife Debra raise and sell all types of peacocks and have also written a book on all aspects of commercial peacock farming (see Vol. 13, No.2).

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Fett & Debra Buck, Rt. 1, Box 19, Minden, Iowa 51553 (ph 712 483-2473).



When "Meg" caught her leg in a fence and suffered an open fracture, doctors at the Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital amputated the leg and replaced it with a prosthesis similar to the ones used by humans.

BROKEN LEG OF EMBRYO DONOR WAS AMPUTATED

Artificial Leg Keeps "Meg The Cow" Going

When "Meg the Jersey Cow" seriously injured her front left leg last summer, doctors at the Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital amputated the leg and replaced it with an artificial one.

Thanks to the artificial leg, or prosthesis, Meg will be able to continue to produce embryos for transplant to other cows. Her productive life might even equal that of her sister, the top-ranked Jersey cow in the country based on milk production and genetics.

Alice Falk found a giant 6-oz. egg which contained a normal -size 2 1/2-oz. egg.

Meg caught the leg in a fence and suffered an open fracture. The doctors removed the leg from the knee on down and replaced it with a prosthesis similar to the ones used by humans. The prosthesis is made from metal, graphite, and PVC pipe with foam padding on top where it meets the upper portion of the leg. Goodyear tire tread provides traction at the bottom of the leg.

Dr. Guy Saint-Jean, currently with the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, performed the operation. "I tried to repair the leg but it didn't heal properly. We could have amputated the leg without replacing it, but without some type of support for the remaining part of the leg, Meg wouldn't have lasted long. Now Meg can put part of her weight on the artificial leg. Horses and llamas have been fitted successfully with artificial legs, but it's still a fairly new idea on cattle so the jury is still out on whether it's practical or not. Younger animals are better candidates for a prosthesis than adults because they're not as ungainly or as set in their ways."

Amputating Meg's leg and fitting it with an artificial one cost about $1,500, according to Dr. St. Jean. He predicts that prosthesis replacements will become more popular as the value of cow embryo donors and top performance bulls increases.

The owner of an animal fitted with a prosthesis needs to do a lot of follow-up work with the animal, says Dr. St. Jean. "The prosthesis must be removed every night and dried off. If the animal is young and will grow a lot, the size of the prosthesis will need to be changed periodically.