



Popular "mini" pulls use "leg" power to propel the machines.

FOR KIDS "4 TO 40"

Mini-Tractor Pedal Pulls

Latest new rage in tractor pulling throughout the Midwest are "Pedal Power Pulls", using muscle and pedal powered mini-tractors rather than huge engine-equipped tractors.

FARM SHOW first told you about pedal pulls and the National Association of Pedal Power Pullers (NAPPP) in Vol. 4, No. 4, 1980. "Since then, we've expanded our contests throughout 5 states and, for the past three years, we've had a championship pull in Aurelia, Iowa, which last year brought in 150 children from 6 states," explains Keith Hickey, NAPPP spokesman.

"We have 16 tractors of all makes and even some 4 wheel drives, all reinforced for pulling. We also have two skids — all the sponsoring organizations have to provide are the contestants, prizes, a 40 ft. track, and a garden tractor to pull the pedal tractors back after each run. NAPPP charges \$200 for pulls on weekends, plus 45 cents a mile round trip.

"Winners in each class are determined by who pulls the most weight the farthest. The top 3 winners in each class are invited to our championship pull, held in Aurelia, Iowa. We don't charge the children to pull but we do charge each adult \$1, which we donate to the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy telethon. Last year, we donated over \$1,100," says Hickey.

In the Rinard, Ill., area, Kenneth Flexter provides the necessary equipment for staging pedal pulls. Flexter, not affiliated with the NAPPP, says contests have been going on in his area for the past 4 years. "But," he says, "the problem has been the lack of a good weight transfer system. Most other systems have people along the sideline adding bricks at certain distances, but kids keep watching bricks being added and forget to pedal."

Flexter built a weight transfer sled that gradually moves the weight (a given number of bricks) from the back of the sled towards the front, using a system of cables, pulleys and the sled axle. The cable wraps around the axle, pulling the weight forward.

"It makes a difference whether contestants are pulling on dirt or as-

phalt in determining the number of bricks to put on for weight. For four year olds, I'd put about four bricks on the transfer sled," says Flexter.

In staging "pedal pulls," Flexter uses a modified International tractor for adults and big teenagers, and a Deere mini-tractor for youngsters.

He charges 35 cents per contestant, plus 20 cents a mile round trip from his home.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth Flexter, R.R. 1, Rinard, Ill. 62878 (ph 618 673-2346).

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Orfield uses "Rudy" to demonstrate location of ham, bacon and other pork cuts.

"TAUGHT" 6,000 STUDENTS THIS YEAR

This Little Pig Went To School

Rudy seems like a fairly typical pig. A Yorkshire cross, he was born on a 4,000 head, disease-free hog operation. But that's where Rudy's similarity to his littermates ends.

You see, Rudy was "adopted" by Leland Orfield of Minneapolis, Minn., to entertain school children throughout the Minneapolis area. "Rudy and I appeared at as many as seven schools a day last year, educating and entertaining more

than 6,000 people," Orfield told FARM SHOW.

Orfield, 75, a former North Dakota grain farmer, ag teacher and extension agent, who has "toured" with hogs for 13 years as a Community Resource Volunteer, sharing his talents and knowledge with city children and other groups, many who have never seen a pig before.

Every April Orfield buys a young pig and for two months takes it to schools and other groups throughout the area. While Rudy sleeps in his mini-trailer, Orfield's program begins with a crash course on how farming has changed over the past 100 years, along with an explanation of a hog's life. Using enlarged photos, he shows pigs nursing and typical hog housing. He also explains why eye teeth are cut out, and medical uses for hogs.

After the introduction, Rudy is awakened and brought out of his trailer up to a platform so all the students can see him. Rudy quickly demonstrates how fast a hungry hog can open a locked feeder.

Rudy also acts as a live model to show where ham, bacon and lard come from. Each child then gets to pet Rudy.

Rudy has been taught to untie shoes, and he heels just like a dog. Orfield explains that he takes Rudy to a dog obedience class. "The dogs ignore Rudy," he says, "but I tell the neighborhood children that the dogs have rubbed off on Rudy. That's why he 'woofs' when he races the children around the house."

Orfield has to obtain a special permit to keep a hog in the city. "I have the nicest pigpen on the block," Orfield jokes. After the school year ended this past June, Rudy, like his predecessors, was taken back to a hog farm to be fed out.

You'll be able to see Rudy on national TV this fall, however, when Real People airs a segment on Rudy and Orfield.

"If This Old Table Could Talk"

By Wilma Soehren

As I sit here at the table in our big old farm house following the departure of 20 relatives who have come to spend a holiday, I think, "What tales this old table could tell if it could talk."

It was here that we sat when we heard of Pearl Harbor being bombed. I can still see my brother's face as it paled and he said, "That means me." And it did.

The table saw the bathing of many babies. The same babies who would later bring home their sweethearts to plan their showers and weddings. Then they would in turn bring home their little ones, to be unwrapped on the table for all to see and admire.

The table saw many festivities. (We could spread it out to accommodate 14 or 16 comfortably.) Christmas, Thanksgiving and birthdays were all celebrated here. It seated the hungry threshers and the men who came to shell corn. My dad would never allow anyone who came on business or pleasure to

leave without a meal — or without "coffee" at least.

This old friend saw us six children planning Dad and Mom's Golden Wedding anniversary. It served as the special table to serve the refreshments to a large crowd that bright October day.

It saw us sit in grief, with our pastor, as we planned first Dad's and then Mom's funeral.

It has been the site of many games of smear, dominoes and Black Peter, as well as the place where lessons were studied by a kerosene lamp before and after the coming of REA.

Yes, if this old table could talk of our life on this farm in Jackson County for the past 72 years, it could tell much. My dad used to say, "If all the food served on this table could be put in one place we would be rich."

I think we were and are rich, in the beautiful memories surrounding this solid oak friend.

(Wilma, a retired public health nurse, lives on a farm near Windom, Minn.)