

## Sport Of “Scything” Attracts A Crowd

The sport of scything debuted last year at the First Annual Maritime Hand Mowers Scything Championship in Canning, Nova Scotia.

Both men and women stepped up to compete as a crowd of people watched them mow down a wheat field. Judging was based on quality factors such as stubble height and evenness, tidiness of the swath, and overall style and speed.

Contestants were required to cut a 25-ft. long swath using a traditional hand scythe.

The event was part of a local show called “Agrifest” and 14 people competed in the open competition. The oldest competitor of the day was 83-year-old Vance Jackson from Bridgetown, N.S.

The top two scythe-wielders in the open class were Doug Brown of Granville Ferry, N.S. and Hank Bosveld from Lakeville, N.S.

“It was a fun event. Everyone had a good time, from beginners to experienced people,” says competitor Paul Rump of Woodville, N.S.

Event organizers drew from the experience of Addison County, Vermont, where a similar annual contest has been held for 56 years.

Three judges, a color commentator, a timer and a swath measurer helped run the Canning event.

Plans for next year’s event include a stooking contest, and even perhaps teams of mowers and stookers competing against each other in a harvest competition.

The 2005 scything championship will take place August 27 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition in Truro, N.S.

Rural Delivery Magazine organizes and sponsors the event.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Maritime Hand Mowing Championship, c/o Rural Delivery, Box 1509, Liverpool, NS B0T 1K0 (ph 902 354-5411; email: dvl@auracom.com; website: www.countrymagazines.com).



Photo courtesy Rural Delivery (www.countrymagazines.com)  
A contestant scythes a 25-ft. swath and is judged on stubble height, evenness, style and speed.

## She Built A Church In Back Yard

When Mary Ann Temple-Bennett-Stiles wants to revisit her childhood church, she just steps into her back yard. Her home-built replica is only 7 by 11 ft., but it holds four small pews and a pulpit. “Each pew will hold two small frame people,” she says.

The bell tower is complete with a small church bell. Temple-Bennett-Stiles plans to put a timer on it to make it ring every morning.

Construction was a family and friends affair. Her son and a niece framed the structure. Other friends poured cement for footings, helped move the framed structure into place and provided electrical wire, flooring, bookracks and lights.

The original Howardville Wesleyan church still stands about six miles away. Its congregation donated 8 hymnals to the mini church. Temple-Bennett-Stiles credits the church’s completion to the many friends and neighbors who stopped by to help out. Now she is looking forward to sharing it with them.

“I hope to get lots of flowers planted around it this spring, and we are already planning to have a meeting of the Ladies Missionary Society here this summer,” says Temple-Bennett-Stiles.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mary Ann Temple-Bennett-Stiles, 807 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Charles City, Iowa 50616 (ph 641 228-7973).



Church replica is 7 by 11 ft. and has four small pews and a pulpit in it. “Each pew holds two small-framed people,” says Mary Ann Temple-Bennett-Stiles.

## Deere Garden Tractor Gets “Kid-Friendly” Overhaul

Michael and Gail Westbrook, Elk River, Minn., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an old Deere 70 garden tractor they restored and repowered with a 9 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. It has a hydrostatic transmission, a chrome exhaust with flapper, dual lugged wheels on back, and ribbed wheels on front. The mower deck was removed and they also repainted the tractor. A hand lever is used to put the hydrostatic transmission in forward, reverse, or neutral.

Gail’s dad fabricated new hubs to accept the dual wheels, which they bought at a farm supply store. The Briggs & Stratton engine was bigger than the tractor’s original engine so they remounted the gas tank behind the driver’s seat.

“We came up with the idea because Jefferson, our 6-year-old son, wanted his own tractor after he saw how we restored our 1938 John Deere B General Purpose tractor,” says Gail. “We had vinyl decals made with ‘Jefferson’s Deere’ on both sides of the tractor. He wanted dual wheels like the ones we have on our 1-ton pickup.”

Gail often exhibits the Deere B at shows and drives it in parades, and she lets her 2-year-old daughter, Emily, ride with her thanks to an add-on wooden seat that’s complete with the seat belt off a kid’s high chair. The seat mounts on top of a metal arm that’s set at the same angle as the arm that supports the tractor seat. It even has its own footrest. “When we drive it in parades, it isn’t unusual for Emily to fall asleep and lay her head over



“Jefferson’s Deere” has dual wheels, a hydrostatic transmission and a chrome exhaust with flapper.



Daughter Emily sometimes falls asleep when Michael drives “B” in parades.

on my knee,” says Gail. “Jefferson rode on the same seat when he was two-years-old, too.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael and Gail Westbrook, 6464 213<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.W., Elk River, Minn. 55330 (ph 763 753-3902).



Charley Pruitt made the wooden ladybug, bumblebee, stamp box and pencil holders for FARM SHOW staff.

## “Axe On A Log” Pencil Holder

“I’ve been making these ‘axe on a log’ pencil holders for at least 25 years. They’re really popular. Over the years I’m sure I’ve made at least 16,000 of them,” says Charley Pruitt, Bluefield, W. Va.

The pencil holder consists of a small block of white pine with a wooden axe on top. The axe blade is made from black walnut and the handle from poplar. There are two holes on top of the stump, one at each end, for pens or pencils. Your name gets burned on front. Pruitt also makes another version shaped like a tree stump.

He also builds a “stamp box” pencil holder that’s made from either yellow pine, white pine, or poplar. A roll of stamps fits inside a

hole in the wood block and is dispensed through a slot in one end of the block. A wooden flag that pivots on a screw keeps the stamps in.

He also sells wooden ladybugs and bumblebees. All products are protected by two coats of polyurethane.

The axe on a log pencil holder sells for \$1.50 plus S&H; the stamp box for \$1 plus S&H; and the ladybugs and bumblebees for \$1.25 apiece plus S&H.

Contact: Farm Show Followup, Charley Pruitt, Rt. 4, Box 224B, Bluefield, W. Va. 24701 (ph 304 248-7042; email: cwp480@frontiernet.net).