



Builders of 1/2-scale tractors lined up at last year's first-ever national show dedicated to scale model farm equipment. This year's show will be held near Forest City, Iowa.

Photo by Dalene Deck

Half-Scale Tractor Show Catches On

A national show dedicated exclusively to scale model farm equipment will be held next September near Forest City, Iowa.

The first-of-its-kind show will feature 1/2 and 1/4-scale steam engines, and gas-powered tractors brought in from all over the U.S. Operating scale model equipment will include threshing machines, saw mills, moldboard plows and more.

This year's show will be the second year of the event, says Jim Evans, Iowa City, Iowa, who displayed a 1/2-scale Case steam engine at last year's show. "The first show was held last June near Adrian, Missouri, as part of the Western Missouri Antique Tractor and Machinery Association." At last year's show there were about 25 1/4 to 1/2-scale tractors and several tables full of hot air, steam, and

gas models. Four scale model sawmills were operating throughout the show, and all the grain at the show was threshed by a full-size 20-in. Case separator powered by half-size tractors. The separator had a smaller drive pulley on it so that 1/2-scale tractors could operate it at the proper speed.

Also featured at this year's show will be a 40 hp Gaar Scott steam engine. The Gaar Scott steam engine is one of only two in existence, and the only one in the United States. It will probably be pulling a 16-bottom plow at this year's show.

For information about the show, contact Jim Evans at 641 648-4205 or jevans@evanstoys.com. Information is also on the club website at www.heritageparkofnorthiowa.com.



Some 1/2-scale tractors at the show will be used to pull scale-model field implements.



Hay Baby uses an electric-operated winch to raise or lower speared bales.

New Way To Move Bales With An ATV

You can move large round bales behind a 4-wheeler or pickup using this new electric-operated, 2-wheeled cart.

"It eliminates the need for a tractor and lets you get into wet fields without leaving ruts," says Lonnie Fast, Fast Hay Movers, Inc., Fairmont, W. Va.

The patent pending Hay Baby lets you load and unload bales without ever leaving the driver's seat. It rides on turf tires and has an electric-operated winch that's used to raise or lower a bale spear bale. The winch is operated by a remote control mounted on the ATV handlebars and is wired to the vehicle's battery.

The unit is available in two models - one with a universal hitch for both ball hitches and receiver hitches; and one for receiver hitches only.

"I came up with the idea because I have a cow-calf operation and wanted to move round bales without using a tractor," says Fast. "I've spent six years developing and testing the Hay Baby and have used it to transport hundreds of round hay bales. You can use it all year long. During the summer I use it to pick up bales and haul them to storage, and during the winter I move the bales to pasture for feeding.

"When they first see it, many people can't understand how hauling a large bale behind



Winch is operated by a remote control mounted on ATV's handlebars.

an ATV can be safe, but it is. The Hay Baby's wheels are spaced farther apart than the vehicle's wheels for stability, and the bale sets very low to the ground. It's equipped with a non-pivoting device that keeps it from ever jackknifing like a trailer would. As a result, you can stop while going downhill with no problem and also back up into small areas. Wherever you go, it goes," says Fast.

He says a 4-WD ATV with 400 cc or more works best. Maximum bale weight is 1,200 lbs. As an introductory offer, the Hay Baby equipped with a universal hitch sells for \$1,895 plus S&H. The model with a receiver hitch sells for \$1,795 plus S&H.

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Howard Goertz and his sons converted a Flexi-Coil air seeder into a pellet-feeding wagon.

'Made-It-Myself' Large-Scale Pellet Feeder

The tank from a Flexi-Coil air seeder was just what the Goertz family ranch needed to make pellet feeding a breeze.

Howard Goertz and his sons wanted a big, heavy-duty feed wagon that could quickly and easily supply pellets or grain to their 1,200-cow herd and young stock.

"At first we did a lot of research, looking for a commercial wagon with the capabilities we needed, but the equipment we found was too small and light duty," he explains. "My brother-in-law, Chuck Krahn, suggested that an old air seeder might work if we did a bit of modification. We bought a tank and the frame for \$2,500. That was a lot less than a commercial wagon we looked at for \$7,500."

To transform the air seeder into a pellet wagon, Goertz first stripped it down by removing the filling auger, blower and hydraulic hoses. He then shortened the 16-ft. auger to 8 ft. and manufactured a small V-hopper, which he mounted at the bottom of the tank. The hopper accommodated mounting of a shortened discharge auger.

"The auger is controlled from inside the tractor cab," Goertz says. "Since we wanted to also be able to measure how much we were feeding, we took two heavy-duty load bars

from an old log trailer scale and mounted them under the pellet tank. This gives us an accurate reading of what we're feeding, thanks to a digital readout we set up in the tractor cab."

Goertz says he had to also manufacture a deflection bar to keep the cattle away from the discharge spout. This was needed because once the cows were used to the machine, they started crowding in toward the feed discharge and were starting to twist the spout.

The home-built unit is now basically indestructible, according to its owner, who says they can feed pellets or grain to 500 cows in 10 min.

The tank capacity is about 7,000 lbs. of pellets, so with only one tankful they can feed 2,400 head (1,200 cows and an equal number of young stock).

"The pellet trailer has huge tires for flotation and a sealed lid so moisture's not a problem," Goertz notes.

In all, the family has about \$7,000 invested in the high-capacity unit.

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