

**Editor's
Notebook**



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Tractor Builder Has Big Plans

We told you last fall (Vol. 36, No. 5) about Terry Anderson's revolutionary 400 hp driverless tractor. Instead of a transmission, differential and axle, it has 2 powerful engine/generator sets that drive 4 electric wheel motors. There are 10 computers on the tractor that control navigation, hydraulics, drive system, and components.



Terry Anderson with his revolutionary 400 hp "driverless" tractor.

As the tractor nears production-ready status, Anderson and his Autonomous Tractor Corporation are moving ahead to adapt the new technologies they've developed to a self-propelled planter that shreds previous year's crop residue



Computer-generated image shows saucer-like "drone" sprayers and nurse tank trailer.

and also tills, fertilizes and plants the crop. The unmanned tracked vehicle will carry enough fertilizer and seed for 160 acres, operating with less than 6 psi ground pressure. Front-mounted units will shred residue while rear-mounted modules strip-till and then place fertilizer and seed. All components on the self-propelled planter will be powered by electric motors. A single engine-driven genset will provide the power.

Anderson and company are also developing "drone" crop sprayers that look like flying saucers. They'll carry a tank of spray solution in the center, surrounded by 8 rotors, and fly a pre-programmed pattern, returning to the nurse tank as needed. (ph 701 429-3964; www.autonomoustractor.com)

Dodge To Make 1/2-Ton Diesel

Dodge made a surprise announcement recently that they'll be introducing the industry's only light-duty diesel pickup later this year. The new 2014 Ram 1500 will now be offered with a 3.0L turbocharged diesel V-6.



Dodge Ram plans to be the first truck manufacturer to offer a light-duty diesel.

"Truck owners have been emphatically asking for it, and Ram will be the only manufacturer to offer a diesel powertrain in the 1/2-ton segment with the 2014 Ram 1500 EcoDiesel," said Fred Diaz, Ram's CEO and president. The new 3.0L V-6 will be paired with Chrysler's new TorqueFlite 8-speed automatic transmission. Specific power outputs haven't been released, though Chrysler promises that this new EcoDiesel V-6 will provide low CO2 emissions, impressive V-6 capability, and robust torque.

Acre of Corn Provides Winter's Fuel

I was visiting with a fellow the other day from rural Minnesota who told me he's a "One-Acre Farmer". It turns out he has been growing one acre of corn for several years. He burns the corn he harvests in a stove that heats both his home and shop. What he did was to buy a small, older planter and a small self-propelled combine at local farm sales. Being a professional mechanic, he didn't have much trouble getting both of them running well enough to plant and harvest one acre of corn. He figures that with the amount of use they get, both machines should last forever. And even though the price of corn is high now, he likes the fact that he basically grows his own fuel and gets to farm a little bit.

Hospital Stay Sparked Invention

My friend John Tierney ended up at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis this winter for a procedure that put him in a wheelchair for a couple weeks. Being an active fellow, John was soon wheeling all over the building - and getting huge static shocks each time he came near metal doors or rails. He got to thinking about drag chains under trucks and figured the idea might work on his wheelchair. He fastened a 2-ft. length of lightweight chain to a metal rack on back of the chair, so it just lightly drags across the floor. "It was amazing," says John. "The shocks stopped instantly."



John Tierney says the "drag chain" he added to his hospital wheelchair stopped static shocks.

He had great fun showing off the invention to his many visitors and took a lot of razzing about his "million dollar idea".

"All Terrain" Walker

Speaking of medical-related inventions, veteran FARM SHOW writer C.F. Marley, who turns 92 this April but still gets out to chase down stories for us, recently started using a walker when on rough ground. He quickly decided the little wheels that come standard weren't made for farm use so he bought a couple 7-in. dia. wheels at a farm store. They had hubs made for 1/2-in. axles. He put 3/8-in. redi rod through the bottom of each leg of the walker and put short pieces of 1/2-in. copper tubing over the rods to act as bushings for the wheels to turn on.



C.F. Marley put 7-in. wheels on the bottom of his new walker to get around rough terrain.

Liberty Quotes

"I never did, or countenanced, in public life, a single act inconsistent with the strictest good faith; having never believed there was one code of morality for a public, and another for a private man." *Thomas Jefferson*

"The more laws and restrictions there are, the poorer the people become." *Lao-Tzu*

"More! More! is the cry of a mistaken soul." *William Blake*

"In any compromise between good and evil, it is only evil that can profit." *Ayn Rand*

"I know of but one freedom and that is the freedom of the mind." *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*

"The notion that a radical is one who hates his country is naive and usually idiotic. He is, more likely, one who likes his country more than the rest of us, and is thus more disturbed than the rest of us, when he sees it debauched. He is not a bad citizen turning to crime; he is a good citizen driven to despair." *H. L. Mencken*

"We should never forget that everything Adolf Hitler did in Germany was 'legal' and everything the Hungarian freedom fighters did in Hungary was 'illegal'." *Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"I never could believe that Providence had sent a few men into the world, ready booted and spurred to ride, and millions ready saddled and bridled to be ridden." *Richard Rumbold*

"Heresy is only another word for freedom of thought." *Graham Greene*

"Moral certainty is always a sign of cultural inferiority. The more uncivilized the man, the surer he is that he knows precisely what is right and what is wrong. All human progress, even in morals, has been the work of men who have doubted the current moral values, not of men who have whooped them up and tried to enforce them. The truly civilized man is always skeptical and tolerant, in this field as in all others. His culture is based on 'I am not too sure'." *H. L. Mencken*

"The founding fathers conferred, as against the Government, the right to be left alone - the right most valued by civilized men." *Justice Louis D. Brandeis*

"Best Buy" Ice Scraper

I got an unusual request from a faithful reader in England the other day. Andrew Sewell, who often sends us story ideas from European farm shows, sent me a picture of a beat-up ice scraper and asked if I knew where he could buy one like it. He bought it more than 20 years ago while on a trip to the U.S. and has never been able to find another one like it.



Anyone know where to buy a metal-edged scraper like this?

"I live near a river in a shallow valley so I often get a lot of fine frost on the windshield. This scraper is about a foot long and has a 4-in. brass blade that works much better than any plastic scraper I've ever tried," says Sewell. "The blade broke out of the plastic after a couple years so I drilled holes to bolt it back in place. In fact, I've repaired it a couple times over the years. It still works fine but I'd like to find a new one."

If you know where to get a scraper like this, let me know because I'd like one, too! (mark@farmshow.com; ph 800 834-9665)

Subscription Scams

A fake subscription company has been sending subscription notices to FARM SHOW subscribers. Some of the notices they send state that we are going out of business. This subscription company is not connected to FARM SHOW. In fact, if you receive a subscription notice of any kind from anyone other than FARM SHOW in Lakeville, Minn., just toss it.



If you receive a notice like this in the mail, just toss it.

A man is flying in a hot-air balloon and realizes he's lost. He lowers altitude and spots a man down below. He lowers the balloon more and shouts, "Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?"

The man below says, "Yes, you're in a hot-air balloon, hovering 30 feet above this field."

"You must work in information technology," says the balloonist.

"I do," replies the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," says the balloonist, "everything you've told me is technically correct, but it's of no practical use to anyone."

The man below says, "You must be a corporate manager."

"I am," replies the balloonist. "How did you know?"

"Well, says the man, "You don't know where you are or where you're going, but you expect me to be able to help. You have the same problem you had before we met, but now it's my fault."

Ole says, "A wife is a person who helps yew trew all da troubles yew would'n't have had if yew hadn't gotten married."

Ole answered the phone and came back to the living room crying.

"Vell, Ole! Vhat in da world is da matter?" asked the sympathetic Lena.

"I just had bad news, Lena," said Ole. "My father yust died."

A little while later the phone rang again, Ole went to answer it and came back crying again.

"Vell, now, Ole, vhat is da matter?" asked Lena.

"Dat was my brother," said Ole. "His father yust died tew!"

Ole's prospective father-in-law asked, "Young man, can you support a family?"

The surprised groom-to-be replied, "Vell, no. I was yust planning ta support yur daughter. The rest uff you vill haf to take care uff yurself."

Lena greeted Ole at the door of their apartment when he came home from work.

"Guess vhat?" said Lena. "Do yew remember dat ve've been talking about getting a more expensive apartment?"

"What about it?" said Ole.

"Vell," said Lena. "Ve don't have tew look. The landlord yust raised da rent!"

Poor Lena lay dying, "Promise me vun ting," she pleaded with her husband Ole, "For da funeral you'll ride in da car vit my ma."

"Vell, okay," said Ole, "but it vill ruin my whole day!"