

Schwertner used parts from old machinery to build his half-scale Froelich. It's powered by a Fairbanks-Morse 10 hp engine.

ALL ARE WORKING MODELS BUILT AS CLOSE TO THE ORIGINAL AS POSSIBLE

They Built Half-Scale Froelich Tractors

With interest in antique tractors at an all-time high, it's not surprising that at least three farmers - all working independent of each other - have come up with "accurate in every detail" half-scale models of the Froelich tractor.

Built in 1892, it was the first gas-powered tractor that could go both forward and backward and is considered to be the forerunner of John Deere's first tractors (It was built by the Waterloo Tractor Company, which Deere later bought). The operator drove the tractor by standing on a wooden frame at the front of the tractor. The gearshift lever was mounted behind the engine. Power was supplied by a vertical, 1-cyl. Van Dusen gas engine with a 14-in. bore and stroke. The engine mounted on the running gear of a steam traction engine.

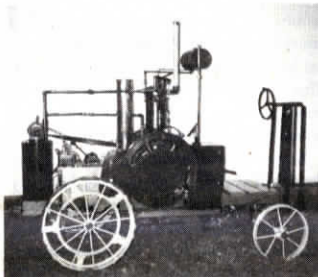
Here's a look at the three half-scale replicas.

Cledus Stites, Odon, Ind.: He used old photos to build his half-size Froelich. The tractor is powered by a 1-cyl. Fairbanks-Morse upright engine that's cooled by a water tank on back. A belt-driven pump circulates water through the engine. The main 15-gal. gas tank is located behind the driver, with a 2-gal. reserve tank mounted on top of the tractor. The transmission has three forward gears and one reverse. Stites turns the flywheel to start the tractor, then puts the transmission in gear and hops onto the wooden operator's platform where he pulls a lever (mounted on a pedestal next to the steering wheel) to tighten a belt.

The steel wheels came off an old grass seed harvester. Each rear drive wheel is direct-driven by the transmission. A lever is used to operate the brakes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cledus W. Stites, Rt. 1, Odon, Ind. 47562 (ph 812 636-4189).

George Erbe, Farmersburg, Iowa: George used old photos and a Robinson steam engine catalog to build his mini-Froelich (the wheels used on the original Froelich were the same ones used on a Robinson steam engine). He also researched the Van Dusen engine so he could build his engine as close to the original as possible. Gas is gravity fed from a tank in front.



The steel wheels on Stites's tractor came off an old grass seed harvester.



Erbe built his own engine as close to the original Van Dusen engine as possible.

Water from a square steel tank is circulated through the engine by a pump. He used laminated oak beams to build the frame.

Erbe has shown his Froelich at numerous parades and antique shows. He keeps it at a nearby Froelich museum which includes several original buildings from the village of Froelich.

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Ernest Schwertner, Miles, Texas: He used parts from grain binders, planters, grain drills, row binders, tractors, etc., to build his half-scale Froelich. It took about two years to build and weighs 4,460 lbs.

Power is supplied by a Fairbanks-Morse 10 hp engine and the carburetor is from a Deere 25 combine. The 10-gal. gas tank mounts on top of the tractor and the fuel pump is under the seat. The 4-speed trans-

Hedgehogs Make Fun Hobby, Add Income

If you're looking for a way to supplement farm income, you might want to take a look at raising hedgehogs.

Breeders say it's a growing industry, without enough breeders to supply demand.

Hedgehogs are native to Africa and to parts of Europe. The short-legged animals weigh 1 to 2 lbs. and come in different shades of brown, with white stomachs. They're covered with smooth, pointed quills that aren't dangerous. When startled, they curl into a tight ball and expose their quills for protection. Average life span is about 10 years. Females breed at 3 1/2 months. The average gestation period is only 35 days, and babies - called hedgehoglets - are weaned at 5 weeks so they can produce 4 litters a year. Average litter size is four.

Hedgehogs can't be imported to the U.S., and there aren't a lot of breeders in the U.S. so genetic diversity of the species can be a problem. Hedgehogs too closely related never get tame and don't make good pets.

For more information on hedgehogs, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph Lermayer, The North American Hedgehog Association, Box 85, Bent, N. Mexico 88314 (ph 505 671-4889).



Darin and Tammy Kuhlow, of Clinton, Wis., started with two males and a few females and now have 12 breeding females and four breeding males. They raise the animals in large Rubbermaid tubs stacked on their sides four to five high, with clear plastic window lids in front.



This photo of "Christmas" was taken the day after she was born.

"World Record" 9-Lb. Calf Survives

That tiny 19-lb. Holstein calf we told you about last year (Vol. 17, No. 5), which many people thought might be the world's smallest surviving calf, had its record shattered this winter.

A Holstein heifer calf weighing only 9 lbs. was born last Christmas day on the farm of Mark and Wendy Theuringer, Hutchinson, Minn. One week later, the calf had gained 6 lbs. and was continuing to eat five times a day from a bottle.

"We felt that it was a miracle she was alive after the first night," says Wendy.

The 18-in. high calf was born two weeks premature. She was kept in a cardboard box in the barn's utility room, under a heat lamp to maintain warmth. The calf laid flat on its side for five days. "She couldn't get up on

her own, but when she was placed on her feet she could stand," says Wendy. "By the sixth day she was able to stand on her own, but her legs were still very wobbly. She's now able to kick and jump on her own. However, once she got to 15 lbs., she stopped growing. We think it's possible she may be a dwarf. We plan to keep her as a pet. I'm the one who feeds her so she follows me around like a puppy."

"We called the Guinness Book of World Records and were told that they list a 17-lb. calf born in Africa in their 1992 edition. They said they will investigate our calf."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark and Wendy Theuringer, 22545 York Rd., Hutchinson, Minn. 55350 (ph 612 587-9154).

mission is from an old Ford 1 1/2-ton truck. The rear drive wheels are from a Model T tractor kit and connect to the transmission. The frame is built from a 4 by 6-in. toolbar out of an old Deere 8-row planter. The front wheels are from an old International grain binder. The steering wheel is from a 1936 Farmall F-12 tractor and the steering wheel

knob is off an old Rumley tractor. The differential gear is the bull gear from a 1939 Deere H tractor. The water pump is from a Continental sprayer. The running boards are from an old gin press.

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