



After his wife died, Winston Howes planted several thousand oak trees in her memory. In the middle he left a one-acre grass oasis that's in the shape of a heart.

English Farmer Honored His Wife With Heart-Shaped Field

In the rolling farmland around South Gloucestershire, England, a 6-acre oak forest hides a spectacular tribute to a farm wife of 33 years. That's where Winston Howes planted several thousand oak trees in memory of his wife, Janet, who passed away suddenly at age 50 in 1995. In the middle he left a one-acre grass oasis that's in the shape of a heart.

Howes says the idea means that his wife will always have his heart, even though she isn't physically there. Along with his son and others, he planted the trees in 1995, using a hedge to outline the heart shape. The "secret forest", which isn't visible from a road, was

unknown to many until 17 years later when Andy Collett, a hot air balloonist, discovered the landscape masterpiece. Collett says the perfect heart shape tract, which had deep red hedge leaves in stark contrast to the green oak leaves, was the most amazing sight he'd ever seen from a balloon.

Howes says he often sits in the middle of the grass oasis heart in complete privacy, overlooking the countryside and "just thinking about things."

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9-Year-Old Farmer Starting Out With 2 Acres

Like most farmers, Aden Franzen checks his corn crop frequently and hopes for rain when he sees the leaves curl. It's the 9-year-old's first year of farming two acres, which he rented for \$400.

"I paid for the rent out of my own savings. We used seed that Dad (Adam) and my grandpa (Lowell) bought," says the young Lyle, Minn., farmer. "It was my dad's cousin's alfalfa field. We got a new plow and tested it out, so I rode with Dad."

Aden had his first tractor ride at 7 days old, then became obsessed with lawn mowing with his dad when he was 2. His interest in farming continues to grow, according to his mom, Tara.

"He watches Market to Market on TV with his dad on Fridays. He checks the weather routinely," she says.

"I go on my dad or mom's phone to check the apps for weather," Aden says, adding he is learning about corn varieties and yields. "I'm thinking how much I'm going to get and hoping I get a good price."

He's already found land to rent and hopes to double his acreage to four acres next year with his profits.

His opportunity to farm got better this year when the Franzens added a third tractor. With supervision, Aden cultivated 200 acres for planting after he had help setting up auto steer.

"It's nice to have so you stay straighter when you are planting or digging," he says.

Tara notes that Aden's grandfather and dad take every opportunity they can to teach Aden, peeling back ears of corn to explain how it develops, for example. They always



Aden Franzen enjoys checking his corn crop on 2 acres of rented land. It's the 9-year-old's first year of farming.

emphasize farm safety. Aden helps pick rocks and care for the 2,000 replacement gilts the family raises in addition to growing crops.

"We are obviously very proud of Aden. It's exciting," Tara says.

"I want to be a farmer," Aden admits. "But I'm thinking about being an agriculture lawyer, too. It's a good job and I know a lot of farm stuff."

For now, he enjoys checking his corn, dreaming about the money his corn crop will give him, and deciding whether he should grow corn or soybeans next year.

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FARM SHOW



This nicely restored Farmall tractor was recently on display at a farmer's market in Colorado. Passersby had to look close to see how the owner demonstrated his preference for red tractors over green ones.

Farmall Restorer Has "Deere" Sense Of Humor

"I thought your readers might get a kick out of these photos I took recently that show a nicely restored Farmall tractor on display at our local Broomfield, Colorado farmer's market," says FARM SHOW subscriber John Ottem. "Evidently the owner of the tractor wanted to demonstrate his preference for red tractors over green ones. You had to look close to see it, but even an old John Deere lover like me had to admit it was pretty funny."

The photo shows a small toy Deere tractor setting inside a glass jar that's part of the tractor's original air cleaner assembly.

"Every year someone parks a different tractor next to the market. But older Deere tractors don't have a glass jar as part of their air cleaner assembly like Farmalls do, so I don't think a Deere tractor owner could return the favor in the future," notes Ottem.



The owner put a small toy Deere tractor inside a glass jar that's part of the tractor's air cleaner assembly.

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