

# FARM SHOW

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## Home-Built Tractors Feature Sleeper Cabs

By Mark Newhall, Editor



Earl Laufer poses alongside "sleeper" tractor, top, which was the inspiration for Brian Simonson's tractor, bottom. Both machines combine "industrial" rear ends with semi cabs and engines.

Brian Simonson of Plentywood, Mont., finished an extra-large "made it myself" project this winter. He built a "hybrid" tractor using a combination of parts from a 1970 International semi-truck and an industrial scraper. It's unique among tractors in that it features a sleeper compartment for extra long workdays and room in the cab for two people to ride in comfort.

Simonson got the idea for the king-size tractor-truck when he saw photos of a semi-truck tractor in North Dakota built by Earl Laufer who farms near Hettinger. Laufer operates three truck-tractors and has helped neighbors build their own, too.

Simonson, who's just 22 years old, was intrigued with the idea and went searching for the right combination of machinery. He found the International truck equipped with a rebuilt engine at a salvage company in Billings. He bought a 70,500-lb. industrial scraper rear-end in Great Falls (it's the same rear end used in Big Bud tractors). A local welder constructed a custom-made drive shaft for the tractor. He's worked on the tractor since last spring, with help

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