

# 45-Year Tractor Collection Covers Many Brands

Long time FARM SHOW reader Brad Kirkpatrick and his collection of more than 100 farm tractors are “landlocked” smack in the heart of California’s Napa Valley wine country. “I’ve been here since our family raised 35,000 turkeys and 200 cattle on this land back in the 1940’s. Now we’re getting squeezed down to just a few acres,” Kirkpatrick says. “I’ve still got room for the tractors and intend to keep them as long as I can.”

Kirkpatrick has been collecting tractors for nearly 50 years, building a stable of several brands including Ferguson, Oliver, Deere and Allis-Chalmers. His “favorites” are a Ferguson T0 35 and a Model 65 Massey Ferguson, which he bought new. Other Ferguson models include 30s, 35s, 65s and a scarce model 85. “I like these because they’re easy to start and maintain and don’t have a lot of frills,” Kirkpatrick says. He also owns about a dozen Oliver, 45 different Deere tractors, a few Allis Chalmers and a small collection of Caterpillar dozers.

“A lot of people restore and paint their old tractors, add chrome stacks and fancy new tires, but I’m more into just having them

in original condition and making sure they run,” Kirkpatrick says. One of those was a Deere Model D Stoker, the 9th one ever built. “A fellow from Nebraska heard I owned it, pestered me long enough and I finally sold it to him,” Kirkpatrick says.

His collection still includes a rare BI, a Deere industrial tractor painted distinctive “Highway Yellow”. Just 183 were built between 1936 and 1941 and Kirkpatrick says not many are around today. The 3,620 lb. tractor has heavier rear axles, housings and bearings than its relative, the Model BR standard tread. It has a different front end that’s drilled and machined to mount a snowplow or grader blade. Its front axle is moved 5 1/4 in. back for better maneuverability. It also has a padded seat, a heavier and shorter drawbar and a shorter airstack, like the BO orchard model.

Other tractors in Kirkpatrick’s stable include an Oliver Industrial Model 60, a couple Minneapolis Moline, two CAT 10s, a Model M Allis crawler with a 318 cu. in. engine and a Model R Deere. Red paint is represented by a WD International, a Cub, an A, B, C, H and M Farmalls.

“I collect whatever comes along and sometimes have people call for parts, like



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a speed reducer or a carburetor. I’d like to have the lineup in a museum somewhere, but there’s not much call for that around here.”

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Ed Stone uses his golf cart rather than an ATV for everyday chores around his property.

## Golf Cart Does The Job Of A 4-Wheeler

Who needs a 4-wheeler when you can have a tricked-out golf cart? Ed Stone, Richland, Mo., says he wouldn’t trade his golf cart for any ATV he’s seen.

“It’s hard to get on a 4-wheeler,” says the

80-year-old. “The golf cart has a nice seat, and I use it every day to do chores.”

He added a few extra features to make it work for hauling hay and feed to his goats, chickens and pets, and for carrying firewood

and other uses.

“I’ve had it for about 7 years. It has a Yamaha engine, and I have done nothing with it except have the gear ratio changed for more pulling power and less speed,” he notes. It came with a lift kit. Combined with knobby tires, it gives him traction and better ground clearance so that he’s never gotten stuck in mud or snow.

“I put a 3,500-lb. winch on the front and use it all the time,” Stone says, noting he’s pulled trees, vehicles and machinery. “I’ve even pulled stumps with it. It’s a powerhouse with block and cable to increase the power.”

With a receiver hitch on the back, he can add ball or hook hitches to pull a trailer. It also works well to hold a cargo carrier that he fills with firewood.

His wife drives it for errands like getting the mail. Stone adds a protective canopy to protect from snow and wind in winter.

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Richard Navis uses his collection of Uni ag equipment for cutting hay and grain, harvesting grain, corn and beans, chopping silage, and picking ear corn. One of them even has a mounted corn planter.

## He Collects And Farms With “Uni” Equipment

“I started working on New Idea Uni ag equipment right out of tech school at an equipment dealership and enjoyed it so much that I started collecting models for myself in 1999,” says Wisconsin farmer Richard Navis. A little over 20 years later he owns 16 Uni’s, including a predecessor to the New Idea products, a 1950’s Minneapolis Moline L.

Navis says he paid just \$2,500 for his first 708 Uni with a chopper and used it on his dairy farm to cut hay and corn silage. “The machine did a great job, maybe a little underpowered, because when the corn was tall you had to crawl,” Navis says with a

laugh. Later he bought a 704 and a 709 from the dealership where he’d been employed and returned them to full working condition.

“My Uni equipment doesn’t just sit around and look good. We use them to farm,” Navis says. He uses them for cutting hay and grain, harvesting grain, corn and beans, chopping silage and picking ear corn. One of them even has a mounted corn planter.

“I really like picking corn the best,” Navis says. “There’s just something special about seeing the ears go into the gathering chains and then drop into the wagon.”

These days his wide collection includes

just about every piece of equipment New Idea made for the Uni line, and he still keeps an eye out for models that might be a valuable addition to his collection.

Navis says people are amazed when they find out he farms 200 acres with equipment that’s 50 or more years old. “Even though it takes me nearly a whole day to fill a semi with ear corn, I get it done eventually, and if something breaks, I know how to fix it,” Navis says.

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