



Tractors lined up at Classic Green's John Deere D Centennial Celebration.

70 Deere D's Lined Up To Plow

By Cindy Ladage

It was a big day on July 23, 2022, in Nappanee, Ind., when nearly 70 John Deere D tractors from all over the U.S. took to the field at the same time. The event was part of Classic Green's John Deere D Centennial Celebration. In 2023, the grand old tractor will turn 100 years old.

The John Deere D tractor was produced by Deere from 1923 to 1953. The D had the longest model run of any John Deere tractor.

The celebration almost didn't happen. On the morning of the event, the area where the plowing was to take place received around 2 in. of rain. Michael Ostrander, Columbia City, Ind., was one of the main planners and the contact person for the event. When called to see if the event was still on, he said, "It's supposed to clear off around eleven, so I think we can plow!"

While waiting for the rain to clear, tractor drivers and viewers all gathered in a beautiful barn with the food and Merlin Yoder's amazing tractor collection. Classic Green had

a table where they shared information about upcoming events.

Ostrander was optimistic about the plowing prospects. He said the soil would go because it's a bit sandy, and he was right. After Green Magazine contributors Tyler Bucheit and David Wolfe provided a Plow Adjustment seminar showing the drivers how they should set their plows for the day, tractors and plows started rolling around 1:00 p.m.

It was an amazing sight with D's from all the different years pulling plows up and down the fields. This was a sight right out of a 1920's farm magazine.

Ostrander, who has four model D tractors himself, added that this kind of event is in demand because "people want to use their tractors."

For more information about upcoming Classic Green events, log onto their event page at www.classicgreen.org. Better yet, join and find out first-hand what is happening.



Lift tool raises and lowers trailers and grain hoppers using a battery.

Lift Tool Raises Grain Hoppers

The X-Press Lift Tool, produced by X-Press Truck Tools in North Little Rock, Ark., was designed to help grain haulers cut down the number of arm, back and shoulder injuries. Company president Glenn Hart says the lift mechanism has two main functions. It raises and lowers trailers for semi-trucks and, more specifically for farming, raises and lowers grain hopper doors by using a battery drill to power the lift.

To build the lift tool, Hart begins with a base kit about the size of an airplane steering wheel. He builds it to withstand 90 to 100 lbs. of torque.

"Initially, it was designed to raise and lower trailer legs, essentially replacing your arm cranking away to raise and lower the trailer," Hart says. "Then I saw the same need relative to grain hopper doors where a person is cranking that too."

The base kit includes a lithium-ion battery-powered high torque drill, a charger, and a connector for grain hopper doors. For semi-trailers, a trailer kit can hook onto the shaft

of the trailer arms. Both kits are \$459.99.

For large truck operators, the tool can lower and raise trailer legs in about 20 seconds. The tool is easy to store in the cab of a semi-tractor.

For the grain hopper tool, users can also purchase a torque elimination device (TED) for an extra \$50. Hart says the TED was designed for added safety and can help reduce arm and shoulder injuries.

"Grain elevators are typically buying both of them as a kit," Hart says. "Employees can open the hopper doors, unload the grain hoppers and shouldn't have to worry about injuries." Hart says the tool is also beneficial for large farms because it can speed up unloading time, especially during peak harvest season, when farmers are driving hard to get the grain off the field and into storage.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glen Hart, 1301 N. Main St., Suite C, North Little Rock, Ark. 72114 (ph 214-884-8258; ghart@xpresstrucktools.com).

Milking Cluster Support Bracket

Philip Metcalfe has no time to spare when he and his crew are running cows through their 72-head rotary parlor. The British dairyman recognized a problem with milker clusters not hanging evenly and falling off. Lactalign was his answer.

"Lactalign supports the clusters' milk return and vacuum pipes," says Metcalfe. "When not in use, it rotates out of the way."

An unbalanced cluster puts uneven weight across the four quarters of the udder, increasing the chance of liner slip or kick-off. Even if reattached, milk letdown is interrupted, making complete emptying unlikely. This can affect milk yield and cow health. Uneven weight across the four quarters can also cause teat end damage and increase the chance of mastitis.

Metcalfe credits a local design and fabrication firm with helping him develop Lactalign. The device evens out the weight distribution of the cluster across the four quarters.

"I had the initial concept of a support using the Automatic Cup Removal (ACR) cord to pull it over," he says. "With that in mind, I approached James Hudson, who then further developed it. It's fantastic having someone with his experience and skills being local to do innovations like this."

The relatively flat, high-density polyurethane support Metcalfe and Hudson came up with attaches to the parlor wall behind and below the cow udder. When the milking cluster is attached, the Lactalign support is rotated up and into place. The vacuum line and milk return pipe are placed in one of three height-appropriate optional positions. The ACR cord crosses behind the device. When milk flow stops, the ACR pulls the milking cluster off the udder, pushing against the device and rotating it out of the way.

Once Lactalign units were in place in Metcalfe's rotary parlor, the herd recorded



Metcalfe credits a local design and fabrication firm with helping him develop Lactalign. The device evens out the weight distribution of the cluster across the four quarters.

a 50 percent decline in mastitis in front quarters, a 59.6 percent decrease in liner slippage, a 47 percent reduction in kick-offs, and a 65 percent reduction in reattachments.

Lactalign is now available in the U.K. for £150.00 GBP (\$182 U.S.) per unit. Metcalfe is hoping to establish distributors in Europe, as well as North America and elsewhere.

"Dealer inquiries are very welcome," says Metcalfe. "As soon as we have a distributor appointed and they have a network set up, shipping could be relatively instant."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ruswick Grange, Newton Le Willows, Bedale, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom DL8 1TG, (ph 07803 765440; info@lactalign.com; www.lactalign.com).



Side panels on the buckets open and close hydraulically and can be adjusted on the go. A bright orange tube on the end of panels is a replaceable steel wear part.

Feed Scraper Boxes Up Waste

The Silo Crab from JF Hudson in England cleans up waste feed fast and easily. Side panels on the bucket direct material into the bucket and then close up at the end of the aisle to hold it in.

"Conventional buckets have to push into a barrier or be manually loaded at cross aisles," says James Hudson, JF Hudson. "The Silo Crab does it all. Waste feed for a group of cows can be weighed and the ration adjusted accordingly."

Philip Metcalfe, a British dairyman, came up with the idea. As with past projects, he turned to JF Hudson, a custom design and fabrication business to make the idea reality.

The Silo Crab is available in 5 and 7-ft. bucket widths. The 5-ft. bucket holds nearly 1 1/2 cu. yds. and weighs 2,380 lbs. Each side panel is half the width of the bucket. The 7-ft.

bucket has a capacity of 3 2/3 cu. yds. and weighs 2,771 lbs.

Side panels on the buckets open and close hydraulically and can be adjusted on the go. A bright orange tube on the end of panels is a replaceable steel wear part. As the bucket travels down the feed aisle, it acts as a bumper, preventing the panel edge from binding against an obstruction. Rubber webbing on the bottom rides over fixed objects while scraping the surface clean.

Silo Crabs are available on order from JF Hudson. They start at \$7,852 (USD).

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