



Built to stand up to adult abuse, 4-WD mini Versatile hinges in the center for steering and has duals all the way around, while 2-WD Deere replica has rear dual wheels.

ARTICULATED 4-WD PEDAL TRACTORS HAVE 2-SPEED TRANSMISSIONS

“Super Pedal Pullers”

Latest new equipment for pedal tractor pullers are these “super pedal pullers” equipped with dual wheels, articulated steering and 2-speed transmissions.

Since the first contest just a few years ago, pedal power tractor pulling competitions have caught on all over the country. There’s already 11 state pedal power associations and the number is growing fast.

Harry Benjamin, Great Falls, Mont., got caught up in the excitement of pedal pulling a year or so ago. After looking at the crudely built toy tractors many of the competitors were using, he decided to design and build his own “super pullers”. He wanted a tractor engineered with the right weight, balance, traction, strength and gearing so that even a small child would be able to pull a lot of weight. He also wanted to build them strong enough so they would stand up to adult abuse.

Harry built two versions of his powerful pedal pullers - a 4-WD mini Versatile that hinges in the center for steering and has duals all the way around, and a 2-WD Deere replica with dual wheels on the rear. Both

have easy-to-shift transmissions with low and high gears.

In one of the first exhibitions of the tractors at the 1989 Nebraska State Fair, Benjamin challenged a 16-hp. garden tractor to a pull. The pedal tractor and the engine-driven tractor were hooked back-to-back and Benjamin’s pedal puller won. He was able to pull the garden tractor backward.

Benjamin’s tractors make use of a special high torque, right angle gearbox that was designed specifically for use on pedal pullers. It’s machined to fit pedal arms. Small car differentials, found at salvage yards and cut down to the proper width, serve as drive axles.

A limited number of tractors are available for sale and Benjamin also sells detailed, illustrated plans for the tractors and for a special-built weight sled. Pedals, pedal arms, gearboxes, and other components are also available.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harry J. Benjamin & Sons, Inc., 105 Smelter Ave., Great Falls, Mont. 59404 (ph 406 727-6677).

POWERED BY 5 HP BRIGGS & STRATTON

Mini Oil Tank

Parade goes in Ladysmith, Wis., get a kick out of a miniature oil truck built by Nate Mincoff, who patterned the 1/4-scale truck after a local oil company’s delivery rig.

“I built it from the ground up using a narrowed Datsun rear end and steering sector. The rest was all hand-built with steel tubing and light gauge steel,” says Mincoff.

The top half of the fuel tank hinges up for access to the 5 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine. The rear wheels are 3-wheeler “flat

trackers” which Mincoff selected because they make the truck look like it’s fitted with duals. The cab is big enough to accommodate an adult driver.

“You have to see the look on kids’ faces to appreciate the wonderful sense of accomplishment you get in building a rig like this,” says Mincoff.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nate Mincoff, N2598 Market Road, Conrath, Wis. 54731 (ph 715 532-6303).



“Cody” played a supporting role in a movie filmed last summer in South Dakota.

3-YEAR-OLD “CODY” IS ONE OF ONLY FOUR BUFFALO THAT HAVE BEEN BROKEN TO RIDE

Trained Buffalo Is “Faster Than A Horse”

“People take a lot of second looks when they see us,” says Mike Fogel, Money Creek, Minn., who rides “Cody”, a 1,500-lb. buffalo, in fairs, local festivals, and farm shows.

Fogel bought 3-year-old “Cody” in Cody, Wyoming, as a calf and began riding him when he was 2 years old.

“As far as I know, Cody is one of just four buffalo in the U.S. and Canada that have been broken to ride,” says Fogel, who has been raising buffalo for 13 years. “I use neck reins and a conventional saddle with stirrups and extra padding. The extra padding is needed because of Cody’s sharp backbone. The saddle sits one to two feet farther back than it does on a horse due to the buffalo’s big shoulders. Balance is the key to staying on top. I’ve trained Cody to back up and to stand in a sand-filled tire.”

According to Fogel, Cody rides smoother than a horse because there’s less bounce. He’s also faster, smarter, and has more endurance. However, Fogel doesn’t recommend buffalo riding for the average person. “People don’t realize what it takes to break a buffalo. A buffalo’s wild instincts make it difficult to break and they’re unpredictable. One day Cody can act like an old plow horse and the next day he can be pretty ornery. You can’t show that you’re afraid of him. You always have to be alert and expect sudden movement because buffalo are in-

credibly quick.”

According to Fogel, buffalo live to be 40 years old which is almost twice as long as a horse. They aren’t mature until they’re 10 years old.

Fogel formerly leased a 60,000-acre ranch in Montana to raise buffalo. He and Elizabeth Fogel shipped the animals to Rapid City, S. Dak., where they were processed into a wide variety of buffalo meat products under the “Buffalo Gal” label. When the ranch was sold three years ago they moved to Minnesota where they now raise a breeding herd of 175 head.

Cody played a supporting role in a movie filmed last summer in South Dakota called “Dances With Wolves”. Set in 1863, the film follows a Union soldier from the Civil War fortresses of Tennessee to the wilderness of the isolated plains of Dakota Territory. Cody was used in most of the hunting scenes.

The movie is expected to be released in the U.S. by late summer/early fall of 1990.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Fogel, Rt. 1, P.O. Box 72, Houston, Minn. 55943 (ph 507 896-2345). For more information on buffalo meat products contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elizabeth Fogel, president, Buffalo Gal, Inc., Rt. 1, P.O. Box 72, Houston, Minn. 55943 (ph 507 896-2585).



Miniature 1/4-scale oil truck is patterned after a local oil company’s delivery rig.