



Carl and Darrell Ebersten store their tractor collection inside three big sheds.

THEY "PULL" THEM AT COUNTRY FAIRS

Illinois Collectors Own More Than 200 Tractors

Carl and Darrell Ebersten, Williamsville, Ill., aren't sure how many tractors they own.

"But it's more than 200," says Carl, 57, noting that he and his son Darrell, 32, got started collecting in the 1970's.

Each tractor in their collection demonstrates something in the evolution of agricultural engineering or adds something in the way of character. Their costs have varied widely, from \$250 to several thousand, but the Eberstens estimate the average value is about \$1,000 each.

Their collection is wide ranging, and tractors have come from many parts of the country, far and near. Many of the tractors are old favorites but the Eberstens have a lot of "golden oldies", too. Here are some: Heider, 1919; Rumley, 1927; Waterloo Boy, 1923; Cockshutt, 1942; Case 25-45 with cross-mounted engine, 1928; International Harvester, 1918; Titan, 1921; Huber, Super Four, Twin City, 1918; Altman-Taylor, 24-25; John Deere GP Wide Tread (rear end similar to IHC Farmall); Hart Parr; Wallis; David Bradley; and a Moline Universal, 1918.

Three large machine sheds, which provide cover for the tractors, are almost filled up so the father-son team has had to slow down the purchase of additional tractors.

GREAT GIFT IDEA

Tractor Letter Holders

When their son left home and went to college, Dwain Christensen and his wife decided to send him something to remind him of home.

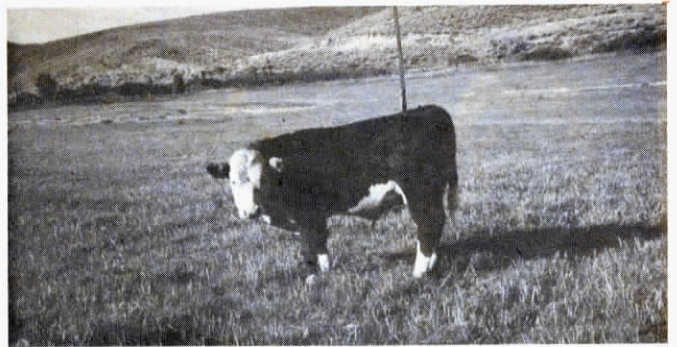
"We designed him a pen and letter holder with a 4-WD Deere tractor on it because we use Deere equipment. It looked so nice we decided to send them to three of our daughters, who are also living away from home. They all love them," says Dwain. "They're fun to make and it's a project we can work on during the winter. We've been making them for sale for a year and a half and have sold quite a few to farmers. They were even used as a prize for drawings at a farm show here in Idaho."

The tractor stands on a flat acrylic base with the edges sanded and rounded off. The tires of the tractor are glued to the base. The

letter holder is made out of clear acrylic. The pens have a screw-on base that can be screwed in by hand.

"We have used various makes and models of tractors, and we also make them with antique cars. We try to accommodate whatever people want to mount on there," says Dwain, noting that prices vary depending on which model of tractor - or other item - is used, but ranges from \$10.50 to \$15. Bases can be any color and they sometimes use mirrors for the letter holder. They have also made them with smaller bases decorated with pens of miniature animals for between \$4.50 and \$7.00.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dwain K. Christensen, Central Design & Gifts, 1651 Rich Road, Grace, Idaho 83241 (ph 208 425-3280).



Mature cows wean off 650 to 700-lb. calves on dry summer range.

THEY BRED HOLSTEINS INTO THEIR HEREFORD-ANGUS HERD

"Poor Man's Exotic" Beef Cattle Breed

"We've enjoyed articles in past issues of FARM SHOW about exotic breeds of cattle from around the world and thought you might be interested in our 'Poor Man's Exotic' beef herd which we created with a breed from right here in our own backyard," says Heather Thomas, Salmon, Idaho, who started breeding Holstein blood into her Angus-Hereford cross herd 20 years ago.

"We tried Holsteins to add more milking ability and a higher rate of gain. In the past Holsteins have been passed by in beef herds primarily because half-Holstein cows give too much milk and need more feed than the average beef cow. They may also have problems rebreeding on schedule if they're not fed well enough. But there's another way to go about it.

"You don't need any half-Holstein females - all you need is a good crossbred bull. This will give you quarter-Holstein calves and that's a much better percentage for a beef herd. Today crossbred bulls are more acceptable - when we began using a half-Holstein bull in the early 1970's, our neighbors thought we were crazy.

"We originally started with Angus 25 years ago and crossed them with Hereford bulls. Hereford-Angus cows produced better than straightbreds but by adding some Holstein to the mix we improved weaning weights even more. Now our mature cows wean off 650 to 750-lb. calves on dry summer range and first calf heifers often wean 500-lb. calves. And we've found that the 3-way cross cows are more fertile than the average beef cow.

"We first bred in Holstein as an experiment with our old family milk cow, called Baby Doll, which had an exceptionally good udder, disposition, conformation, and lon-

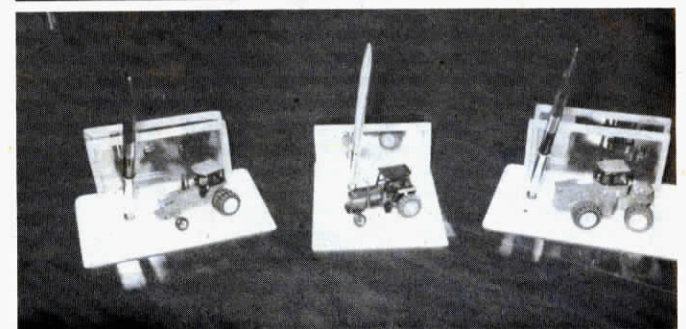
gevity - we milked her till she was more than 21 years old. She was solid black except for feet, udder, tail tip and forehead. Her offspring by our Hereford bull were black with white faces, which made them easier to sell than if they had been spotted.

"Even at 21 years she had a good udder that did not break down or get big teats and she passed on the good udder to her granddaughters through her sons. We were tired of the big teats on our Angus and Herefords.

"We used one of her first bull calves (by a Hereford bull) on some of our Angus-Hereford cows. Those 3-way calves - 1/2 Hereford, 1/4 Angus, 1/4 Holstein - were outstanding. Big but streamlined at birth, and easily born. Vigorous babies, up and sucking right away, even in cold weather. Some were red white-faced and the rest black white-faced.

"Soon we were breeding all our Hereford-Angus cows to Hereford-Holstein bulls. The heifers were very uniform and feminine, and more fertile than our Angus-Herefords. Quarter Holsteins raise a good calf and rebreed on schedule even when grazing dry rangeland and roughed through the winter on grass hay. She can be treated just like a beef cow, but she's better than any beef cow we ever had because with her hybrid vigor she performs very well for us under conditions where the average beef cow will not. For our situation - a pasture ranch with lots of rough acres where cattle have to do well without any pampering - crossbred cattle are the answer. We didn't have to go anywhere to find our 'exotic'. We found it in our backyard."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heather Thomas, Box 215, Salmon, Idaho 83467 (ph 208 756-2841).



Tractor tires are glued to a flat base. Letter holder is made out of clear acrylic. Pen holders can be screwed into base by hand.