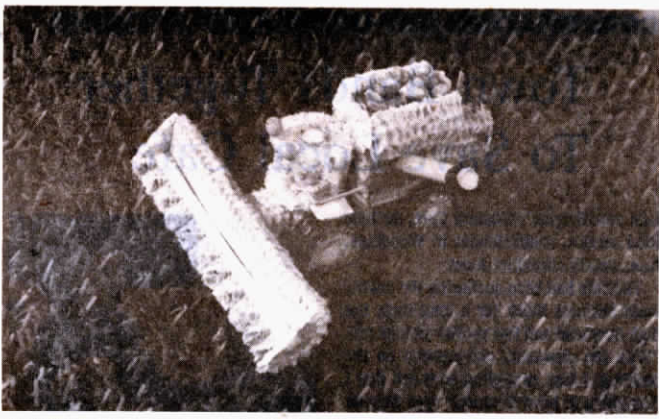


Ag World



The body, header and wheels of Reiss's combines are all made from corn cobs. Notches are cut in header to resemble row units. A milo stem is used for the unloading auger.

"TAKES LOTS OF PATIENCE TO MAKE THEM"

Farm Toys Made From Corn Cobs

Nebraska farmer Randy Reiss has an unusual hobby - he makes farm toys out of corn cobs.

Reiss makes tractors, combines, front-end loaders, planters, bulldozers, 3-wheel self-propelled sprayers, center pivot irrigation systems, pull-type sprayers, fuel trucks, and cropduster airplanes. Red corn cobs are used for wheels and red or white cobs for the body. Kernels of corn make headlights, pieces of milo stalk and wheat straw serve as mufflers, wheat straw with half a soybean on top might serve as an air cleaner, and milo stalks are turned into drawbars.

"No two toys are alike. They all have subtle differences," says Reiss, who works on the toys during the winter. He started his hobby three years ago when his parents gave him a corncob tractor they bought at a craft show. "The toy tractor wasn't anything fancy so I didn't think it would be too difficult to make some for our Lions Club toy show. But I was in for a surprise," says Reiss. "At first I tried cutting the cobs with a sharp butcher knife. That didn't work because when the cobs dry out they're as

hard as wood. I finally ended up using a band saw to cut them. It takes a lot of close cutting and requires a lot of patience. No two cobs are exactly the same."

Reiss picks corn by hand before harvest. "Once corn is harvested the cobs are broken up too much," says Reiss. "It isn't always easy to find the right size cobs because most of the corn produced by seed companies today has long, narrow cobs. I have to do a lot of searching to find what I want."

Besides growing field corn, Reiss grows his own white corn, popcorn, and Indian corn. White corn has white cobs, and popcorn cobs have a smooth texture that's just right for airplane bodies. He grows Indian corn mainly for the kernels and sorts the red ones from the black ones. He mounts black kernels on top of gearshift knobs and red ones on top of throttles or levers.

Reiss sells the toys for \$5 to \$10.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Randy Reiss, Rt. 1, Box 127, Wilcox, Neb. 68982 (ph 308 567-2443).

KIDS THINK THEY GROW ON TREES

Marshmallow "Harvest" Is A Family Tradition

A mysterious crop shows up every October on the Frisch farm near Altura, Wis., when Richard and Phyllis Frisch load their kids onto a hay wagon and head out into the woods to harvest the "marshmallow crop".

Frisch children have been harvesting the mysterious crop for about a decade. Three generations of the family gathered again last fall for the "harvest". As they drove out to find the crop, Phyllis assured the children sitting on bales on the wagon that it had been a good year for marshmallows. As the tractor and wagon rumbled into a field alongside a field of standing corn, they discovered, to their delight, marshmallows hanging high and low on several trees. Children scramble off wagon with a bag in hand to

collect as many marshmallows as they can.

The unusual family tradition got started during a wood-cutting outing 10 years ago. The youngest children were getting restless so marshmallows were scattered in the weeds as a distraction. The next year they wanted to go out and gather marshmallows again.

While children gather the crop, adults do their part to reinforce the legend by bantering back and forth about price supports, deficiency payments for the crop, special cultivation practices, and so on.

Not all harvests are as bountiful as last fall's. One year it got sloppy because they had to pick them in the snow. And during a "drought" year, the Frisches used miniature marshmallows.



Don Caltvdt built this recreational vehicle on the frame of a 1947 Hudson car.

COST A FRACTION OF SIMILAR SIZE COMMERCIAL MODELS

Camper Built On An Old Car Chassis

Don Caltvdt, Brigham City, Utah, built his own recreational vehicle on the frame of a 1947 Hudson car, which he used because it's big enough and strong enough to handle the weight yet ride smoothly down the road.

About the only part of the Hudson still intact is the dashboard, which is original. Caltvdt hired out most of the camper's construction, which includes a corrugated metal exterior, rear escape hatch, and a roll-out side awning for shelter during cookouts.

The plywood and plastic interior contains a bed, sink, shower and toilet.

The homemade camper is powered by a 318 hp. Dodge engine and is equipped with a Chrysler rear end. It gets about 12 mpg and cost "just a fraction" of a similar-size commercial RV. "It attracts a lot of attention in campgrounds," says Caltvdt.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Caltvdt, Box 335, Brigham City, Utah 84302 (ph 801 723-6713).



The plywood and plastic interior contains a bed, sink, shower and toilet.