

## Ag World



"Mini farmstead" is hand-made from wood and sets in front of background scene.

**TRAILER-MOUNTED MODEL IS 30 FT. LONG, 15 FT. WIDE AND BUILT TO A 1:12 SCALE**

### "Mini Farmstead" Is Exact Copy Of 1930's Iowa Farm

This "mini farmstead" is an exact replica of an actual 1930's Iowa farm and it draws big crowds wherever it's shown, according to Glen Foss, Jr., LaPorte City, Iowa, who takes it to various events around the Midwest. The farmstead display mounts on a 30-ft. trailer and unfolds to a 15-ft. width.

The mini farmstead is an exact 1:12 scale replica of the Ray Klein farmstead as it looked in the 1930's. Klein, who farmed near Reinbeck, Iowa, built the model in the late 1950's. Everything on it is hand-made from wood. Machinery shown includes a steam tractor, threshing machine, horse-purified wagons, hay loader, hay rake, mower, corn planter, and two Deere tractors. All of the buildings are built in line and include a farm house, machine shed and chicken house (built together), corn crib, hog house, and silo and barn. There's also a windmill, trees, bobsled and cutter, and a lot of livestock.

"People really admire the detail," says Foss. "The house and all buildings are built identical to the original ones. Even the rooms in the house are true-to-life. There's a lot of

extra detail, including a dog in the yard under the tree, a cat on the porch, two kittens on a porch railing, and a mouse pecking around the corner. There are pigeons on the barn roof, squirrels on the corn crib roof, and even a rat in the alleyway inside the hog house. A glider swing sets in the back yard.

"It took Klein eight years to complete after he sold his farm and was managing an appliance store. Then he went to work for Wausau Homes as a salesman and for several years went on the road with it for the company, attending fairs, home shows, etc. The company built the trailer especially for the exhibit and painted the background scene. When on display, the mini farmstead is covered by a big awning with a sign on top that says 'Klein's Miniature Farmstead'. Exhibit folds up to an 8-ft. transport width."

Foss obtained the farmstead exhibit from Klein after it had sat outside for a number of years.

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**COLLECTION CONSISTS OF MORE THAN 90 DIFFERENT STYLES**

### He Collects Fence Posts

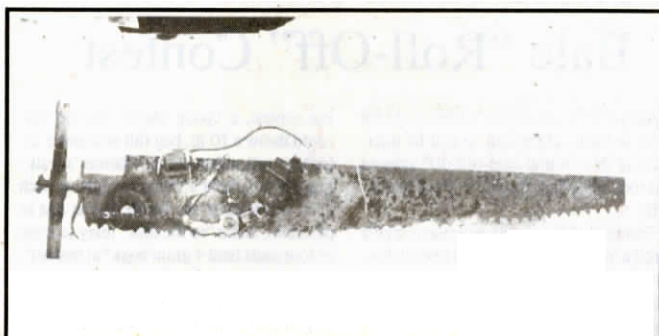


All of Beesley's fence posts are steel except for one made from plastic.

You've probably heard of people who collect different types of barbed wire, but have you ever heard of anyone who collects steel fence posts?

Myron Beesley, Delphi, Ind., has a collection of more than 90 fence posts - all steel except for one made from plastic.

"Most people have never seen a fence post collection," says Beesley, a retired store owner. "I started my collection about 15 years ago when my father-in-law gave me an unusual round, hollow steel post. He had obtained the post in 1909 when he purchased some land. I started looking at other posts and it became a challenge to find ones with different styles and features. During a local 'old settlers' celebration a few years ago, I placed my collection of 17 in a store window. The following week two farmers each brought in a fence post and



### Power Saw Gets Lots Of Laughs

"We found this old lumberjack saw under an old house we jacked up so I put a 'motor' on it and carry it around on the back of my pickup for laughs," says Ken Reichel, Yelm, Wash.

He used a piston and rod from a Ford air conditioner pump and points off a Model A Ford, a coil and plug wire off a Honda 90 cycle, and a plug off a Maytag washing machine motor. The swinging crank is made from scrap metal and the wood handle is just something Reichel had laying around.

If you turn the crank, the piston goes up and down inside the "cylinder", which is really just a tin can.

"Now that I've got it all ready to run, I'm trying to make up my mind whether to put fuel injection on it or just a plain old carburetor," jokes Reichel. "I carry this bush whacker with me at all times just in case my Ford chain saw stops running."

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said, 'Here's one you don't have.'

"Except for three or four newer posts, all my posts are considered antiques and are no longer manufactured. All are patented."

The collection is based on five major categories depending on the post's shape when viewed from the top. The shapes include a "T", "U", "L", "Y", and "O". Forty-five posts in Beesley's collection are "T"-shaped. Next most numerous are the "U" shaped models. The posts have various types of anchor plates. Some plates are riveted on, while others are practically wrapped around the post. The "O" and "Y"-shaped posts have no anchor plates. Some posts are smooth while others have knobs on one side or both sides. Some have holes the length of the post for placing wire through. Others have hooks that are hammered down to hold the fence wire onto the post.

"One outstanding post given to me by a friend in Iowa is triangular-shaped with a crossbar-type anchor plate held in place by a horse shoe nail," says Beesley. "It was patented in 1882 in Kansas. I found another one in an advertisement in a 1927 copy of

Farm Journal magazine. It was made by American Steel & Wire Co. I sent a copy of the picture in the ad to the Patent Office and they sent me a copy of the patent. Another unusual post in my collection is 'T'-shaped with a 3 to 4-in. long wave molded onto both sides of the post along its entire length. The wave isn't thick enough to add strength so it must have been more of an identification marking. I found it in a fenced enclosure behind a friend's barn. One post given to me by Chicago Hts. Steel Co. was made from recycled railroad rails."

Although most of his 90 posts have come from local areas, Beesley has three that he picked up while vacationing in Alaska in 1987. As he cruises the countryside, he keeps new posts in his car to trade for old posts. "I carry a hacksaw in my car so that in case I find a post I want, I can cut it apart and haul it in the trunk, then weld it back together when I get home," says Beesley.

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