



Orr, shown with sons David and Paul, has fun driving his "floating" tractor in local ponds and rivers. It goes about 1 1/2 mph in water.

## PROPELLED THROUGH WATER BY REAR TIRES

# "Floating" Tractor Works On Land, Water

"My neighbors couldn't believe their eyes when they first saw it," says Jeff Orr, North Platte, Neb., about the "floating" tractor he built for use in water or on land.

The "floating" tractor looks like a dragster and has small, narrow 15-in. front tires and large 24-in. lugged rear tires. Orr welded sheet steel onto both sides of each wheel rim to form airtight chambers. The body is built from 20-ga. steel and has a flat bottom and sides. A pair of hollow pontoons bolt onto the sides and can be quickly removed. The tractor is powered by a 6-cyl. 140 cu. in. engine salvaged from an old Corvair and has the Corvair's 3-speed transmission and transaxle. The transaxle chain-drives a 2-ft. dia. sprocket that's mounted on both of the rear wheel hubs.

"I built it mostly for fun. However, it really comes in handy for herding cattle that graze on corn stalks on our river bottom land," says Orr. "I can go right across partially submerged fields without having to worry about getting stuck or leaving ruts. The tires are inflated to just 5 psi so there's little soil compaction. We don't have a 4-WD pickup so we had nothing to get around in until we built this go-anywhere machine.

"It's really fun to drive. I've driven it right into the North Platte river. One day I went fishing with it and caught a bass in the middle of a pond. It goes about 1 1/2 mph in water. The lugs on the rear tires throw big geysers of water up over the tractor unless I go slow. The narrow front tires are streamlined and slice through the water like a

rudder. The tractor has 11 separate air chambers including the tires, closed-in rims, frame, and pontoons. Even if one of them got punctured the tractor would still float. It'll also work well in snow because it's lightweight and doesn't sink into the snow as far as a conventional tractor. I plan to build a toboggan for it so I can pull 10 to 15 bales behind it to feed my cattle.

"The engine and transmission are mounted under the seat so most of the weight is over the rear drive tires. I wish the transmission had more gears so I could use it to rake hay. Top speed is 55 mph, but it's probably not safe to drive at that speed because it doesn't have any shock absorbers. Two 6-ft. leaf springs on each side are bolted to the transaxle. It has a hitch on back so I can use it to pull small implements.

"I built a rollbar on it because the front end is light. I was afraid that if I popped the clutch the tractor might tip over backward. The rollbar is triangulated like an aircraft fuselage and extends the length of the tractor. I used 3-in. dia. steel tubing to make the rollbar's main support frame and 1-in. dia. conduit for the rest of it."

Flexible 1 1/2-in. dia. tubing on the engine's exhaust manifold goes through the cooling air discharge ducts to dual exhausts and mufflers mounted on the rear fenders.

The tractor has a steel seat with room for two riders.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Orr, Rt. 1, Box 322, North Platte, Neb. 69101 (ph 308 532-0114).



"Floating" tractor has narrow 15-in. front tires and large 24-in. lugged rear tires. A pair of hollow pontoons that bolt onto sides can be quickly removed.



Hardison staged his "buried" tractor prank by placing salvaged tractor parts on a soggy patch of ground in front of his home.

## Buried Tractor Stops Passersby

After seeing a story in FARM SHOW about a "buried" tractor hoax perpetrated by a South Dakota farmer (Vol. 16, No. 6), Randy Hardison, Williamston, N.C., decided to stage his own "buried" tractor prank.

Hardison created the illusion of a stuck tractor by sticking salvaged tractor parts in a soggy patch of ground in front of his home. He sliced off the top foot or so of a pair of tractor tires, and arranged a tractor hood, muffler, steering wheel and seat on the ground.

"I just wanted to give folks something to talk about. I've had a ball with it," says Hardison. "A thousand people must have stopped to look at it. They almost wore out the grass where they got out of their ve-

hicles to see it. A few people even offered the use of their tractors or 4-WD vehicles to help me pull it out.

"My wife didn't think too much of the idea at first but now she gets a kick out of sitting under the carport and watching people's reactions on the road."

One woman must have been monitoring the tractor's appearance every week. After a long period of rain, she called Harrison to report, "I could see the rims of the tires the other day - looks like it's dropped down five or six more inches now."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Randy Hardison, RFD 1, Box 522, Williamston, N.C. 27892 (ph 919 792-7598).



## Watch Out For Hay Spiders!

"With hay season upon us in full force, we think it's important to warn your readers of a new 'Hay Spider' that has been spotted in the Virginia area," says John Mikulas, Troutville, Va. "This spider seems to be irritated by farmers that try to bale hay, especially the round bale type. The accompanying photograph shows the results of what happened to one farmer who got too close to one of these dangerous insects. I hope you can get this warning out to your readers in time before the hay spider spreads to their areas."

## Order Form For New Subscribers

**Yes!** I want to be first to learn about latest new products. Please send me one full year's subscription (\$13.95 per year in the United States; \$16.95 per year in Canada - payable in Canadian dollars - and foreign countries). I understand I can cancel at any time and receive a full refund if not satisfied.

My check (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to FARM SHOW. Clip and mail this coupon to: FARM SHOW, 20088 Kenwood Trail, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.