



Tiry and his family used snow to replicate an old 1942 Case VAC tractor and painted it black and orange just like the real thing.

**“LOOKS JUST LIKE THE REAL THING”**

## Wisconsin Family Made Colorful “Snow Tractor”

People can't believe their eyes when they see this colorful “snow tractor” made by Wisconsin farmer Joe Tiry and his family. They used a chain saw and spray paint to complete the icy sculpture together last December in their front yard.

The snow tractor is built in perfect scale to an old 1942 Case VAC tractor and painted black and orange just like the real thing. It's “driven” by a large cow with one foot on the clutch pedal and another up in the air to wave to passersby.

“We just did it to have fun,” says Tiry, a dairyman and former shop teacher. “After we finished it, we had a steady stream of people driving in, especially at night when we put a spotlight on the tractor. The tractor is complete with a starter motor, carburetor, exhaust manifold, and air cleaner. It looks so real that we even overheard one couple arguing whether or not it was real. The Case VAC was the tractor I learned to drive on. I wanted to build it as close to scale as possible. I went to an implement dealer three Sundays in a row after church to take measurements. It's built exactly to scale except that the hood is about 3/4 in. too low.”

Snow sculptures have become a family

tradition on the Tiry farm. They started with simple snowmen a couple years ago, then built a cow with an oversize nose standing by a large milk carton. He uses a front-end loader to pile up snow which his children help wet down with a hose to give the snow a harder surface that can be more easily carved with intricate details. It also lengthens the life of the sculpture. The children also help with the finishing touches and with painting. He used a chain saw to cut the snow into a rectangular block with flat walls, then used a corn knife to carve a pattern of the tractor onto the block before using the chain saw to finish the job.

He and his children used oil-based spray paint to color the tractor. They painted the tires and steering wheel black, as well as the starter motor, carburetor, exhaust manifold, and air cleaner. The engine is shaded brown to help make the carburetor stand out. “All together we used three cans of black paint, five cans of orange paint, and one can of blue paint for the cow's eyes,” says Tiry.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Tiry, Rt. 1, Stanley, Wis. 54768 (ph 715 644-2538).

## Make Money And Have Fun: Collect Barn Owl “Pellets”

If you have barn owls in an old building or barn on your farm, you - or your kids - can make money by hanging out below the birds when they eat their meals.

Bill Etgen, Sacramento, Calif., made \$3,200 last year in his spare time searching in old barns and walking through forests and parks collecting barn owl “pellets” - the undigestible remains left behind by owls when they eat. They spit out bones and hair from the mice, birds, and other animals they eat, in tight pellets 1 to 2 in. in dia. Etgen collects the pellets, sterilizes them, and then sells them to local schools. Students dissect them to study bone anatomy and food chains.

Thanks to word of mouth among teachers, Etgen says he now has more demand

for owl pellets than he can supply. “I need pellets. I'll pay 25 cents apiece for good quality, dry, solid pellets. I'll be happy to send information to anyone on what to look for and where to look. It's an easy and profitable part-time business that's especially good for kids who live in the country. An old barn or other good spot can yield 100 pellets a month,” he explains, adding that there are many companies now trade in owl pellets. Pellets are popular because they don't require the live dissection of animals in class.

For a free copy of an informational brochure, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Etgen, 3600 Whitney Ave., Sacramento, Calif. 95821 (ph 916 972-1871).



Tomlin has killed as many as 137 crows in a single day using a mouth call that lets him stay in one place for hours.

**FARMERS PAY HIM TO KILL CROWS, HUNTERS PAY HIM TO TEACH THEM HIS TECHNIQUES**

## Crow Hunter Conducts “Shoots”, Sells Video

“Crow meat tastes a lot like mallard duck,” says Jerry Tomlin, a professional crow hunter from Georgia who teaches farmers how to successfully hunt crows and also takes hunters out on recreational shoots.

Tomlin recently produced a “how-to” video called “Eating Crow” that teaches the techniques he's developed over the years since he first starting shooting crows - at age 12 - that were attacking his uncle's pecan crop. In addition to teaching how to successfully call and then kill crows, the video also shows how to clean and cook crows, including several tasty recipes.

Tomlin has killed as many as 137 crows in a single day using a mouth call that lets him stay in one place for hours. He says key to his success is that his mouth call sounds like a single crow so other crows keep coming in regularly, either singly or in small groups to check him out. That's important because if you try to shoot crows when they're in a big flock, you'll only get a few.

One crow can eat up to 7 lbs. of crops a

day. That's an especially big concern in high-value crops like pecans and other nuts, but he's also been called by farmers with crow problems in field crops like corn. He charges \$1 a crow when called in by a farmer. If he's taking a group of hunters out on a paid “shoot”, there's no charge to the farmer.

In most states there's no defined hunting season for crows. They can be shot year-around if they're in the process of destroying crops. Tomlin, who says the biggest crow he ever bagged had a 31-in wing span, notes that his methods should work in any part of the country.

His 71-min. video sells for \$39.95 (plus \$3 shipping). A 30 min. audio cassette sells for \$8.95. He also sells crow calls and other crow hunting paraphernalia.

For more information, contact: Jerry Tomlin, The Crow Roost, P.O. Box 1612, Milledgeville, Ga. 31061 (ph 912 453-7887).



Larry and Lorri Straight, Jamestown, N.Y., enjoy Deere tractors so much they had wedding photos taken aboard their pride and joy - a 1936 Deere BO. Larry even wore Deere-green suspenders under his tuxedo. The Straights bought the tractor in April 1991 and restored and repainted it before getting married in September of 1991. Larry's wife-to-be knew nothing about the suspenders until the reception line after the wedding. “I would like to have driven the tractor home from church, but its top speed is only 6 3/4 mph,” says Larry. (Green Magazine)