

100-Hp. Tillage Machine Pulled By Two Belgians

By C.F. Marley

Amish farmer Lester Detweiler works his Albany, Wis., farm with horses but he's not against using engine-power here or there to make some jobs easier. That willingness to compromise resulted in one of the strangest-looking tillage machines ever to work its way through a field of cornstalks.

Detweiler, along with sons Perry and Vernon, built a 100-hp. diesel-powered tillage machine that's pulled by two Belgian draft horses. The big air-cooled Deutz engine drives a rear-mount "rotovator" that came off a highway machine designed to chew up blacktop.

The men used the frame of the highway "chewer upper" to make the tillage cart, adding an auto steer wagon axle to the front of the original 2-wheel chassis. The 7 1/2-ft. wide rotovator mounts on a 3-pt. hitch at rear, powered by a pto shaft off the engine.

The Detweilers make one pass through fields with the heavy-built machine in the

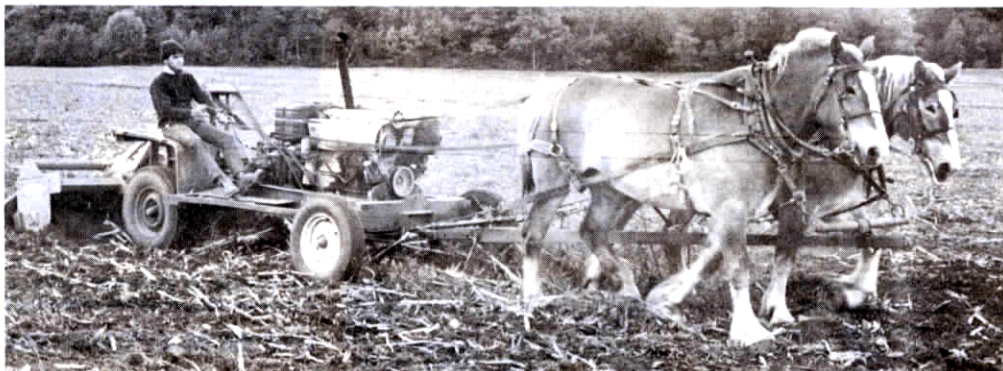


Photo by John Oncken

Big air-cooled Deutz engine drives rear-mount "rotovator" that came off highway machine designed to chew up blacktop.

spring before planting. A trailing "back door" behind the machine levels the chewed-up seedbed as the machine passes. They say that although the machine is heavy, it doesn't

take much horsepower to pull it because the tines on the rotovator turn forward, "walking" the machine ahead as it works the ground. The Detweilers had to install some

lever-operated chisel points on the machine that dig into the ground to hold unit back.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lester Detweiler, Albany, Wis. 53502.

Farm Family Combines History With Good Times

When Ivan and Audrey Stokes, Frazeysburg, Ohio, were planning a family reunion last fall, they decided to make it a combination reunion and family history celebration by staging an old time harvest-type farm festival in order to give their children and grandchildren a glimpse of what farm life was like for their ancestors.

Ivan grew up in a family with 9 brothers and sisters but he's the only one still on the farm. Everyone agreed it would be a good idea to pass on the pleasant memories and traditions they had all acquired as children to the next generation.

Over 70 people showed up to make apple

butter, butcher a hog, cook meals over an open fire, ride on a horse-pulled wagon, and square dance by the barn.

"We wanted it to be as realistic as possible, so Ivan brought in a privy from another farm and hung a lantern inside and propped a Sears & Roebuck catalog in the corner."

Families camped in a nearby field. At the farm, Ivan erected a rustic slab-wood and canvas open-ended shed near the place where they planned to make apple butter and do the cooking. Boards placed across bales of straw served as tables and bales were also used as chairs. Iron and copper kettles

retrieved from a storage shed were used for cooking lard and boiling down apple butter.

On Friday, the children peeled apples. Saturday morning, everyone was up early, digging a pit and placing 40 lbs. of beef in it and building a fire on top to have it roasted by suppertime. They also cooked breakfast by placing sheets of stainless steel over the fire and fixing a meal of Indian bread, bacon, and corn meal pancakes.

People took turns chopping wood to heat water to scald the hog, boil down the apple butter, and to cook the ham and bean soup for dinner. Although they butchered only one hog, everyone had a chance to tend the

fire, scrape away the bristles, and turn the sausage grinder. Later in the day, someone hooked up a team of Percherons and took the children for a hay ride.

That evening there was a family talent show followed by a square dance under the stars.

On Sunday, church was held on the lawn, led by one of Ivan's brothers who's a Baptist minister. Later, everyone gathered up their share of the sausage and apple butter and headed home.

"It was a living history lesson for the children and a nostalgic time for the adults. We all enjoyed it," says Audrey.

"Where To Buy" Directory Of Products For Disabled Farmers

After a serious disabling accident or illness, one of the first tasks facing injured farmers and their families is the hunt for specialty equipment or modifications that will help resume a normal lifestyle as possible. Following is a list of companies that provide products and services to the disabled. Gary Stoops at "Breaking New Ground", the Purdue University-based organization that works with disabled farmers, says another important step you should take after a disabling accident is to seek support from local disability groups. Most organizations are listed in the yellow pages under rehabilitation or human services. If you need a referral, call Breaking New Ground's resource center at 800 825-4264 or contact the National Agrability Project at 202 347-3066.

AFB Products

3342 Melrose Ave NW
Roanoke, Va. 24017
ph 800 829-0500
(For people with vision problems)

Becker Industries, Inc.

Rt. 1, Box 43
Merrill, Iowa 51038
(Bead roller transfer board)

Braun Corp.

P.O. Box 310
Winamac, Ind. 46996
ph 800 843-5438
(Custom lifts for ag equipment, van lifts, and other mobility products, including 3-wheel scooters for indoor/outdoor use)

Center For Rehabilitation Technology, Inc.

490 Tenth St. N.W., Suite 118
Atlanta, Ga. 30318
ph 404 876-8580
(Teleslick reaching device)

Crestwood Co.

6625 N. Sidney Place
Milwaukee, Wis. 53209
ph 414 352-5678
(Catalog of controls, switches and communication aids for children and adults)

Dr. Leonard's Health Care Products

74 20th St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11232
ph 718 768-0010
(Catalog of independent living aids)

Dynavest Corp.

P.O. Box 8849
Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 6S7
ph 306 931-0888
("Cherry-picker" boom-type lift that fits in pickup box to transfer operator from pickup to cab of tractor or combine)

Enrichments

P.O. Box 579
Hinsdale, Ill. 60521
ph 800 323-5547
(Catalog of independent living aids)

Fred Sammons, Inc.

P.O. Box 32
Brookfield, Ill. 60513
ph 800 323-5547
(Catalog with full line of home and health aids)

Independent Living Aids, Inc.

27 E. Mall
Plainview, N.Y. 11803
ph 800 537-2118
(Catalog of aids and appliances, including visual devices)

Mature Wisdom

340 Poplar St., Bldg. 20
Hanover, Penn. 17337
ph 800 638-6366
(Catalog includes clothing, wide shoes, gripper boots, talking alarm clocks, bent handle shovels, wheelchair ramps, etc.)

Medi-Rental, Inc.

895 Madison Ave.
Mankato, Minn. 56001
ph 507 345-8072
(Rents living aids. Lets you try equipment before buying.)

Minnesota Agrability Project

ph 800 669-6719
(Helps farmers find ideas and information for devices or modifications for farm equipment)

Modern Farm

1825 Big Horn Ave.
Cody, Wyo. 82414
ph 800 443-4934
(Catalog of rural living aids)

Sears Home Health Care Products

P.O. Box 19009
Provo, Utah 84605
ph 800 326-1750
(Catalog of independent living aids)

Steven Motor Chair Co.

120 North Gunter St.
Siloam Springs, Ark. 72761
ph 501 524-8448
(Makes indoor/outdoor wheelchairs)

Versalift, Inc.

345 Burnett Rd.
West Lafayette, Ind. 47906
ph 317 423-4192
(Makes lifts for tractors, off-road mobility aids, and other equipment modifications)

Walter Drake Catalog

4611 Drake Building
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80940
(Catalog of independent living aids)

Wells-Engberg Co., Inc.

P.O. Box 6388
Rockford, Ill. 61125
ph 800 642-3628
(Hand controls for autos, pickups, vans, and ATV's.)