



Dick Cooley makes one-of-a-kind tractors and combines, etc., using raw materials he finds at flea markets, salvage yards, and auto repair dumpsters.



One of Cooley's favorite parts to work with is old spark plugs. He uses as many as 5,000 a year on his creations.

## Sculptor Finds A Healthy Market For Farm Art

Dick Cooley makes one-of-a-kind tractors, combines and other farm equipment with raw materials he finds at flea markets, salvage yards, and auto repair dumpsters, among other places.

"I recently had a guy give me some old shut-off valves for faucets," says Cooley. "They make great rear tractor wheels."

Where most of us see junk, Cooley sees a use. Old sprockets make great rear wheels; a small gas tank from an old lawn mower

becomes a perfect combine body; an oil can spout becomes a grain auger; cheese grating cylinders from a food processor become wheels; sickle guards become corn heads; and a pliers with a soup spoon welded to one arm and the other arm welded to the back of a "tractor", becomes a backhoe.

One of Cooley's favorite parts to work with is old spark plugs. He uses as many as 5,000 a year on his creations. They show up in almost every tractor or combine cab and on

horses and motorcycles. To the viewer's eye they're instantly transformed into an operator or rider, often sitting in an electrical outlet box that serves as a cab.

"Sometimes I'll put a small one in front of a larger one like a child sitting in a lap," says Cooley. "The glass portion also makes great cylinders on an engine."

Cooley's creations range in price from \$45 to \$90. He notes that customers often want either red or green equipment to match their

favorite brand. He keeps cans of spray paint handy to fill that need.

"If someone has a favorite piece of equipment they would like me to make, they can send a picture," says Cooley. "If they aren't satisfied, just mail it back."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dick Cooley, 5637 Peters Drive, West Bend, Wis. 53095 (ph 262 338-1618; sparkplugguy@yahoo.com; www.sparkplugguy.com).

## Home-Built "Model A" Limousine

Henry Ford never made a limousine in his day. But Iky Wipf did. The Huron, S. Dak. man recently combined parts from a 1930 Ford Model A truck and a 1930 Model A 4-door car to build a "Model A" limousine. It can haul up to 12 people plus the driver.

The limo is built on the truck's frame, which was 5 ft. longer than the car's frame. He mounted the car's front and rear axles under the frame and added big 17-in. tires off a 1934 Ford car.

The limo is powered by the car's 4-cyl., 40 hp engine and has 2 Model A car 3-speed transmissions hooked together to gear it down. The car's body was stretched out

and has 3 doors on each side. There are 4 reupholstered school bus seats inside, with the back 2 seats facing each other. "It gets a lot of attention wherever it goes. It even has the original Model A car horn," says Wipf.

"I had to use 2 transmissions because when the car is full it's pulling a lot of weight, and with the small 4-cyl. engine I need to start out at a crawling speed. I always keep the rear transmission in low gear when I start driving. Once I get some speed up, I shift the rear transmission into direct gear and then shift gears on the front transmission. I can go 40 to 45 mph with no problem."

The car's big tires help support the limo's



Iky Wipf combined parts from a 1930 Ford truck and a 1930 4-door car to build this "Model A" limousine. It can haul up to 12 people plus the driver.

heavy passenger loads, says Wipf, who recently sold the limo to John Morley of Forest Lake, Minn. It's been used at weddings and high school proms.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Iky

Wipf, 616 Nicollet Ave. S.W., Huron, S. Dak. 57350 (ph 605 352-7090) or John Morley, 21661 Fondant Ave. N., Forest Lake, Minn. 55025 (ph 651 464-2778).

## Raising Deer For Fun And Profit

If you have a couple of acres and are looking for a new source of income, Ken McIntosh has a suggestion for you — raise whitetail deer.

Eight years ago the pro bass fisherman decided that raising whitetail would be a lucrative retirement hobby. Now he's also in the business of setting up other whitetail farmers. Many of them provide stock for the hunting preserve business that he also runs.

The industry is growing, McIntosh says. Due to busy schedules and less land to hunt on, a growing population of hunters is willing to pay to hunt on private preserves. Hunts for bucks range from \$2,000 to \$50,000 with an average of \$5,000 to \$6,500 for hunts. Preserves need animals to meet the demand.

McIntosh offers a \$16,000 beginner package of six bred does, a buck and the

fencing and material required to set up three pens. Plus he offers advice and marketing assistance.

"The great thing about whitetails is they are so adaptable to nearly any piece of land," says McIntosh.

They eat alfalfa in the winter and graze in the summer with supplemental corn and grain. While the redder meat makes good table fare, McIntosh notes that it's not generally as profitable as market venison.

The best profits come from raising deer for hunting. Preserves pay from \$800 to \$40,000 for bucks 2 1/2 years and older.

"About 90 percent that are sold, score 190 or less. A lot of growers try to raise the biggest deer," McIntosh says. "I'm more practical, I watch my spending. I don't over extend. I sell affordable deer and sell great stock with breeder potential. I don't get caught up in raising the biggest deer."



Raising whitetail deer has become a lucrative retirement hobby for Ken McIntosh. Now he's also in the business of setting up other whitetail farmers.

Regulations vary from state to state regarding permits to raise whitetail, but there are state and national deer associations (www.nadefa.org) to contact for more information.

About 65 percent of McIntosh's customers are farmers who raise deer for a hobby or to build a college or retirement fund. He also sells deer to many Amish farmers.

Start small, McIntosh recommends, and let

the sales of your stock pay for expansion. Don't forget about other added value products the deer provide — shed antlers, urine, and hair and hides, for example.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Midwest Woodlots LLC, 9170 Old Rd. 30 E., Pierceton, Ind. 46562 (ph 574 265-6996; www.kenmcintoshoutdoors.com).