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European Tractors Sold In Rural Minnesota

You don't expect to find a sales lot full of European tractors at a rural Minnesota dealership. But many of the used tractors at JB Tractors of Millerville, Minn., are just that, though they look exactly like the Deere, Case IH and New Holland tractors at other dealerships.

They actually are nearly identical and use parts that are readily available, says owner Jan Bart (Bas) Nijland. However, tractors sold in Europe have two-door entries, longer fenders, an extra parking brake and are geared for higher road speeds.

"Our customers like the road speed and other options," Nijland says.

The Minnesota businessman is from Europe and has access to European tractors through his father's implement dealership in the Netherlands. With his jbractors.com website and ability to ship nationwide, location doesn't matter, Nijland says.

Besides the European-style options, he emphasizes quality service.

"If there are any problems with the tractor's engine or transmission within 30 hours or 30 days, we make sure we get the tractor back and we'll fix it ourselves. We'll make

sure you get the tractor exactly the way you want," Nijland adds, noting that tractors are customized to the customer's needs.

He maintains a minimum of 50 tractors in inventory – Deere, Case IH, New Holland, McCormick and Massey Ferguson. Most are low hour, newer models with new tires, air conditioning and mechanical front wheel drive.

Prices are competitive, Nijland notes, and the extra options and warranty attract buyers from across the U.S. and Canada.

His website includes a video about the business and information/prices about the tractors available.

Nijland notes that the business was originally a tractor repair business that was respected for quality work. He and his wife, Anneke, plan to maintain that standard of quality with their dealership.



Dealer Jan Bart Nijland is from Europe and has access to European tractors through his father's implement dealership in the Netherlands.

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Rock Bands Perform On Combine Stage

FARM SHOW's British correspondent, Andy Sewell, recently came across a new use for an old combine. He sent us a story about a 1967 New Holland combine that found new life as a stage for rock bands at a music festival in Scotland.

The modified combine served as one of the stages at the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival held in Beaulieu in Inverness-shire in August. They called it the "Jock The Reaper" stage.

Joe Gibbs hosts the festival on his Belladrum Estate. He told reporters that farmers are always being urged to diversify so he came up with one of the most unusual diversifications ever.

A local machine shop made structural modifications, such as extending the driver's platform to provide a DJ stage for music and lighting control. The reel was moved forward to make room for a performance stage over the feederhouse. A corrugated steel roof – made with curved grain bin panels – extends out over the stage to provide protection in case of rain.

Multi-colored lights and a sound system were wired into the machine and a set of giant bag pipes were fabricated to sit on top of the combine. Finally, the big machine was given a new paint job.

What makes the combine handy as a stage is that it can still be driven from place to place as needed. After the festival it was put into storage so it'll be ready to roll out for next year's festival.

Belladrum Estate is a 1,100-acre holiday retreat with cottages and facilities to host weddings and other events. For more info, go to www.belladrum.co.uk.



A 1967 New Holland combine found new life last summer as a stage for rock bands at a music festival in Scotland.



Combine's reel was moved forward to make room for a stage over the feederhouse. Corrugated steel roof extends over stage.