

Indiana Tractor Collector Really Sees Red

Indiana farmer Erich "Bud" Meyer caught the red tractor collecting bug when he was 8 years old in 1952 and hasn't stopped since. That's when he bought his first tractor, a Farmall B, for just \$348. He still has that tractor today, and 62 more of the same color.

"Every one of those 63 tractors has my fingerprints on it," Meyer says with pride. "I've done some form of repair or restoration on all of them, and they all look good and run like they're used every day."

Meyer is 72 years old and still loves restoration. He recently bought a Farmall Super A, and when that one's completed, he'll own a full set of Farmall "Super" models. That 4-tractor line-up includes a Super A, Super C, Super H and Super M. Originally those models were just identified by letter, but later extra options were added. He also owns the conventional letter versions of those models.

"None of my tractors are trailer queens," Meyer says with a laugh. "I do all of my own repair and painting, and I'm not a professional painter, but they all look good." His lineup of tractors starts with the 1939 B and continues through models built in 1979. Many of them are used regularly on his 130-acre Indiana farm. "I'm more of an old tractor buyer than a seller, and I'm definitely an old tractor user," Meyer says.

Asked what models he owns Meyer spills out letters from A to MTA, supers, offsets, and numbers including 240, 284, 460 row crop and utility, three 504's, a 560, 706, 756, 806, 856, 1066, 1466 and a 4166 4-WD. Almost out of breath, he says "That's not all of 'em, but you get the drift, right?"

He's quick to emphasize that all of them



Indiana farmer Erich Meyer bought his first IH tractor, a Farmall B, when he was 8 years old in 1952. He still has that tractor today, and 62 more of the same color. They're shown here all lined up for a red family show a few years ago. He owns one Ford (at center).

are in running condition, including his 1466 with an adjustable 9-ft. blade that he uses for snow plowing. His collection also includes a Farmall 100 manure spreader, a 200 2-row corn planter that he still uses to plant sweet corn, and 2 or 3 trip rope plows.

Meyer's enjoyment of collecting is shared

with other farmers in Pike County, Ind. and together they hold an annual tractor parade somewhere in the county.

Asked how long he will continue collecting, Meyer says, "My 13-year-old grandson has been following me around all summer, so he's learning a lot. My daughters really like

them too, so as long as I'm around, they're staying right here."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Erich "Bud" Meyer, 9491 S. Co. Rd. 800 E., Stendal, Ind. 47585 (ph 812 536-5812).

Miniature Tracked Deere Tractor, Implements

"Building all these machines was a challenge, but one that I really enjoyed," says Dallas Denison, who built a miniature version of a tracked Deere tractor and a gravity wagon, anhydrous ammonia applicator, and anhydrous tank to go with it.

"I started with the tractor and once it was done, I just kept going," says the Dundas, Minn., retired truck driver. "I didn't have any plans or build it to any particular scale, so nothing is an exact replica. I bought a 1/24-scale Deere 9430 tractor as a guide to build the tractor, and I made alot of trips to the local Deere dealer.

"I just started cutting and if it looked right, I put it together. My friends Donald Weed helped with the hydraulics, and Mike Korzan helped with the mechanics."

The tractor is modeled after a Deere 9430 T and measures 6 1/2 ft. high and 8 1/2 ft. long. It's built on the frame of an old Owatonna self-propelled swather and rides on 15-in. wide, 5 ft., 10-in. long rubber tracks. Power is supplied by a 200 cu. in., in-line 6-cyl. Ford engine, which drives a hydraulic pump and a homemade hydrostatic transmission.

The tracks are off a skid loader and were reworked to fit the tractor's gearing. The 22-in. rear wheel rims are off a truck and the 14-in. wheel rims on front are from a trailer house.

Denison used 16-ga. sheet metal to build the hood and cab. The top part of the tractor is built as one unit and is designed so that, by pressing a switch under the hood, the back end of the tractor lifts up and the front end tips down.

"All the hydraulic valves and gearing are underneath the cab, but there isn't much room to crawl in under there. The folding design I came up with provides an easy way to access those components," says Denison. "By opening the hood, I can reach in and flip

a switch to lift the cab's roof so it's easier to get into the cab."

Gas shocks are used to raise or lower the cab's roof and to open or close the hood, and modified gas shocks with knobs attached are used to open or close the side windows. Denison drilled out the shaft inside each shock and drained the gas out, then welded a small metal block with a hole drilled into it onto the shock and ran a screw through it. "Turning the knob lets me tighten the window in any position," he says.

The anhydrous ammonia applicator rides on 12-in. wheels and has 2 wings that fold manually. "There are hydraulic cylinders on the machine, but they're just for looks," says Denison. "The shanks are off a field cultivator, and I made the coulters."

The anhydrous ammonia tank is a modified liquid propane tank. "The tank was originally 48 in. long, but I welded in new material to lengthen it by 10 in. in order to get the right proportion," says Denison.

The gravity wagon measures 5 1/2 ft. high by 6 ft. long without the tongue. It's made mostly from 16 ga. sheet metal. Denison had large vinyl murals showing harvest scenes made, and attached them to 3 sides of the wagon. He also added a door with steps on back, allowing him to store folding lawn chairs inside the wagon whenever he goes to shows.

The wagon rides on 16-in. pickup tires. Denison bought new wheel hubs which had a different bolt pattern than the pickup tires, so he cut the centers out of each wheel and welded the new hubs in. He used 2 1/2-in. dia. pipe to build the wagon's axle.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dallas Denison, 12138 Faribault Blvd., Dundas, Minn. 55019 (ph 507 645-9873; mddenison@gmail.com).



Dallas Denison built this miniature version of a tracked Deere 9430 T from scratch, as well as an anhydrous ammonia applicator and anhydrous tank to go with it.



The back end of the tractor lifts up, providing access to all the hydraulic valves and gearing underneath the cab.



Dallas used 16-ga. sheet metal to build a miniature gravity wagon. Large vinyl murals showing harvest scenes are affixed to 3 sides of wagon.