



Dalrymple's Farmall sod roller restoration is a unique tractor.

## Rare Farmall Sod Roller Restored

When Scott Dalrymple's Super C Farmall burned up, about the only thing he didn't have to replace were tires. His Super C was a sod roller with all steel wheels. Unlike some older roller adapted tractors with small front steel wheels, Dalrymple's had a large front roller.

"The front roller is 31-in. wide, and the rear roller wheels are each 18-in. wide," says Dalrymple. "When I was young, my dad used it to roll a runway for a small Cessna he flew. Later he did construction, and he used it for landscaping around sites and for rolling our lawn."

Dalrymple inherited the tractor after his parents died and brought it to his home. Stored along with some other items in a woodshed, it burned up when a nearby outdoor stove overheated and went up in flames. With the help of a local mechanic friend, he started on the restoration.

As he went through the process, he realized how unusual his tractor was. "The front end appears to have been made for an actual street roller and adapted to the tractor," says Dalrymple. "I-beams attached to the rear axle with U-bolts are bolted to the front of the tractor frame. They in turn are bolted to the massive, flat plate steel trike that appears to have been cut out to wrap around the front of the tractor."

The roller is connected to its frame with a double knuckle, allowing it to flex over uneven terrain. A shaft that passes from the upper knuckle through the front of the frame ends with a cross arm for steering.

"Originally the steering involved a big worm gear in a cradle on the shaft," recalls Dalrymple. "It required constant cranking to turn the tractor. When my dad got older, that got difficult, so he replaced the steering and worm gear system with a hydraulic cylinder."

Dalrymple's dad flipped the cradle with the worm gear over and welded a straight draw bar on it and a tab on the frame to pin the cylinder. "He ran the hoses back to the upright on the platform, installed a valve there and steered with it," explains Dalrymple.

To restore the burned tractor, Dalrymple took it apart completely. "We replaced all the belts and wiring and changed out the carburetor," he says. "We also replaced the gas filter and distribution cap. Anything that could melt did and had to be replaced. The generator wasn't producing voltage because



Original worm gear and steering was replaced with a hydraulic cylinder.

the fields had melted together and had to be rebuilt, as did the starter."

After making needed repairs and replacing fluids and a battery, Dalrymple tried firing it up. The starter wouldn't turn over. When he tried the flywheel, it wouldn't turn either.

During the 8-month sandblasting period, the tractor sat outside. The valves were stuck. "A friend of mine told me to pour apple cider vinegar into the cylinders," says Dalrymple. "I let it sit a couple of days and then hit the starter again. Apple cider vinegar sprayed everywhere."

While it slowly turned over, the battery didn't seem to have enough power. Dalrymple discovered the distributor was grounding itself out. Once he installed a non-metallic washer, the tractor started running.

Dalrymple discovered one part that hadn't been cleaned properly. "All the debris in the exhaust system from sitting for years and then ash from the fire all blew out like a rainstorm," he says.

With the tractor running well, Dalrymple replaced the decals.

"After working on this one, I thought it might be one of a kind," says Dalrymple. "However, my mechanic ran across another similar tractor sitting in a grove of trees. It appears someone at some point was manufacturing these."

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Farmall Super C sod roller before restoration.

## British Farmer Inventions

We subscribe to hundreds of farm magazines, including many from other countries. One of the best ag magazines in the world is Farmer's Weekly from England ([www.fwi.co.uk](http://www.fwi.co.uk)). They run a farm invention contest every year. Here are a few of the many ideas that were submitted in 2021, republished courtesy of Farmer's Weekly.



### Jack Stand Jack

After years of working on equipment, Alistair Bray was frustrated that the best place to put a jack stand after jacking up a vehicle was also the best place to put the jack. He couldn't find a combination jack stand/jack on the market so he decided to build his own.

He mounted a low-profile bottle jack inside a jack stand after adding a metal plate to the bottom of the stand. The jack pushes up through the center of the stand and once the correct height is reached, a pin is inserted just like on a conventional jack stand. Then the jack is lowered back down so the weight of the machine is on the safety pin.



### ATV Lockup

After David Powell had two ATVs stolen, he decided to build a "lock box" that would be tough for thieves to open.

He started with a large diesel tank, cutting it up and hinging one side of it. The big door rolls on caster wheels so it's easy to open and close. To get in, thieves would have to get through a heavily shrouded padlock.



### ATV-Mounted Spot Sprayer

A handy ATV sprayer allows Lindsay Gracey of Rathfriland, Country Down, to spot spray weeds in and around fields without using a spray wand.

It fits to the front of any 4-wheeler on an angle iron frame and is paired to an ATV sprayer mounted on back. A single hose transports chemical from the tank to a bank of 5 triggers that engage the 10 spray nozzles

mounted up front in pairs. He found parts on eBay to complete the project.



### Weed Licker

A 3-pt. mounted weed wiper fitted with absorbent bristles from an old car wash brush applies weed-killing chemicals to stubborn weeds that are tough to kill any other way.

A 12-volt pump feeds the nozzles from a 50-gal. spray tank. The reel is driven hydraulically. At about 8-ft. wide, the roller's height is adjusted using the tractor's lift arms. Builder Malachy Dolan says the advantage of using bristles rather than rope or canvas is that they reduce the likelihood of drips and increase surface area for better contact with weeds.



### Seeder Harrow

Cornish farmer and contractor John Phizacklea built a low-cost seeder harrow for patching grass in small fields where it might be tough to work with larger trailed equipment.

The harrow seeder mounts to the front-end loader, allowing him to lift it over hedges and fences when entering fields. It's fitted with a pair of broadcast seeders above a gang of spring tine harrows. The seeders were originally powered by hand so Phizacklea removed the handles and fitted them with electric motors. They're set to throw seed out front of the tractor in an overlapping pattern. If conditions allow, he can pull a roller behind the tractor to pack the ground after seeding.



### Rolling Soil Sampler

Keith Mount Liming designed a rolling soil sampler designed to quickly take representative samples of soil over large acreages when checking for potato cyst nematode.

The job requires about 25 core samples per acre so Liming has greatly cut the time and labor required to get it done.