

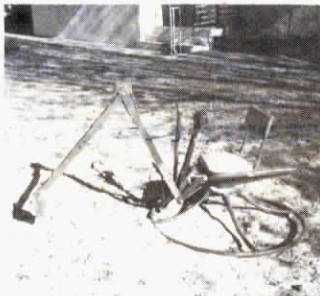
ADULTS LOVE TO RUN THEM, TOO

Realistic Digger Toys Create Fun For Kids

"I build a lot of my own farm equipment and also enjoy making toys for my grand kids. About a year ago there was a picture in FARM SHOW of a kid's backhoe built by a fellow in Canada. I liked the idea so I went out to the shop and built one that I even like to run," says A.J. Walterscheid, Carlsbad, N.M., who went on to build several more diggers of all different sizes.

His "drag-line" diggers mount on skids that can be easily moved from spot to spot. The operator sits on a platform at the center and controls the boom and bucket with a winch and cable controls. A drag-line pulls the bucket toward the operator to fill it. He's also made grapple buckets that open and close with remote controls, and backhoe type buckets controlled by two-handed levers. Booms reach out as far as 5 or 6 ft.

Walterscheid builds the diggers to last. "The operator platform and boom pivot on



Walterscheid builds "drag-line" diggers, backhoes, and grapple buckets.

heavy-duty bearings. It's sturdy enough so that adults can sit on them and run them."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A.J. Walterscheid, 3129 Hepler Rd., Carlsbad, N.M. 88220 (ph 505 236-6241).



Dogs are divided into weight classes and pull a weighted cart over a 16-ft. long course. Owners keep adding 100-lb. weights until there's a winner in each weight class.

"POUND FOR POUND, DOGS ARE MUCH STRONGER THAN THE AVERAGE PERSON"

Dog Pulling Contests Catching On Fast

Watching dogs compete to pull heavy weight sleds is as much fun as watching tractor pulls, say advocates of the latest new spectator sport to hit North America.

Since the first dog pulling contest just a few years ago, dog pulling has caught on all over the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Some meets offer up to \$8,000 in prize money.

The dogs, which are divided into weight classes, pull a weighted cart or sled (during winter) over a 16-ft. long course. The dogs have 1 minute to start the cart moving or they're disqualified. Owners keep adding 100-lb. weights, such as sacks of dog food or rolls of tarpaper, until there's a winner in each weight class.

Clint Boyer, Lloydminster, Sask., got caught up in the excitement of dog pulling a year ago. Boyer has two English mastiffs, a German Shepherd, and a Husky. "Pound for pound, dogs are much stronger than the average person. In a recent pull my 37-lb. Husky called Buster won his division by pulling 1,680 lbs. My 157-lb. English mastiff finished second in the heavyweight division with a 2,580-lb. pull. The biggest dogs (121 lbs. and above) pull up to 5,000 lbs. How much a dog can pull depends on the dog and the training. I've seen dogs in the 61 to 80-lb. weight class beat dogs from the heaviest class. It isn't cruel to the dog because if he doesn't want to pull, he won't."

The pulls are sanctioned by the International Weight Pulling Association. Each pull is governed by a judge, a time keeper, and a sled marshal. Before the competition starts all dogs are weighed. There are six weight divisions - 0 to 35 lbs., 36 to 60 lbs., 61 to 80 lbs., 81 to 100 lbs., 101 to 120 lbs., and 121 lbs. and above. The winner of each weight class is determined at the end of the year by averaging a dog's four best pulls. The first place winner gets 5 points and one point for each dog he beats, the second place winner gets four points and one point for each dog he beats, and the third place winner gets three points and one point for each dog he beats.

The U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Alaska are each divided into eight different regions. Beginning next year there will be an international "pull-off" in which the regional winner in each weight class will compete against winners from the other regions. The minimum prize will be \$13,000.

Pulling dogs are equipped with a specially-made harness connected to a nylon rope "tongue". All carts and sleds must be built according to association specifications.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clint Boyer, 5001 48th Ave., Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, Canada S9V 0V8 (ph 306 825-3775 or 306 825-7186).



Base of the mini-backhoe pivots 360° and bucket picks up dirt and moves it.

Commercial Backhoe For Kids

"It's built strong to last long," say manufacturers of this new mini-backhoe for kids. Everything on the rig is made out of heavy-gauge metal except for the handles and the seat. The base pivots 360° and the bucket really picks up dirt and moves it. Comes complete with a plastic hardhat.

Sells for \$68.88. Special discounts available for clubs or civic organizations wanting to sell them as a fund-raising project.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LM Products, Inc., P.O. Box 452, Cold Spring, Minn. 56320 (ph 612 685-8672).

THERE'S A DIFFERENT GRAIN FOR EVERY HOUR

"Crop Clock" Keeps Time With Grain

"This clock lets you bring the beauty of your crops into your home," says Wayne Sebens, Milnor, N. Dak., about his one-of-a-kind "crop clock" that's filled with 12 different grains - one for each hour on the clock.

The clock is about 12 in. in dia. and 2 in. deep. The 12 pie-shaped sections extend out from the center of the 6-in. dia. clock face which pictures a grist mill scene. It's constructed with an oak veneer plywood.

Grains used include corn, soybeans, sun-

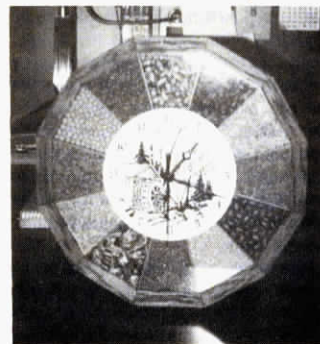
flower, wheat, oats, millet, two types of edible beans, and several others which vary depending on availability. The clock itself is battery-powered.

Sebens has had so much interest in the crop clocks he's sold more than 200 by word-of-mouth. One seed company bought a specially-made batch (with just 6 grains) to use as a sales promotion premium.

The crop clock sells for \$50.

For more information, contact: FARM

SHOW Followup, Wayne Sebens, Rt. 1, Box 126, Milnor, N. Dak. 58060 (ph 701 427-5804).



"Crop clock" is filled with 12 different grains - one for each hour on the clock.