

Years ago, Jon Kinzenbaw rebuilt this Farmall tractor into a heavy-duty forklift for use in and around his company's factory. He completely restored it last summer.

## REPOWERED FARMALL LOADER TRACTOR ONCE SERVED AS COMPANY'S ONLY FORKLIFT

## Kinze's Rebuilt "Masterpiece"

Jon Kinzenbaw is a farmer who built an international farm equipment company from scratch. He has also repowered a lot of tractors and other equipment over the years.

One of his earliest repowers was a Farmall tractor that he "rebuilt" into a heavy-duty forklift in 1969 for use in and around his company's factory. It was the only forklift at the company for many years.

Kinzenbaw recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the 1958 Farmall 450, which he completely restored last summer on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original repowering of the tractor. The tractor is now part of an extensive tractor collection which he keeps on his farm.

"This tractor means a lot to me since it goes back to the early days of Kinze Mfg. itself, when I was struggling to get the company on its feet," says Kinzenbaw.

The tractor is equipped with big 23.1 by 26 rear tires filled with fluid and oversize 9.5L by 15 front tires. The loader has a pair of forks on front and can lift loads up to 12 ft. high. A pair of big 4 by 48-in. cylinders do the lifting while a single 4 by 16-in. cylinder is used to tilt the forks.

"It helped me out a lot over the years and now that it's been restored it looks like a million bucks. It looks like it was factory built," says Kinzenbaw. "I bought the tractor in the mid 1960's equipped with a bad engine, took it to my shop, and thought about how I could make it useful. The Farmall engine had a reputation for cracked heads and wasn't very reliable. Also, when the engine went bad it cost a lot to repair it.

"In those days I had a blacksmith and welding shop where I often repowered tractors. I was already in the process of repowering a Deere 4020, so I decided to replace the Farmall's 4-cyl. diesel engine with the Deere gas engine. The 4020 engine was short on power but it had about 50 percent more power than the one in the Farmall. By converting the Farmall into a heavy-duty loader tractor I was able to save a lot of money.

"We used it to handle everything from pallets to parts. For years it was the only lift rig, except for a hoist, that we used in our factory. We ran the tractor at idle most of the time. The narrow front wheels allow the tractor to turn short and work great for getting into tight spots. The loader's 7,000-lb. lifting capacity is about twice as much as a con-



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ventional tractor loader and more than most commercial forklift trucks. We've even used the loader to lift a Chevy pickup weighing 5,200 lbs. at a 4-ft. load center. The loader's frame is supported by a heavy brace that ties into the front bolster on both sides.

"The original front wheels wouldn't have supported the extra weight so we cut off the spindles and replaced them with new heavier ones equipped with 6-bolt hubs. The back end of the loader frame wraps around the rear end of the tractor and is connected to the rear axle. To make sure that the back of the tractor stays on the ground we filled the frame and weight box with over 2,000 lbs. of steel slugs. The wheels also have two sets of wheel weights. The tractor weighs a total of about 10,000 lbs.

"At one time we used the tractor to do custom row crop spraying, and in 1974 we used it with an 8-row planter to plant 1,100 acres of corn. The 4020 engine runs at about 2,200 rpms compared to the original engine's 1,500 rpm's so it's able to go down the road pretty fast – about 30 mph.

"It wasn't until 1976 that we bought our first two forklifts. One lifted 4,000 lbs. and the other one 5,000 lbs., so we we kept the Farmall for our heaviest jobs. It worked especially well outside in snow and ice where our commercial front-wheel drive forklifts were often helpless. In fact, we sometimes had to use the Farmall to pull them out."

The Deere engine was 6 in. longer than the Farmall engine so Kinzenbaw had to lengthen the tractor frame. He put in a new clutch, sealed up the engine, and installed new bushings in the front wheels. He adapted



Darren Schmall has attracted thousands of visitors to his 1/2-acre demonstration plot that's shaped like a pizza.

## educates "city folks" about where their food comes from "Pizza Farm" Connects Consumers To Farmers

"Visitors to our Pizza Farm quickly learn exactly how farmers produce every ingredient in pizza. It's a great educational tool," says Darren Schmall, Madera, Calif., who has attracted thousands of visitors to his 1/2acre demonstration plot that's shaped like a pizza.

The Pizza Farm plot is a 125-ft. dia. circle that's divided into eight triangular "slices", each of which contains one or more of the ingredients needed to make pizza. There are walkways throughout. Railroad ties are used to define the perimeter of the pizza as well as some of the slices.

Three of the "slices" are corrals that contain beef, pork, and dairy animals. The other five slices are used to grow herbs, wheat, peppers, tomatoes, and olives.

"More than 10,000 school kids now tour it every year. We've had more than 100,000 visitors since we set up the Pizza Farm eight years ago. They learn how wheat farmers grow the crust, tomatoes for the sauce, the dairy cows that give milk to make cheese, and even the pigs that are used to make the pepperoni. For the kids it's a chance to pet a pig, pick a pepper, and see where milk really comes from – not a plastic carton in the store. In about an hour most people will learn more about the food they eat and the importance of farming than they learned in a lifetime."

In addition to the visit and a "hands-on" tour of the farm, the children also receive educational materials designed to expand their knowledge of agriculture and all it represents.

Schmall says his Pizza Farm provides a sideline income and would work for anyone who lives near a big metropolitan area. He's now setting up franchises all across the U.S. "We charge \$3 to \$5 per person depending on age. A pizza farm has a built-in customer base - kids - that keeps on growing and growing . With enough visitors you can make over \$100,000 a year on less than one acre of land. A Pizza Farm in the right location can easily become the most profitable piece of land on the family farm."

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Loader's 7,000-lb. lift capacity is about twice as much as a conventional tractor loader. Photo shows it lifting a 5,200-lb. Chevy pickup.

the back of the engine block to mount to the bell housing and modified the Farmall's clutch and flywheel. The Farmall's original starter is still on the tractor. He also installed a dual hydraulic pump on front of the engine crankshaft. The pump runs the power steer-

ing and the loader. The hollow loader frame serves as a hydraulic reservoir..

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