



As soon as he retired from farming, Marvin Copenbarger started building half-scale models of Case tractors. He now has six of them, and all six models run.

Half-Scale Models Of Old Case Tractors

Retired farmer Marvin Copenbarger of Mt. Auburn, Ill., always enjoyed driving his Case tractors when he was farming.

So as soon as he retired he started building half-scale models of Case tractors. He now has six of them, and all six models really work. Most of them are powered by small 8 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engines.

Each year Copenbarger and his wife put some of the tractors on display at a local parade.

"They bring back memories for people who lived in the 1920's, '30's, and '40's because they work just like the full-sized machines did," says Copenbarger. "My tractors aren't exact copies, but I've done everything possible to make them look authentic."

His collection includes a 1927 Case 12-20 "Junior" Crossmotor, a Model RC with a "Sunburst Orange" grill, a 1939 RC, a Case 800 "Junior", a 1929 Model L, and a 1947 Model LA.

The Crossmotor and the 800 have 4-cylinder water-cooled engines. The Crossmotor's

engine is off a Farmall Cub tractor and the 800's engine is off a Hercules ZXB tractor.

"It generally takes me about six months to make one tractor," says Copenbarger. "Each tractor costs \$1,500 to \$3,000 to make.

"The 1927 Crossmotor has unusual wheel rims with triangle-shaped holes just like the ones on the real tractor. It was the only model that Case ever made with wheel rims designed like that. I had a machine company cut the discs out and I welded them together. My half-scale model has rubber strips on both the front and rear wheels just like the one I used when I was farming. I bought mine with steel wheels. However, I wanted to drive it on the highway so I mounted rubber strips over the wheels.

"I mounted dual rear wheels on my half-scale 800 model because that's how the real 800 looked when I farmed."

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Copenbarger's collection includes this Case 800 "Junior".



His 1927 Case 12-20 "Junior" Crossmotor (foreground) has a 4-cyl. water-cooled engine.



Lloyd Poppe builds working scale models of old farm equipment. He has built two plows, a disk harrow, manure spreader, three wagons, a hayrack and a loader, among other things.

Working Half-Scale Equipment Delights Parade And Fair-Goers

Maybe it's because he likes old equipment. Or maybe he just doesn't have enough to do. But for each of the past six years, Lloyd Poppe, Strawberry Point, Iowa, has been turning out two or three working scale models of old farm equipment.

The semi-retired farmer has built two plows, a disk harrow, manure spreader, three wagons, a hayrack and a loader, among other things.

"I used to raise registered Belgian horses, and some of the equipment I scaled down from my old horse equipment," he says.

Poppe and his wife, Helen, still have a two-horse team of Belgians, plus some Shetland ponies and miniature donkeys.

His first models were of old horse-drawn equipment he still had on the farm. These include a half scale single bottom sulky plow, disk harrow and manure spreader. All can be pulled by their ponies or donkeys.

His second plow is based on a pull-type 3-bottom IH model 70 plow and is raised or lowered with a hydraulic cylinder.

His barge wagon is scaled down from a 6 by 12 by 3-ft. wagon he used in the 1950's and 60s and is complete with a box hoist. Other wagon projects include a flair-side wagon with working endgate and an exact scale version of a side unloading gravity flow wagon.

He carefully measures and copies each part of the machines so everything is exactly to scale. Everything except wheels and tires, that is.

"I have to buy wheels and finding those in one-half scale for the equipment isn't always



He built this exact scale version of a side unloading gravity flow wagon.

easy. But I've found that for wagon wheels and tires, the wheelbarrow wheel and tire combinations you can buy in the hardware store work fine," he says.

He's also used these wheelbarrow wheels and tires for his plows.

Poppe takes his equipment to parades and displays at fairs around eastern Iowa. A favorite activity is to hitch up the wagons and take his 19 grandchildren for rides when they come to visit. He says he gets positive comments wherever he goes. He also gets frequent offers to buy. "What I make is not for sale, but I'd be happy to show it any time or answer questions from anyone who wants to build some for themselves," he says.

The Poppes also have a collection of about 100 old farm tractors, some restored, and all of which still run.

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