

## Mini Deere Combine Looks, Works Like The Real Thing

When Allen VanNahmen, Columbus, Ind., built his one-third scale mini combine he had both fun and work in mind.

He and Charlie Meier turned a Deere F935 front deck riding mower into a 5-ft. tall, 10-ft. long replica of a Deere 9860 STS combine. It turned a lot of heads at the recent 3I show near Great Bend, Kansas.

The mini combine is built with extremely realistic detail. The header simply pins on in place of the mower deck, and everything on the header works, including the sicklebar, auger, reel, and reel height adjustment. The header can even be used to cut light crops, although the drive system isn't set up to do continuous harvesting. The unloading auger swings in or out, and the chaff spreaders on back actually rotate.

The driver remains seated in the riding mower's original seat, and all original controls remain useable. By pulling two pins, he can put the mower deck back on and use the combine to cut grass.

VanNahmen used to work for Machinery Link and, at the 3I show, he displayed the mini combine at the company's booth next to a Deere 9650 STS combine. He has his own company called Farm Buddy and uses the combine in training and promotional events and also as a test model when devel-

oping new ideas. He has also used it in 4-H safety and operator training programs and driven it in parades.

He's using the mini combine to help promote something called "header interface standardization". "I've worked for Deere, Claas, Caterpillar and MachineryLink during my career and have been involved with many new combine product development programs, including the revolutionary XBR2 Bi-Rotor combine during 1992-1995," says VanNahmen.

"One of my main projects now via my company is trying to push through a new ASABE proposal for header interface standardization between combine headers and feederhouse frames, including drives, hydraulics and electrical systems. There's a growing interest in this idea, as a wider variety of headers become available, including flex headers, Shelbourne Reynolds stripper header, MacDon and Honeybee draper headers, and corn heads from Geringhoff, Draco and Marion Calmers. A lot of farmers would like to try using some of these newer headers and see how they work. But because mounting brackets are not universal it's difficult to do."

VanNahmen offers 1/4-scale kits for building your own mini combine that mounts di-



**Allen VanNahmen built this 1/3-scale mini combine with extremely realistic detail.** rectly on Deere F700 series front deck riding mowers. No permanent modifications are necessary to the original mower.

The main component is a welded tubular frame that fits over the riding mower. Also included are pre-cut poly side panels for front, sides and rear; four headlights and four rear lights; power panel including five switches and wire harness; 4-piece poly flared grain tank extension; swingout unloading auger and rubber boot; and cab roof, steering column, steering wheel, seat, and SMV sign. Available in green, red, yellow or white poly colors.

Several options are available, including pivoting ladder and front handrails; dual electric chaff spreaders; electric unloading auger

swing cylinder; "Little Boy" operator; 4-way flashing hazard light kit; cab dome light to light up the operator; Lexan cab windows; and decal set with reflective tape. Other options include a bristle unloading auger to deliver candy out the end of the unloading auger, and a trough to deliver candy to the chaff spreaders.

Sells for \$4,000 plus tax and S&H. A 1/4-scale grain header is also available and sells for \$3,000.

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## Group Revives Fox Hunt Tradition

Last spring some 70 members of a local quail hunting group got together to revive an old tradition of fox hunting that was popular years ago when foxes were a threat to chickens and pigs. The only difference was that today the pest animals the men went hunting for were coyotes.

Terry Hinton, Nokomis, Ill., president of the Illinois Tri County Quail Unlimited, was pleased to have the participation of some 70 men from Christian, Montgomery, and Shelby counties.

Like an old-time fox hunt, the men were distributed around square mile sections and then walked to the center. Hunters carried shotguns and wore bright clothing. They took three coyotes but missed four or five.

Hinton notes that many of the old timers – including this writer – shared stories about the old fox drives, when no guns were allowed. Hunters drove the foxes to the center and then turned the greyhounds loose to chase



**These men used the tactics of an old-time fox hunt, only they were after coyotes.**

them down and kill them. Greyhounds don't have a nose for scents so they had to make visual contact before being set loose.

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**Do you know the origin of this wood-framed motorcycle? We'd like to find out.**

## Wood Frame Motorcycle

This photo of a wood-framed motorcycle has been floating around the internet lately. No one seems to know the origin of it, and whether it's actually roadworthy, but it sure looks like it might be. The frame appears to

be made from 4 by 4's and 2 by 4's with miscellaneous steel brackets and a chain-driven rear wheel. We searched for more information but couldn't find anything. Anyone know who built it?



**One-of-a-kind 12-passenger bike has eight sets of pedals and a wooden bench seat on back for three passengers.**

## Bicycle Built For 12

This amazing 12-rider bicycle was featured in a recent issue of the British farm magazine Practical Farm Ideas (www.farmideas.co.uk). The bike was built by Gavin Motley of Motley Engineering, who demonstrates it at shows and fairs around the Horncastle area of England.

The 12-rider bicycle actually has eight pedaling units. Three passengers ride on back on a wooden bench seat. There's a single steer-

ing wheel on front and two large wheels on back. The double frame is built from heavy duty steel tubing. The design takes into account the increasing load on the chain from front to back - the third and fourth riders are connected with motorbike chain.

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## She Goes Trout Fishing Inside Her Home

Dee Ward loves fishing for trout. In fact, she loves fishing for trout so much that she and her husband Barry built a 6-ft. deep, 10 by 15-ft. pond inside their house so she can cast for trout all winter long.

"I buy 6 to 8-in. Rainbow trout and let them grow as big as they want," says Dee. "I've tried Brown trout, but they kept jumping out. I've landed 2-ft. trout out of here."

Ward's pond takes up an area of 20 by 25 ft. in a two-story room. Pond water from outside is pumped to a small 3 by 5-ft. pond where the water is filtered before exiting out over a waterfall into the large pond.

Ward's first attempt at an inside fishing hole was to use a swimming pool liner. "I ended up with 5,000 gallons of water in my basement," she recalls.

The second effort for her and Barry involved hauling in stone and dirt to a recessed area near an outside deck. They are in the construction business, so they applied their talents and earth moving equipment to the

job. They built a stone wall using large stone block at the basement level. Earth was then compacted against the block and built up to provide the 6-ft. depth. The deck was extended around the pool and then everything was enclosed as a part of the house.

A 1.5-in. water pump at the basement level moves water back up to the pond. A bio-filter processes the water. Barley powder flour collects nitrates and breaks them down.

"The water is crystal clear all the way down," says Dee. "There isn't any sludge buildup at all."

Ward says trial and error has been part of the entire project. "Trout require a lot of air, so the more water movement you can have, the longer the fish will live," she adds. "That's why we have the waterfall and even a floating fountain, all to bring oxygen into the water."

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