



Attempting to set a world record, Bob Off and other organizers rounded up 192 IH tractors and Cub Cadets to plow one continuous furrow.

IH Tractors Plow 90 Acres In One Pass

"People loved being part of this world record attempt," says Bob Off of Tipton, Ind. Last October, he and other organizers rounded up 192 International Harvester tractors and Cub Cadets to plow one continuous furrow with 532 plow bottoms. They plowed a 740-ft. wide swath one mile long (just under 90 acres) in less than 45 minutes.

Dennis Miesner, editor/publisher of Red Power magazine, was there to record it with aerial photos of the dirt darkening behind the swarm of tractors and plows. He ran a story and photos in the Jan./Feb. 2009 issue (www.redpowermagazine.com).

Participants came from 12 states and Canada. Tractors ranged from 1920's regular IH's to a relatively modern 88 IH. In fact, a 1985 7488 IH led the line of tractors.

"We grouped them in series," Off says, noting it took a couple of hours to line everyone up. People were on hand to record the event for a possible record.

The weekend continued with music, a bonfire/wiener roast with entertainment and more plowing - about 550 acres altogether.

People are asking for another mass plowing event, Off says. No formal plans have been made, but organizers are considering doing it again.

"It's good exercise for the old equipment. It's a lost art," says Off.

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With 532 plow bottoms they plowed a 740-ft. wide swath one mile long - just under 90 acres - in less than 45 minutes. Participants came from 12 states and Canada.

Photos Courtesy Dennis Miesner, editor Red Power Magazine.



Pipe bender works like a log splitter. It consists of a semi circular pipe pusher that slides back and forth on top of a 2-ft. wide metal box.



Pipe pusher is shown here ready to bend 1-in. dia. pipe. Pusher rides in a 1-in. wide groove and is moved along by a 2-in. dia. shaft that fits into log splitter's push plate.

Log Splitter Converts To Pipe Bender

"As a welder, I've always enjoyed using bent pipe for projects. But my pipe bender was powered by a bottle jack so it was just too slow. My solution was to make a pipe bender to fit my log splitter," says Sal Galluppi, Sellersville, Penn.

The bender consists of a semi circular pipe pusher that slides back and forth on top of a 2-ft. wide metal box. The pipe pusher rides in a 1-in. wide groove and is moved along by a 2-in. dia. shaft that fits into the log splitter's pusher plate.

"It works just like a log splitter so it works fast. I can bend 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, and 1-in. pipe," says Galluppi.

First, Galluppi made the wedge on the splitter, which he also built himself, removable. He created a 6-in. wide recess in the top of the beam where the wedge is normally located. The wedge sets in this recess and is secured by a 1 1/2-in. dia. pin. By removing the wedge, Galluppi can fit the pipe bender - which has a 6-in. wide channel iron on the bottom - into the same recess. He also drilled and tapped the pusher plate to receive the end of the 2-in. dia. shaft.

To bend pipe, the operator places it between the pipe pusher and a pair of 4-in. square blocks that fit into holes on each side of the pipe bender box. Then he manually

pushes the hydraulic lever that controls the splitter ram. As the pipe pusher moves forward it applies force between the blocks. How far the pusher goes determines the angle at which the pipe gets bent.

"I'm well pleased with how it turned out," says Galluppi. "I enjoy making things for myself and have always liked working with pipe, but bending it was always a challenge. I built the splitter using a kit that I bought from Northern Hydraulics (www.northernrtool.com). The splitter has a 4 by 24-in. cylinder, 11 gpm pump and is powered by a 5 hp engine. It puts out 12 1/2 tons of force so it has no trouble bending pipe. Although I've never used it to bend anything larger than a 1-in. dia. pipe, I'm sure it has enough power to bend larger pipes, too. I can bend pipe to a 90 degree angle or more.

"Each square block has four different faces, for different diameter pipe so the pipe doesn't get crushed when force is put on it. I can bend 1/2, 5/8, 3/4, and 1-in. pipe. When bending pipe I have to watch where I'm standing because if I don't, one end of the pipe might come back and hit me in the legs."

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Splitting wedge sets in 6-in. wide recess in top of splitter beam. It's secured by a 1 1/2-in. dia. pin. Photo shows log splitter wedge removed and setting on top of beam.

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