Jim Peternell demonstrated his plowing skills at a recent competition. He used a 1970 Wheelhorse 16 hp garden tractor.

Competition Plowing Comes To Garden Tractors

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

We caught up with Jim Peternell and Ron Peterson at a recent antique tractor show near Jordan, Minn. They both made history that day when they took part in competition plowing using garden tractors.

The two men belong to the Minnesota Plowing Association and recently convinced the organization to start up a class for garden tractors. It's believed to be the first garden tractor plowing competition in the U.S. Both men run used home-built plows.

"We plan to enter state plowing contests and follow the same rules set up for big tractors and plows. As of yet there isn't a national competition set up but we're looking into it. We're doing this because moldboard plowing is a dying art, but we want to keep it going," says Peterson. "We built our own plows because most of the 1-bottom moldboard plows on the market don't do a very good job of plowing, and don't have the adjustments found on conventional plows."

Peterson, with the help of friend Butch Bergstrom, built a mounted plow to pull behind his 20 hp Deere garden tractor. The plow is equipped with a 10-in. moldboard, a 14-in. coulter, and a pair of small gauge wheels. It has 2 hydraulic cylinders – one to raise and lower the plow and one to control depth. The plow bolts onto the tractor via a homemade, pivoting bracket. For added traction, Peterson replaced the tractor's original rear tires with lugged tires. He also mounted 40-lb. weights on front and back.

Peternell built a 3-wheeled trailing plow equipped with a 12-in. moldboard and a 12-in. coulter. He pulls the plow behind his 1970 Wheelhorse 16 hp garden tractor, which is equipped with big lugged tires on back and wheel weights on front and back.

"The plow has bushings from a generator and bearings from a car transmission. The caster wheel on back came off some portable scaffolding. I use the same lever that originally raised and lowered the mower deck to raise and lower the plow. An emergency brake cable, salvaged from a pickup, leads from the lever back to the plow. Pulling on the lever causes all 3 of the plow's wheels to raise at the same time."

Peternell built this 3-wheeled trailing plow equipped with a 12-in. moldboard and a 12-in. coulter.

People think plowing is simple, but it really isn't, says Peternell. "The answer to good plowing lies in the horizontal and vertical line of draft from the tractor hitch to the plow. A plow that pulls perfectly straight takes less horsepower and also does a better job of rolling over and burying trash. I built multiple adjustment points into my plow, which lets me keep it level from left to right and from front to back."

A linkage arm on his plow's left front wheel leads across the top of the plow to the right wheel. From there a rod runs back to linkage on the rear wheel, which raises the back end of the plow. A pair of adjustable springs assist in lifting of the plow.

The plow's drawbar can be adjusted left or right or up or down to get the proper pull point on the moldboard. "The center of draft on the plow is 1 in. up from the top of the shear, and 1 1/2 in. from the right to the outside edge of the moldboard," says Peternell.

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Ron Peterson, with help from friend Butch Bergstrom, built a mounted plow to pull behind his 20 hp Deere garden tractor.

John Eilers turned an old Deere cab into a doghouse, adding a sleeping platform inside and a deck on front.

Doghouse Made From Deere Cab

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

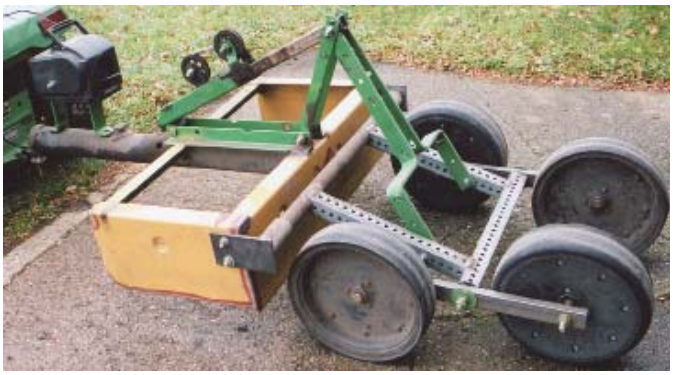
Ever spotted a deal just too good to pass up? That's what happened to Illinois farmer John Eilers when an old Deere cab came up for sale at a local auction and no one bid. He got it for $1.

Once he got it home, the cab sat around for a couple years while he tried to make a little profit selling it.

One day it just hit him that the cab would make a one-of-a-kind doghouse. He built a base for it to hold it off the ground and provide a dry floor. In back, where the seat would normally be, he built a little platform covered with carpet for the dog to sleep.

The opening in front of the cab is framed by 1 by 4's and there's a small deck on front.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Eilers, 2095 E 350 N, Pana, Ill. (ph 217 562-4021).



Elroy Lindaas built this 4-ft. wide box scraper using 4 discarded closing wheels off an old air seeder.

"Air Seeder" Box Scraper

"I built a 4-ft. wide box scraper using scrap iron and four discarded closing wheels off an old air seeder. It's really handy and cost almost nothing to build," says Elroy Lindaas, Mayville, N. Dak.

Lindaas uses an Ariens garden tractor to pull the scraper, which is raised and lowered by a 12-volt winch that acts on a mechanical ram. The winch mounts on a 4-in. dia. steel pipe that serves as the scraper's tongue. The ram consists of a length of telescopic square tubing, with a pair of small wheels mounted above it. A bolt at the top end of the ram serves as a hinge, allowing the scraper to move up or down. As the cable is reeled in over the wheels, it causes the ram to extend which raises the scraper. When the cable is let out, the ram retracts which lowers the scraper.

The four 15-in. dia. closing wheels are arranged in two sets behind the scraper to form a walking tandem axle. Each set of wheels bolts onto a metal arm and flexes up and down on a bolt pivot.

"The flexing up and down of the wheels results in an effective leveling action. It's amazing how much dirt and gravel this scraper will move," says Lindaas. "I've used it to move dirt on landscaping projects and to level pocket gopher mounds, and also to add new gravel to our driveway.

"The air seeder wheels mount on a metal frame that I welded to a shaft located behind the scraper. The shaft is free to rotate inside a pair of short pipes, which allows the scraper to move up or down as the winch is activated."

Lindaas used two 4-ft. lengths of scrap metal to build the scraper itself. He cut one in half and used the leftover material for the sides.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elroy N. Lindaas, 735 – 153rd Ave. N.E., Mayville, N. Dak. 58257 (ph 701 786-3064).