

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher

Harold Brock, sharp as a tack at 94, worked with Henry Ford, Harry Ferguson and other legends of the tractor business.



Designer Of Ford "9N" Tractor Tells His Story

I grew up driving a 1940's Ford 9N tractor. It had a loader for cleaning out barns and a 3-pt. blade to plow snow and grade driveways. It was a handy little tractor, easy for a young fellow to drive. We used it hard for many years and never had much trouble with it.

So, I was excited to hear about a new DVD interview with Harold Brock, one of the original designers of the Ford 9N. Brock is a sharp guy at 94-years-old and shares a wealth of information on the DVD about N-Series tractors and the famous men he worked with or met, including Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Harry Ferguson, Edsel Ford and many more. After leaving Ford, Brock went on to do a lot of work at John Deere as well. The entertaining interview took place last summer with Robert Rinaldi Jr., publisher of *N-News*, a magazine devoted to N-Series tractors.

In the interview, Brock provides an insider's perspective on early tractor development. He got his start in the Ford apprentice school at age 15 before joining Ford's tractor design team. The 9N came on the market in 1939 and was the first commercially successful tractor with a 3-pt. hitch.

The 2-hour DVD comes with many photos and documents from Ford archives. Sells for \$26.95 plus \$6.95 S&H.

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New Way To Contact Us

Like everyone else, we've been hearing about Facebook for the past couple years. I never even looked at it until a couple months ago, but my wife and kids use it all the time to keep in touch with friends and other family members. I finally checked it out myself and realized it might be an easier way to connect with readers.

So we set up a Facebook page for FARM SHOW and started playing around. We're still feeling our way along but it looks like there are a few solid ways to make use of it that you might like:

1. To send us photos, info or videos about any inventions or "made it myself" ideas you might want to share.
2. To submit a "best" or "worst" buy to us on a product that performs with flying colors or a "lemon" that failed because of poor performance.
3. To share a maintenance tip or idea that worked for you, or to ask other readers to help solve a mechanical problem you might have with a piece of equipment.
4. Participate in online surveys such as: What's the best tractor of all time? What's the worst pickup you ever owned? What's the toughest mechanical problem you ever solved in your shop?

It seems to me there are going to be a lot more uses for this free online tool. In order to visit us, you have to set up your own account (www.facebook.com) but it only takes a second and if you end up not using it, no problem. Just let it sit.

Great Gift Idea For Christmas

If you've got a hard-to-buy-for farmer or rancher on your Christmas gift list this year, why not do your shopping right here?

Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients.

If you like, you can give the "First Gift" to yourself as a one-year extension of your own FARM SHOW subscription, entitling you to give reduced rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives, business associates, students, or others.

Use the order form inserted elsewhere in this issue to order your Christmas gift subscriptions, or go to www.farmshow.com. You can also call us at 800 834-9665.



Free Classifieds

FARM SHOW doesn't carry advertising but you can place free classifieds at our "sister" website, BestFarmBuys.com. You'll reach many thousands of buyers with your ad and you can even include a picture of whatever you have for sale. This site has been in operation for more than 10 years, selling millions of dollars of equipment and livestock.

Liberty Quotes

"When the government fears the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny."
Thomas Jefferson

"Posterity - you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."
John Quincy Adams

"Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance."
C.S. Lewis

"You can't get rid of poverty by giving people money."
P.J. O'Rourke

"A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money."
G. Gordon Liddy

"There is no worse tyranny than to force a man to pay for what he does not want merely because you think it would be good for him."
Robert A. Heinlein

"We demand entire freedom of action and then expect the government in some miraculous way to save us from the consequences of our own acts . . . self-government means self-reliance."
Calvin Coolidge

"He is free who knows how to keep in his own hands the power to decide at each step the course of his life, and who lives in a society which does not block the exercise of that power."
Salvador De Madariaga

"Do not expect justice where might is right."
Plato
"You know, the very powerful and the very stupid have one thing in common - they don't alter their views to fit the facts, they alter the facts to fit their views, which can be uncomfortable if you happen to be one of the facts that needs altering."
Doctor Who

A "Real" Piggy Bank

The outfit that makes these "real" piggy banks says it makes the banks from pigs that died of natural causes. The taxidermed banks have a coin slot on top and cork plug underneath. It takes up to 12 months to produce from the time of order and the company takes half of their impressive \$4,000 fee up front and half when it's completed. This is obviously the most impressive return on investment in the hog business we've ever seen. You can order one - or just admire the company's sales pitch - at www.thecheeky.com.



A man and his wife walked into a dentist's office. "Doc, I'm in one heck of a hurry," he said. "I have two buddies sitting out in my car waiting for us to go play golf. So forget about the anesthetic. I don't have time. We have a 10 a.m. tee time at the best course in town and it's 9:30 already. I just want you to pull the tooth and be done with it."

The dentist thought to himself, "Wow, this guy is brave, asking to have his tooth pulled without anything for the pain." He asked the man, "Which tooth is it, sir?"

The man turned to his wife and said, "Open your mouth, honey, and show him."

A linguistics professor gave a lecture to his college English class. "In English," he said, "a double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. There is, however, no language in which a double positive can form a negative."

A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah, right."

A 3-year-old walked over to a pregnant woman while waiting with his mother in the doctor's office. He asked her, "Why is your stomach so big?"

She replied, "I'm having a baby." With big eyes, the boy asked, "Is the baby in your stomach?" She said, "He sure is."

Then the little boy, with a puzzled look, asked, "Is it a good baby?" She said, "Oh, yes. It's a real good baby." With an even more surprised and shocked look, the boy asked, "Then why did you eat him?"

Subscription Scam Artists

A fake subscription company in Reno, Nevada has been scamming FARM SHOW subscribers - and readers of many other magazines - by sending out false renewal notices that look like this one. Publishers Billing Exchange is not connected to FARM SHOW in any way and has an earned an "F" rating from the Better Business Bureau which says the company is known for its fraudulent business practices. We have filed a fraud complaint with the U.S. Postal Service. If you get a subscription notice like this one, either ignore it or send it to us and we will add it to our legal complaint.



A Review: Ford's All-New 2011 6.7L Power Stroke

One of the most interesting magazines we get is *Diesel World* (www.dieselworldmag.com), which is the ultimate source of information for everything diesel. The magazine's editors recently reviewed the all-new 2011 Ford 6.7L Power Stroke truck engine. Here's what they said:

"The new 6.7L is rated at 390 hp at 2,800 rpm's with a whopping 735 lb./ft. of torque at 1,600 rpm's. The block is made from compacted graphite iron for reduced weight and improved rigidity. It also has a more compact twin turbo, aluminum cylinder heads, Bosch Piezo high-pressure (29,000 psi) direct injection, and a DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) system to reduce emissions by nearly 80 percent over previous Power Stroke diesels.

"To handle the whopping torque of the new diesel powerhouse, an all-new 6-speed automatic transmission was developed with a tow-haul mode that activates a built-in exhaust brake. Other unique features include Hill Start Assist, which applies the brakes to prevent the truck from rolling backward on slopes."

After getting behind the wheel, here's what the editors reported: "It's more refined and quiet, with no cold-start rattling. Low-end power and throttle response are incredible, thanks to the new turbo, which makes for seamless power transitions between low-end grunt and high-end power. Kudos to Ford for coming up with a new generation of diesel engine with an outstanding automatic transmission."

121,000 Farms Now Produce 75 Percent Of All Farm Sales

Progressive Farmer had an interesting piece in its August issue, analyzing the results of farm census and crop data. According to best estimates, just 121,000 U.S. farms produce 75 percent of all farm produce. The remaining 2 million farms produce the other 25 percent.

There are 57,000 farms with gross incomes of \$1 million or more and another 64,000 with incomes between \$500,000 and \$1 million. What's more, size equals increased profit. According to a 2006 USDA study of big farms, operations earning more than \$1 million a year had operating profit margins of 20 percent or more while profit margins increased to 26 percent for farms earning \$5 million or more annually.

One more interesting tidbit from the story. Farms with sales exceeding \$1 million average 3,400 acres compared to the 281-acre average for farms earning \$250,000 or less per year.