

## Corn Cannon A Hit At Arkansas Farm

At Dallas and Katie Peebles farm you can walk through a corn maze – and then shoot corn from a cannon.

“Our corn cannon gets shot 1,000 times or more between Friday and Sunday,” says Peebles, who runs the agritourism business with his wife on their Augusta, Ark., farm.

The cannon is one of the farm’s most popular activities each fall (Sept. 26 to Oct. 31, 2012).

Peebles credits Jim Burton, a former neighbor who farmed and was an engineer, for building the cannon a decade ago for his own agritourism business. When Burton stopped running his business, he sold the cannon to the Peebles.

The cannon is made out of 4-in. pvc pipe with a 2-in. pvc pipe chamber to hold the corn. It’s fitted with a backflow valve and spray rig valve.

“I have a set of handlebars to hold it with

a button connected to the spray rig valve. It dumps part of the air, and the rest pushes the corn out the 2 in. pvc pipe,” Peebles says.

He sets his air compressor between 50 to 60 psi and runs a hose from it to the cannon, which is set up facing an open field, pointed at a target 100 yards away. Visitors pay \$1/shot and if they hit the target, they win a pumpkin or other prize.

“It’s more a matter of luck,” Peebles says about hitting the target. “You’re shooting corn so the ears weigh different and aren’t shaped the same. No two bullets are alike. We have more 5-year-olds hitting the target than anyone else.”

He has also used golf balls in the cannon, which are more accurate. But corn fits in with the farm theme – and the Peebles have plenty of corn. The cannon has been used for eight years, and Peebles tore it down once to learn how it works. He has replaced some parts and



An air-powered corn cannon is just one of the activities for visitors at Peebles Farm. Operator holds onto a set of handlebars as he presses a button to fire.

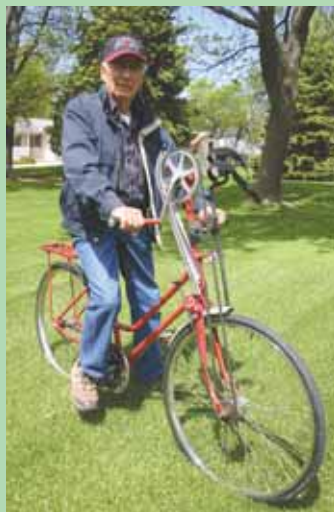
does minimal maintenance each year.

He emphasizes that a worker always loads the cannon and turns on the air for safety.

The corn cannon is just one of the many activities at Peebles Farm, which has a U-pick pumpkin patch. It’s also unique for its 3-acre

U-pick cotton field. Many school groups visit the patch each fall to learn about and pick cotton to take home with them.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peebles Farm, 76 Woodruff 249, Augusta, Ark. 72006 (ph 870 919-6162; www.peeblesfarm.com).



Harold Fratzke invented this “twin drive” bicycle that lets him pedal with either his hands or feet, or use both together. To shift gears the rider pulls on a knob.

## “Twin Drive” Bicycle Powered By Both Hands And Feet

You’ve never seen anything like this “Twin Drive” bicycle built by Harold Fratzke of Cottonwood, Minn.

“I can pedal with either my hands or feet, or use both together so both wheels are powered,” says Fratzke. “It’s a lot of fun to ride and is a big hit when I appear in parades, where people holler and wave. Some of them ask me, ‘Why do you want a 2-wheel drive bike?’ My answer is always, ‘Why not? You’ve got 2 arms and 2 legs, so you might as well use them.’”

He started with a 26-in. bike equipped with a 3-speed transmission. He removed the handlebars and replaced the front wheel with the rear drive wheel off another bike. He made a bracket to extend the front fork and mounted a pair of bike pedals and a drive sprocket off another bike on it. The rider rotates the pedals to chain-drive the front wheel and also uses them to steer the bike. To stop, he pedals backward on the rear wheel.

To shift gears the rider pulls on a knob connected to a lever that’s attached to the front wheel hub. “It’s a 3-speed hub but I use only 2 of the speeds,” says Fratzke. “I pull on the knob to shift into low gear, and push down to go into high gear.”

“Pedaling with both your hands and feet may seem strange, but it doesn’t take any time at all to catch onto it. If I want, I can keep pedaling with my hands while I make turns. The hand-operated front wheel drive provides extra torque and really comes in handy when

going uphill. If I want to pedal just the rear wheel, I adjust the bike pedal handlebars down to their lowest level for more comfort. I even made a bracket that lets me fasten an umbrella to the bike.”

Fratzke also made a pair of attachments that let him use the bike indoors for exercise.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Fratzke, 234 Shoreview Dr., Cottonwood, Minn. 56229 (ph 507 423-6341; cell 507 530-6090).



Rare Cub Cutaway was originally used by IH as an educational tool. An electric motor on the tractor ran all the components so you could see how everything worked.

## What Kind Of Cub Is This?

By Cindy Ladage

At this year’s Florida Flywheelers Club show in Avon Park, Fla., a tractor that had been literally sawed in half was the main attraction. The tractor was a very rare Cub Cutaway that was originally used by International Harvester as an educational tool.

The Cutaway Cub was donated to the Club. “We think IH made seven of these. They were supposed to be destroyed. I know there’s at least one more besides this,” says club president Charles Stevenson.

The documented history of this particular Cutaway Cub begins in 1969 with Lawrence N. Shaw, a retired ag engineering professor at the University of Florida. “I think it was given to the University by IH in the early 1950’s. At the school, it was used to teach how tractors worked,” says Dr. Shaw. “An electric motor on the tractor ran all the components so you

could see how everything worked. We were fortunate to have it.”

A former student of Dr. Shaw’s saved the Cub from destruction when the school tossed it out.

To see the Cutaway Cub, check out the shows held at the Florida Flywheelers. The Florida Flywheelers Antique Engine Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1972 to promote interest in restoring, preserving and exhibiting antique internal combustion engines, steam engines, antique tractors and autos and other labor saving devices. For more information log onto the website at [www.floridaflywheelers.org](http://www.floridaflywheelers.org).

Also, if you have information about the history of the Cutaway Cub, please email Charles Stevens at [cstevenson14@cfi.rr.com](mailto:cstevenson14@cfi.rr.com).

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