

FARM SHOW

For everyone in agriculture interested in latest new products.

Vol. 4, No. 3, 1980

HOME-BUILT "BRUTE" 250 HP FOR \$10,000



Going with two rather than four wheel drive simplified construction, says builder Stan Friesen.



Hood and cab both hinge and tilt for easy-access servicing of the home-built Brute.

Beat Inflation: Build Your Own Big Tractor

Maybe you should build rather than buy your next new tractor.

Home-built tractors are busting out all over, no thanks to \$30 hogs, \$2 corn, soaring interest rates and sky-high prices for new tractors and other machinery.

One of the slickest "inflation fighters" we've seen lately is the "Brute", a 250 hp "two wheeler" designed and built by Stan Friesen, 33 year old corn and hog farmer from Mountain Lake, Minn.

"I decided right from the start that a 250 hp tractor would be a lot simpler — and cheaper — to build if I went with 2 rather than 4 wheel drive," says Stan, who doesn't agree with professional tractor design engineers at Deere, IH, Massey Ferguson and elsewhere who, up to now at least, have maintained that 190 hp is the practical limit for 2 wheel drive tractors.

Stan figures his 250 hp "2-wheeler", made mostly from parts salvaged in junk yards, cost right at \$10,000 to build, not including his own labor. He figures a new factory made "4-wheeler" of comparable capacity would cost "at least \$60,000". He feels he saved a lot of labor and expense by going with simpler, two wheel drive construction: "It's much simpler to hook up since you don't have any transfer cases or center hinging to bother with," he points out.

Here are other "firsts" featured in Stan Friesen's home-built Brute:

- Air over hydraulic brakes, and an air-powered horn.
- Rubber mounts on the engine as well as the cab for a "vibration free" ride, and very little noise inside the cab.
- Riding comfort is further enhanced by a

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