

Farmer Built His Third 4-WD Tractor

Maury Collins is back with a bigger, more powerful and more versatile tractor design. First presented by FARM SHOW (Vol. 15, No. 2) in 1991, he later introduced PRO II. (Vol. 34, No. 2) Like the earlier models, PRO III has 4-WD with articulation and oscillation. It also offers a 3-pt. hitch and front and rear pto.

"I wanted to see what a diesel would do, and I had a 90 hp. Deere engine sitting here," explains Collins, Nelson Tractor Ltd. "I also wanted a different design that would free up the rear end for more uses. The last design was limited with the engine mounted there."

In PRO III, Collins set the cab forward with the engine under and to the rear on the front half of the tractor. That leaves the entire rear half available for use as a flatbed, dump box or log bed.

"One of the big things with any tractor is serviceability," says Collins. "With many newer tractors, it can take 2 to 3 hrs. to get to the problems. With PRO III, I can have full access to the engine in 10 to 15 min."

Collins designed the fenders to swing away with the release of a bolt holding each. The fuel and hydraulic oil tanks are on one side,

and the oil tank is on the other.

"If it is a serious problem, I remove 4 bolts and tilt the cab forward at a 45-degree angle for full engine access," says Collins.

The cab has also changed with the PRO III. Fully enclosed and equipped with air conditioning and heating, it also features a back-up camera for ground level rear visibility.

"PRO III also offers better visibility to the front and the side," says Collins. "It is also set up to accept many skid steer attachments with quick attach plates."

Like the earlier versions, this one also uses Poclair hydraulic drive wheel motors. While they are more expensive than some imports, Collins values their quality.

The hydrostatic drive with low and high ranges and maximum speeds of 4 and 14 mph, respectively, has full power while creeping at low speeds.

While still using his first 2 versions on a regular basis, PRO III is seeing limited use. Collins wants to keep the hours as low as possible as he would like to sell it. He has set a price of \$99,000.

"I already have lots of plans for PRO IV,"



Maury Collins's PRO III 4-WD articulated tractor is powered by a 90 hp. Deere diesel engine. Tractor's rear half is available for use as a flatbed, dump box or log bed.

says Collins. "I'm also looking for partners to work on bringing the concept to market."

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Bucket Spreads Manure, Litter

If you own a skid loader you don't need to buy a spreader for manure or sawdust. You just need an accessory—a MAC Bucket—that hooks up to the skidloader's hydraulics and quick attach.

"The ultimate spreader" was designed and built by Ferman Yoder in Middlebury, Ind., initially for Amish farmers.

"There are a lot of small farmers who have a few animals and typically pile the manure up for a long time, then rent equipment to spread it," says Yoder. "Now, communities or individuals can purchase the skid steer attachment and share it."

Yoder designed the 6-ft. MAC Bucket with a beater bar and 8-in. gap in the back of the bucket.

"It tips back more than a regular bucket. There's more of an angle on the quick-attach. Once it starts going it chews the manure

up. It spreads thicker than a regular manure spreader," Yoder says.

He emphasizes that though the bucket is heavy-duty, it is not designed for pushing out stumps or hauling dirt or rocks.

However, the spreading design works well for spreading mulch on gardens or sawdust in poultry facilities. Yoder builds and sells a deeper 7-ft. bucket with an aluminum strip that fits over the gap and can be cut and adjusted to spread the right depth of sawdust.

The MAC Bucket sells for \$1,900 and is available through Yoder and a few dealers in northern Indiana.

One of them is Lonnie Borkholder, owner of Midwest Farm & Pet in Bremen, Ind. (ph 574 646-2509).

"It's quality built," he says. "It's good for small hobby farmers who have livestock and don't own a big tractor and manure



MAC Bucket is designed with a beater bar to chew up manure. Works great for spreading mulch on gardens or litter in poultry facilities.

spreader. I'm willing to let people try it before purchasing it."

Yoder notes that he will check into shipping costs if anyone outside the area is interested in purchasing a MAC Bucket. He also welcomes inquiries from dealers

interested in selling the MAC Bucket.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ferman Yoder, Middlebury Auction Co., 12142 Co. Rd. 24, Middlebury, Ind. 46540 (ph 574 825-0407) or Midwest Farm & Pet, LLC, 535 5B Rd., Bremen, Ind. 46506 (ph 574 646-2509).

Culti-Mulcher Fitted With Steerable Front Gangs

"My new-style culti-mulcher leaves a nice, even seedbed and eliminates the need to make multiple tillage passes. It's designed to be pulled by horses but can also be pulled by a tractor," says Daniel Yoder, Countryside Repair, Ontario, Wis., who recently began marketing the unit.

The culti-mulcher is available in 4, 6 and 8-ft. widths and comes with 3 rows of S-shanks and 2 gangs of rollers. The 8-ft. model (shown) has two 4-ft. sections placed side by side. Each section is fitted with a hand-operated lever on front and back in order to adjust tillage depth. An optional "scratch tooth" attachment with fixed straight tines can be added on back in order to loosen soil packed down by the back gang of rollers.

A long adjustable tongue is connected to the neck yoke on the horses to control the machine when going downhill or turning corners.

The operator sits on a metal seat located above the implement and is protected by a safety railing in front. The culti-mulcher comes with a 5-ft. wide crossbar on front where the eveners hook on. By removing the tongue you can hook up a tractor to the crossbar.

"The 4-ft. wide front roller gangs and

S-shanks are independent of the back shanks and rollers, which makes them steerable. As a result, the roller gangs can follow along when turning without dragging the soil," says Yoder. "A short pipe extends between the front and back sections of the unit and allows them to pivot up or down independently."

"It does a nice job and results in a good seedbed with fewer tillage passes required. In most types of soil, it takes only one or 2 passes with my culti-mulcher to leave a nice seedbed. Heavier clay-type soils may require more passes. Some farmers want to use a spike drag later on in a separate pass to loosen the soil behind the rollers, because a good seedbed is also a good weedbed. The 'scratch-tooth' attachment prevents weed seeds from getting packed into the soil so they can't germinate as easily."

Yoder also offers a gravity-fed liquid fertilizer application system for the culti-mulcher. The 8-ft. culti-mulcher sells for \$3,250; the 6-ft. for \$2,250; and the 4-ft. for \$1,650. Prices don't include the seat or scratch tooth attachment.

Dealer inquiries are welcome.

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"The front roller gangs and S-shanks on my culti-mulcher are steerable. As a result, the roller gangs can follow along when turning without dragging the soil," says Daniel Yoder.

Mig Welder Converted To Stick Arc Welder

Don Bragdon, London, Arkansas, recently sent FARM SHOW information about how he converted his old Mig welder to a stick welder.

"The welding wire inside the plastic feed tube on my 20-year-old Harbor Freight Mig welder shorted out, melting the tube and making the welder unusable. A new replacement tube would have cost almost as much as a new welder," says Bragdon. "Instead, I bought a new Mig welder for only \$23 more than the cost of the replacement tube and then converted my old Mig to a stick welder. I use it to weld light gauge metal that's 1/8 in. thick or less, using

a 1/16 6013 welding rod. Works great."

Bragdon replaced the feed tube with a no. 12 hot wire, which he hooked up to the welder's positive lead. He also removed the wire welder's nozzle and replaced it with a welding rod holder. He did not modify the negative clamp at all.

"It works exactly like a conventional stick welder. I just push a button to operate it," says Bragdon. "I didn't spend anything to make the conversion."

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