



This Weaver Wagons buckboard trail wagon is designed for a single horse or a small team, and can be used in parades or for pleasure driving.



Weaver produces everything from hitch wagons (above) to parade and trail wagons, farm wagons, people haulers and more.

Hand-Built Weaver Wagons Are Known For Quality

Hand-made craftsmanship with superb quality throughout was the driving force behind Ervin Weaver building his first custom wagon in 1994, and it continues today as his sons Emory and Vernon operate Weaver Wagons in Dalton, Ohio. The operation is known as a premier manufacturer and restorer of all kinds of horse-drawn wagons. Weaver wagons can be found loaded with hay on a small Midwestern farm and they also sparkle in the city lights, moving people in fancy carriages around New York's Central Park.

Before starting his company, Weaver had a background in construction and farming and worked at Pioneer Equipment, so he had high standards for quality, value, and a great eye for detail. Starting out he worked in a building the size of a 2-car garage, and had to wait for a nice calm day to lay a tarp on the lawn before he could paint a wagon. The business gained traction 6 years later when Weaver added 5,000 sq. ft. of production space, and in the past 20 years the company has continued to grow, now working in a building

large enough to accommodate semi-trucks. Weaver's sons Vernon and Emory run the business now, along with five full time and two part-time employees.

The Weavers are especially known for jaw-dropping-beautiful parade wagons with mirror-like painted finishes, but they still make simple farm and hay wagons along with buckboards, trail wagons and people haulers.

"Several things set Weaver Wagons apart from others," says Emery. "We get the most 'oohs and ahs' when people see our paint jobs." The company has a dedicated paint facility and uses an eight-step process to produce a finish rivaling those of fine automobiles. "When people see the painted wood wagons they think they're made of metal, but they're not." Weaver says their customers also appreciate the company's outstanding craftsmanship, quality, value, and attention to the smallest detail, including the hand-crafted pin striping.

Weaver's Parade, Trail and Hitch Wagons ride on Pioneer running gears, have torsion

axles with leaf springs for noiseless operation, and can be ordered with LED lighting, cushioned seats, floor mats, cup holders and canvas tops for an authentic pioneer look. Standard equipment on Weaver's Haflinger wagons includes hydraulic brakes, a raised steel tongue with a spring assist, and a retractable rear step. Wagons can be finished with natural looking stains or painted with a high-gloss and easy-to-clean automotive finish.

Emery's brother Vernon is a master machinist and produces most of the wagon's metal parts, including their own fifth wheel gear design. The company still has a strong partnership with Pioneer Equipment, which makes gears for some of the wagons. Most other metal parts are made from stainless steel and are usually fabricated and polished on site.

Weaver Wagons uses traditional materials and assembly techniques and continuously strives to improve with newer technology. "We use poplar lumber in many of our wagons because it has a good strength to weight

ratio and paints up very well, but we also use pvc panels because they're durable, resist cracking and also take paint well," Emery says. The company also offers vinyl graphics as well as hand done traditional painted pin striping.

One of the most challenging parts of their business is restoration. Some projects, like replacing a rotting dashboard, are straight forward, but others require a lot of planning, studying and head scratching. Recently they restored a neglected fire ladder wagon which was more than 100 years old. Emery says "it looked every bit its age and was so far gone we had to imagine what it once looked like. Now it's completely restored, including 3 weeks needed to complete the pin striping."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Weaver Wagons & Custom Design, 5090 South Mt. Eaton Road, Dalton, Ohio 44618 (ph 330 857-7811; www.weaverwagons.com).

"Come As You Are" Cowboy Country Church

By Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor

I was driving through the middle of southern Oklahoma cowboy country last year when I came across Beaver Creek Cowboy Church. The sand-colored metal building had a cross above the entrance and a billowing American flag out front.

It was a Saturday but the door was open. Chairs were neatly arranged around circular tables with colorful checked cloths, all situated on a sand floor. On one side was a raised wooden stage with a small lectern, speakers on tripods, and stands that held guitars and a banjo. An old rugged cross stood near the wall.

A website directory of cowboy country churches lists Beaver Creek as one of about 400 such churches in 36 states. Some of them have words like corral, barbed wire, wrangler, halo and eternal stars in their name.

Preacher Gary Thurman, a retired carpentry instructor and horseman, has led services at Beaver Creek for 8 1/2 years. "It's a come as you are church. People arrive by pickup, horseback, 4-wheelers and typically wear Western attire. Some even bring their dogs."

Beaver Creek's 80 to 90-min. service offers country praise music, Christian story-telling, a message, and then dinner at around noon. There might also be pony rides or barrel racing for the youngsters, a horse show or a small rodeo for the parishioners, along with plenty of friendly hugs and laughter. One parishoner notes on his Facebook page, "We're just country people galloping into God's good graces."



"Cowboy Country Church" parishioners sit at circular tables with colorful checked cloths, all situated on a sand floor.

Apparently that galloping starts at a young age at Beaver Creek because a small electric bronco sits just in front of the stage. Thurman says it's one of the things they use to keep young people involved and interested.

Beaver Creek has 70 to 80 people attending each Sunday, and other cowboy churches number 10 guests to as many as 1,700 in the Cowboy Church of Ellis County, Texas. One even serves a post-service meal around an authentic Chuckwagon.

A regular worshiper says, "We believe God puts us all here for a reason, and it doesn't make any difference how we celebrate our faith, as long as we do it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Beaver Creek Cowboy Church, RR1, Box 184, Duncan, Okla. 73533.

Remote-Controlled Toy "Deere 5050"

Fifteen-year-old Burnell Leid of Thorp, Wis., wanted a remote-controlled toy tractor but couldn't justify the cost, so he made his own, modeling it after a "Deere 5050" previously featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 22, No. 6). The full-size 5050 was built by Jon Kinzenbaw and was actually a repowered 1960's Deere 5020.

Using the actuator motors from a car defrost flap control and a 12-volt DeWalt cordless drill battery, Leid built a wooden prototype. After fine tuning the design, he rebuilt the tractor using mostly 4-in. steel tubing. The tractor weighs 13 lbs. 10 oz. and can travel at 2 mph at full speed.

"It has plenty of power and weight to pull any scale implement hooked behind it," says Burnell. "I chose the Kinze-built Deere 5050 because I like how it looks. The control box is a watertight electrical box purchased at a local hardware store. It has 2 buttons - one for steering and one for forward and reverse. The only tools I used were a saw and welder."

The tractor contains a 12-volt DeWalt battery inside the cab and a steering motor under the hood. The body and cab roof are made from 4-in. steel plate and hinged for access to the battery and motor. The exhaust muffler and air intake were fashioned from long bolts and are located on the right side of the tractor. The front wheels and axle are off an Ertl toy, and Burnell already had the rear wheels. "I might add lights to the tractor," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Burnell Leid, N12574 County Road M, Thorp, Wis. 54771 (ph 715 669-3799; Harold@leiddiesel.net).



Just 15 years old, Burnell Leid used 4-in. steel tubing to make this remote-controlled toy tractor, modeling it after a "Deere 5050" built by Jon Kinzenbaw.

