



Robb bought Tom and Jerry when they were only a few days old and trained them on his own home-made yokes.

"TOM AND JERRY"

Wisconsin Ox Team Big Hit In Parades

By Wally E. Schulz

Charles Robb, of Arena, Wis., attracts a lot of attention when he drives his "Tom and Jerry" Ayrshire oxen in local parades. Tom and Jerry are a colorful team. Both are attractively marked with red and white coloring and sport long horns which have never been cut off.

"When they got to be nine months of age, I decided it was time to break them to pull a buggy. I first had to make them a yoke to pull it," explains Robb. He carved the yoke from a block of basswood measuring 5 by 7 ft.

Bows for the yoke were a bit more tricky to make. He began with a long piece of hickory wood 4 in. in circumference. This was split down the middle with a saw, then split in half again.

"I formed and dressed the bows with a spoke shaver, a draw shave, and a hatchet," explains Robb. "I couldn't find any printed material on making oxen yoke and bows so I had to learn it on my own."

Robb designed a bow bending device to hold each bow while he bent it manually. He made the device out of a car jack, plus pieces of pipe and scrap iron welded to a steering wheel base.

He made a water tank out of a couple steel drums to soak and boil the long wood pieces which were bent to form the bows. Robb soaked and boiled the pieces one day. The next day, he started the fire again and boiled and steamed the pieces until about noon. Then, he took them from the boiling water and put them into his "bending machine".

When driving Tom and Jerry, Robb turns them to the right with the command "Gee" and to the left with the words "Come Here". The oxen wear no bridle — just a strong, home-made halter. "They never have anything in their mouths — only their tongues," Robb points out.

When Tom and Jerry are at home on the farm, they are turned out to pasture and are fed hay and grain only as a treat.

"During the winter months, they are outside all the time," says Robb. "Cold doesn't hurt them. It keeps them healthy. Robb trims the feet on his oxen team about every 3 months.

"Right now, I'm raising a pair of Ayrshire calves that I will breed with a longhorn bull when they become of breeding age. This will give me a colorful team of oxen for future parades and shows," says Robb.



The 20 windmills require 22 mph winds for maximum power.

World's First Windfarm

They're harvesting a new "crop" on Crotched Mountain near Greenfield, N. H., home of the world's first wind farm. The farm consists of 20 windmills which generate electricity for the Public Service Company of New Hampshire. At 7.7 cents per KWH, the windfarm is replacing 5,000 barrels of oil per year.

The Greenfield windfarm was originally equipped with 30 KW, 3-bladed downwind turbines but these are being replaced now with newer 50 KW generators (with 56 ft. diameter blades), designed and constructed by U.S. Windpower, Burlington, Mass. The windfarm provides electrical energy for the area, and also serves as a research and development site for U.S. Windpower which is now in the process of developing a similar 200 turbine, \$2 million windfarm in Alameda County, Calif. Thirty of those units are expected to be operational by the end of 1981.

Herbert Weiss of U.S. Windpower says the company is committed to windfarm development in other areas as well, and sees such systems as important power sources of the future. But, when asked if future land prices might be inflated by the advent of windfarms, Weiss was cautious: "It's hard to say how windfarm development might affect land prices. It's most important to know what the wind data is for the area, and that is very site specific. Not every tall hill on every farm has enough wind to operate turbines."

Average windspeeds can be deceiving, too. For instance, the U.S. Windpower turbines installed on Crotched Mountain require 22 mph wind for top power, and maintain that same peak power even if speed increases above that level. However, when windspeed falls below 22 mph, power generation drops off quickly.

Weiss says crops can still be planted around the wind turbines or the land used for grazing, just as it is around power line poles and towers. He adds that turbine operation is not directly affected by having bare soil or different crops grown on the ground around the towers. However, taller objects — such as trees or buildings — will cause turbulence downwind to a distance equal to eight or ten times the height of the obstacle. But, a solid stand of trees, such as in a closely-planted orchard, would cause almost no turbulence, compared with a single row of trees of the same height, explains Weiss.

With the new 50 KW generators, the Greenfield windfarm should produce approximately 2500 megawatt-hours of electricity annually (A megawatt equals 1000 kilowatts.) which should replace about 5,000 barrels of oil per year now burned to generate power.

For more information on windfarm systems, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, U.S. Windpower, 160 Wheeler Road, Burlington, Mass. 01803 (ph 617 273-4502).

USE WILDFLOWERS TO COLOR YOUR FARMYARD

Collecting Seeds From The Wild

If your natural lawn is in need of a bit of color, you can "shop" for wildflower seeds to plant in it by taking a trip to a nearby pasture or field, or by keeping an eye on the roadside. Collecting your own wildflower seeds is an enjoyable way to learn about native plants and an inexpensive means to a beautiful yard.

Most wildflower seeds mature within a month after the flowering

periods, so you'll have to start keeping a close watch on them soon after they show their colors. If you are unsure if the seeds are ready, but are afraid they may scatter when you're not there, place a fine mesh bag or the end of a nylon stocking over the flower to capture the seeds.

On the other hand, if the seeds appear mature — dry and difficult to crush between your fingers — simply cut the flower at the stem and place it

in an envelope which you have labeled with the name of the flower, the date and place, and the type of soil (moist, dry, wet) in which the plant was growing. Always leave some flowers behind to scatter their seed and never dig up the entire plant.

When you get the flowers home, crush the seeds out by hand or by placing the pods in a paper bag and pounding it lightly. If the seeds have

a fleshy covering, remove it by soaking overnight in warm water.

Store the seeds in a sealed container in the refrigerator for several months. In the spring, start the seeds in flats or peat pots on a windowsill or under fluorescent lights. Transplant outdoors after all danger of frost is past.

Reprinted from Organic Gardening, Emmaus, Penn.