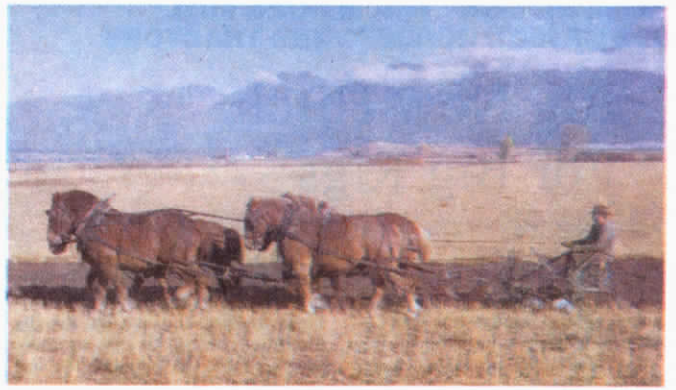




Davis maintains that horses are "cheaper than tractors".



"Anybody who operates 200 acres or less should be farming with horses," says Davis.

## 55 BELGIAN HORSES DO MOST OF THE FIELD WORK ON THIS MONTANA RANCH

# Still Farming With "Live" Horsepower

By Lonnie Stauffer, Associate Editor

Forrest Davis farms 555 acres near Polson, Mont. with 55 Belgian horses, making his one of the largest "horse powered" farms in the country.

Davis' 55 Belgians supply power for most of the field work on his combination hay and cattle ranch. He uses up to 12 of the big horses on a single implement and performs most chores, including plowing and small grain binding, without starting an engine.

Most of the ranch is in alfalfa or grass, but Davis rotates 60 to 80 acres each year by plowing it up and planting grain. The horses pull the

plow, disk and grain drill. No tractor is needed. Davis also uses the horses for all of his haying needs, except baling.

Although hardly any horse-drawn equipment is built anymore, Davis has had no problems getting horse-drawn machinery. "I've had some horse equipment for years and I've also adapted some tractor-drawn machinery to my needs," he explains.

Harness and hitching equipment is still being made in some areas. "A good working harness costs \$750 nowadays," Davis says, "but it should last a lifetime."

Good draft horses are worth big

money. Last year, Davis sold some of his purebred fillies for \$2,500 apiece. Mature animals may sell for up to \$8,000 or more.

At the annual Waverly-Midwest Horse Sale in Waverly, Iowa (self-proclaimed draft horse capital of the world) last Oct., buyers paid \$672,595 for 400 horses and mules.

Davis says he has sold well-broke horses to buyers from Calif. to Conn. The animals average an 18 year life span and start working at the age of 3 or 4. They weigh from 1,650 to 2,250 lbs.

Davis maintains that horses are "cheaper overall than tractors and

don't compact the soil nearly as much. Also, you can raise your own fuel and receive a bonus of fertilizer from the horses," he says.

"Most farmers should slow things down a little," Davis told FARM SHOW. He says his crops are planted and harvested a few days behind his neighbors, yet yields run about the same. "Anyone who's farming under 200 acres should be doing it this way," Davis believes.

## FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

# Toy Buildings Catching On Fast

Kids of all ages are buying up new toy buildings from Lundell Mfg. almost as fast as the Cherokee, Iowa firm can produce them.

"We originally made up a few miniature models of our Snap On Buildings for dealers to use as demonstration models," Vern Lundell, president of Lundell Mfg. told FARM SHOW. "As soon as they saw it, dealers began placing orders for the toy building. We've been bombarded with orders and have now tooled up to make the popular toy buildings available for distribution throughout the U.S. and Canada."

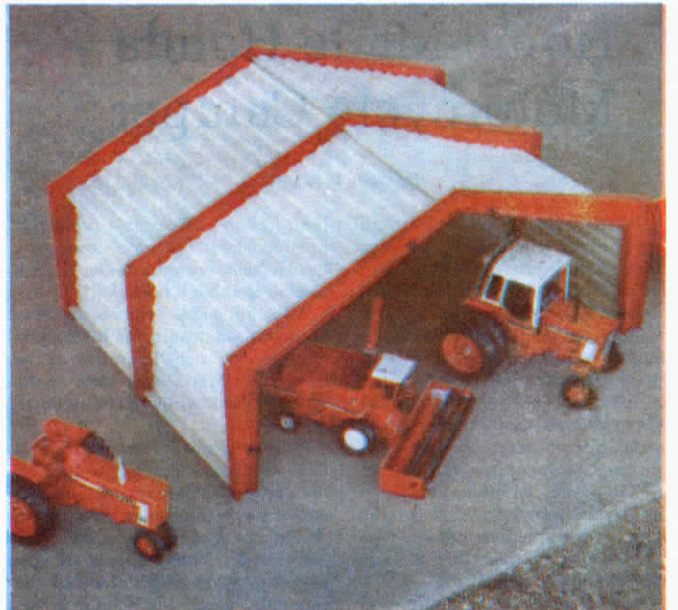
The buildings are well made and are being used for a variety of purposes. Most are being purchased by parents for their youngsters, but some

are being used to house collections of toy tractors and other miniature farm machinery.

Individual toy buildings are 28.5 in. wide, 21 in. deep and 14 in. high. Both ends are open. Two or more buildings can be tied together to form an open end building of unlimited length.

The new buildings are available in colors to match all major full line equipment, including International, Deere, Allis Chalmers, Massey Ferguson and Ford. The buildings sell for \$32.50, including shipping and handling.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lundell Mfg., Cherokee, Iowa 51012 (ph 712 225-5181).



Small-scale toy buildings are available in colors to match all major full line equipment companies.