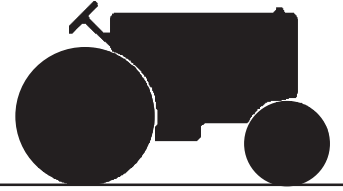


4-H Youth Development

Exploring 4-H Tractor Restoration Opportunities



The tractor project provides 4-H'ers the opportunity to explore a very wide variety of interests related to tractors. This project can include:

- gaining driving and operating skills,
- maintenance,
- repair, and
- restoration.

As you learn about tractors, plan how you can develop skills that you will use throughout your life. For example, you could develop your leadership and citizenship skills by teaching others what you have learned. By all means, learn about and practice safe operation of tractors. By putting all these areas together, you can have a fun experience and learning adventure that you can use this year and throughout your life.

This material focuses on tractor restoration. Early in your planning you will need to decide what restoration means to you. For some, restoration means bringing the tractor to usable/operational status. For others, restoration means rebuilding and repairing your tractor using new or modified parts to create a modified tractor. Hobbyists involved in tractor pulls often modify their tractors. For still others, restoration means rebuilding and repairing the tractor to near-new condition complete with new paint and appropriate decals. True restoration means restoring your tractor to “the way it was when it left the factory, not the way we wish it was.”

Below is a list of a few resources and/or ideas for you to consider as you begin to plan and develop your learning experiences for your 4-H tractor project. We cannot endorse or recommend any of the sources listed below that are not related to one of the land grant universities, such as Iowa State University. It is always a good idea to verify an idea or price from more than one source. That is a good decision-making skill to practice.

Use *Design Your Own 4-H Project* (4H-696) as a guide to help you develop a plan, set goals, and record accomplishments for your 4-H tractor project. We also suggest that you keep a record of what you do and learn on a 4-H project record form being used in your county and available from your county extension office. We recommend that you discuss your plan with an older youth or an adult who is also interested in tractors. They might have some ideas or suggestions you have not considered. By all means, have fun learning as you develop your 4-H tractor project.

Resources Printed Material

Many useful sources are available from magazine distributors, book stores, or newsstands. You may want to ask if they could order a particular book or magazine for you. For example, there are several publishers that have how-to books.

Examples of available books are:

Ageless Iron, Tractors That Live On
\$9.95 plus shipping

Successful Farming
P.O. Box 9319
Des Moines, IA 50306-9319

John Deere Tractors and Equipment
Vol. 1 1837-1959

American Society
of Agricultural Engineers
2950 Niles Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085-9659
616-429-0300
hq@asae.org

You might want to locate and use a shop manual for the tractor model you are working on. Contact your closest dealer or repair facility for help and printed material. Here is one possible commercial source of shop manuals:

Jensales Co.
P.O. Box 277
Clarks Grove, MN 56016
1-800-443-0625

Magazines are another place to look for ideas about tractor restoration. You can get lots of ideas and suggestions from these sources. You might want to select a magazine and subscribe to it for a period of time. Here are two you might consider.

Gas Engine Magazine
Deals with tractors and gas engines.
Published monthly.

Stemgas Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 328
Lancaster, PA 17608
717-392-0733

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

A catalog of printed material related to gas engine-equipped machines is available from:

Classic Motorbooks
P.O. Box 1/HM066
Osceola, WI 54020-0001
1-800-826-6600

Electronic Material

Do you have access to a computer and a modem? Search the World Wide Web for your area of interest.

Yesterday's Tractors—Farm and Tractor Books

Check here for pre-1975 new and used tractor parts. The catalog doubles as an order form.

<http://www.yesterdaystractors.com/store/index.htm>

Organizations

Many organizations and associations are interested in tractor restoration. Many Iowans have formed antique tractor clubs based on the brand of tractors. Consider contacting a club member who knows about the brand of tractor you are restoring. Again, check with your dealer, the nearest library, or ask about and watch for tractor shows in your area for help in contacting one these clubs.

The Central Hawkeye Gas Engine and Tractor Association is an example of a very active club in Iowa. They have an annual show, and many members have expressed interest in helping 4-H'ers with their restoration projects. Contact:

President Barbara Kalsem
RR 1
Cambridge, IA 50046
515-383-4371
<http://www.netins.net/showcase/bd/indexch.html>

Or, check these club newsletters:

Antique Power
Patrick Ertel
P.O. Box 838
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
<http://www.antiquepower.com/antback.shtml>

Old Abe's News (Case)
David T. Erb
Rt. 2, Box 2427
Vinton, OH 45686
<http://207.159.53.230/case/messages/1347.html>

Companies/Dealers

You are urged to check the Yellow Pages of your home town or of a larger community close to your home. Look under headings such as Tractor Repair; Tractor Dealers; Farm Equipment. You might locate businesses that are in the commercial business of restoring tractors.

Activities

There are lots of different types of activities that you could participate in or even organize as you grow older and gain greater skills. There are many antique tractor and engine shows or tractor pulls that you could attend to get lots of ideas. There are also swap meets, such as one sponsored by the Central Hawkeye Gas Engine and Tractor Association, where you could purchase the part or parts that you need, as well as gain lots of valuable information.

You might want to review or purchase the annual *Steam and Gas Show Directory*. This directory lists shows and swap meets in all of the United States. You might want to plan a traveling vacation by attending shows/meets in several states.

Steam and Gas Show Directory

Stemgas Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 328
Lancaster, PA 17608
717-392-0733

Put your ideas and these resources together to develop a 4-H tractor project that helps you learn exactly what interests you. This project is one in which you determine what you want to do, so it's called a self-determined project.

Prepared by Don Goering, former extension youth development specialist, and Sue Bogue, extension youth program specialist.

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

