Farming Today With an N-series Tractor
A Discussion Among NTC Members in November 2008

During the production years of the 2N, 9N and 8N, just how did the farmer of that era plant his crop and then bring it in? What implements were used? I have a small bit of land (6 acres) that was share-cropped with the last crop having been 'beans', but I'm not interested in continuing that any longer. I'm actually wondering if I could put a crop of beans out or corn and bring it in myself, if that is possible with a good 8N and whatever implements are needed. What all is involved in such an undertaking?

I 'm not really in a corn area (too dry here), but as I recall @200 lbs per acre to not deplete your reserves in the soil is not unusual. It really depends on how much corn you want to grow. if you want 20 bushel of corn to acre you can get by with a lot less, if you are getting 50-60 bushels to acre it takes a whole lot more!!! Corn is kind of odd in that the fertility of your soil can be directly related to your yield (actually all crops can , there are actually formulas for this),and I'm sure some of the corn growers here can tell you more than I can. By growing peas in Oklahoma according to the last report I read from OSU Tech., you can actually add up to 150lbs of nitrogen per acre to your soil, which will greatly reduce your fertilizer cost obviously. add that to the fact that they are easy to grow, make excellent livestock feed, the vines when turned under add to your soils ability to retain moisture, etc. and there are very big advantages to rotating peas or beans with corn or any other crop. I don't even worry about them actually making seed anymore; I plant them late summer, with just enough time to make a good vine. Disc or mow to chop them up, plow them under while still green, and leave to spring and plant whatever I want. I haven't used ANY fertilizer on the areas I've done this on and can see a continual increase in yields every year. The reason that you plow them under green is is like all plants most of the n is in the vines. As they dry the nitrogen actually goes down. I hope this helps I'm sure that someone else will chime in here, and can direct you to more info. Most of our farming is winter wheat; and cowpeas (black-eyed peas) make a good rotational crop for this.

Some folks in VA will plant their corn, and then once the ears are harvested, they plant beans at the base of the corn stalk. Obviously, this isn't going to work if you use implements to harvest the corn with. The bean vines grow up the useless corn stalks, you harvest the beans, and then chop both the corn stalks and bean vines up at the same time before you plow them under in the late Fall.

I've heard of that .I was experimenting in the garden last year and planted the corn in wide rows with squash in between then planted pole beans w/the corn. Corn and squash did real well but the beans didn't, I think maybe they were shaded too much. I'd read somewhere that the coons didn't like to walk in squash plants and it seemed to work. They only hit the corn on the end of the rows, where normally they would check it until it was just about ready and then the whole tribe would show up and clean most of it out overnight! I'll try planting some after I get the corn in this spring and see if that works better. Sure would save some space.

One other thing to consider, corn takes a lot of fertilizer, beans and peas not so much. This year, fertilizer got up to $1,200 a ton here. Beans and peas make nitrogen in the soil and are a good source of fertilizer if plowed under while still green. You may want to consider rotating out and planting only two to three acres at a time, plant peas, sell what you can to neighbors and then plow them under rotate in two different fields every other year and save on fertilizer costs which are one of the major costs in farming nowadays. I don't know where you're located but believe it or not, okra is a very good crop to grow for sale locally around here (Oklahoma) but it needs a LONG hot summer to grow. It will not work in a lot of places because season is not long enough. One of the neighbors here plants sweet corn, when it gets ready he puts a sign out and sells it by the bushel. When someone wants some he picks it then and fills their order the next day. He must make money at it because he's done it for years, and he always sells all he has. Sweet corn is not like field corn in that it tastes best if picked and cooked right away. This allows you to leave it on the stalk longer and not pick it all at once (up to a point of course) as you would if you are selling your whole crop say to a elevator. By doing it this way you could easily get by without a picker and save a lot more of your operating costs.

If fertilizer runs around $1,200.00 per ton, how far does that go in acres covered?

It cost @ $300 an acre total to plant corn in the spring of '08 in Virginia. That was with adequate chemical fertilizer, herbicide, big diesels ($20 an hour at rated engine speed), etc.
The field that got cultivated and side dressed was a little cheaper, and a whole lot more enjoyable since the 8N got to work out in the manner for which it was intended.
Usually takes a bushel of seed to the acre.

I'm glad you asked these questions. My wife and I are working towards self-sufficiency (as much as is reasonably possible) and have picked the 8N as our "power platform", along with a Yamaha Big Bear 4X4. The main reason in selecting an 8N was they've proven themselves reliable for around 60 years, given even token care. Supposing we rebuild the tractor from the ground up, and it runs us $10,000 (which it won't), we can't be assured that anything available new, for twice that amount, would last us as long. This club was also a major factor, as the wealth of experience available here is immeasurable. The quality of information is very good here, and that's extremely rare in my experience. I've bought hay for 3 years from a very honest and reliable farmer who is convinced that his round bales weigh 1500 lbs each. I've carried 3 of them on top of a Toyota Tundra ladder rack, and there is no way they weigh more than 500-750 tops. I'm not saying that any of the bales you'll get will weigh that, just that they vary a lot and nobody actually weighs them. All the things you want to do were first done by hand, then by horses, then by these tractors. I suppose anything is possible, given the proper platform (like the bale dolly mentioned earlier) or technique. We are farming 57 acres +-, most of that wooded. We're clearing and picking rocks as we go and it's a tremendous amount of work. We intend to grow grain for our cows, goats, and chickens, pigs, etc. We also intend (and do to a degree now) to grow our own vegetables. The highest rate of return you'll get is on what you use yourself first. Since you already buy some things (presumably) you're guaranteed sales in the amounts that you currently buy, at the prices you currently pay. A local farmer takes pre-orders on vegetables in the spring (and down payments on those veggies as well to cover fuel, fertilizer, etc). When they're ready he calls the people and some self-harvest, some don't according to their arrangements. We're always glad to hear of others doing things similar to what we do, and are also very happy the old hands on this site are sharing their experience and know how. Many of use would love to hear more posts on what it's like farming with these Fords. Maybe even a new topic page on the subject would be something to try?

As far as a list of what you will probably need if you’re starting from scratch. A good disc harrow @ $6-800 new, plow- a N was rated for two 14s @$500-$700 new, if you can find one, harrow -(spike or spring tooth) $200-$300 new, planter depending on whether you row crop or sow - $100 to $1,200 new, fertilizer spreader - $200 if you can get by with a broadcast spreader, cultivator-check out the Covington line, they have a really good two row cultivator that you can add planters or side dressers to and they are a good quality machine that's been around a while, harvester -you will be limited to what your N will pull, MAYBE a one row corn picker-or a self powered 5-6ft combine,

I don't know of anyone still making these anymore in this country so that means used. You can find (sometimes) an old AC model 60 or 66 combine for $100-$400 around here. I don't know about corn pickers as I'm not in corn country. But whatever you get, you can expect to have probably $2,000-$3,000 in it when you get it up in shape that's reliable. This is what I would consider you would need to do a good job but you might get by for a little less this is just what you will find on every farm around here. Then you would need a way of getting your crop to market of course. And probably, if it's like my place, a spray-rig of some type will be needed. ONE word of advice if I may, if your out looking at small combines remember that a lot of these used canvases (drapers) to feed from cutter bar to the combine itself. If possible, find one that has these with it and they are good! The last set I checked on for a 60" Allcrop was almost $1,000 at the dealer. I had some made for less but this is generally what costs the most on these old machines and is also what's normally wore out or missing. If you can find a old machine that's not in real good shape that has these, it's probably a better buy than one that's in better shape without them. Good luck, there's still a lot of farm sales going on this time of year and you may find some good used equipment for a good price if you look around, just know what your buying and don't pay more than its worth! If it's like around this part of the country you can buy equipment for the bigger tractors cheaper than these .I think everyone wants them to put in food plots for deer.

You absolutely can farm 6 acres with a n and as many more as you can get your hands on. However, the problem is not if you can but do you have the time? Six acres pulling a plow that turns 28" a pass takes time, it will do just as good a job as any tractor but it will take a lot longer. Disc to chop up weeds and break up topsoil, plow to turn under weeds or residue, disc again to break up clods, harrow to level and make fine seedbed if your using a planter to put in crops at a consistent level, cultivate between rows 2-3 times, then harvest with combine or picker. That's A LOT of trips around a field. The biggest advantage of a bigger tractor is time savings and the ability to combine two or more operations into one pass. Back a few years ago I was plowing with a John Deere. I had plowed for two days daylight to dark, stopping only to refuel. A neighbor pulled in across the road with his big Versatile and in one pass had more ground plowed than I did. If you have the time, you certainly can farm it but you may want decide if you want to commit that much time before you start. What Ed and the others failed to tell you is that when we were farming our 120 acres (160 in my case) that we were out in the field at dawn to start plowing, the tractor rarely shut off except for gas until job was done. Sometimes that was 2-3 days of CONTINUOUS running with dad, brothers, sometimes uncles and hired help working in shifts day and night - planting the same way, hoeing weeds out of rows all summer then at harvest time hitting fields again day and night until crops were in. IT CAN BE DONE but it isn't and never was EASY! In my opinion, you might be better off planting a variety of crops, truck farm style, for the simple fact that you can plant different crops at different times and harvest at different times .this spreads your work out over a longer period but it also stops you from (for the most part) having to work until all your crops are in all at once.

I grew up in the '50s with a '52 8N and a '48 Farmall H. We farmed about 120 acres while my father worked for Ford Motor Company. Our soils were sandy-loam, which is a lighter soil and some of it could be very wet in the spring and fall. The two tractors were about equal in plowing ability. The H pulled a 2-14 trailer plow and the N pulled 2-14 mounted. The N in 2nd gear and the H in 3rd gear maintained a steady and even pace. Advantage went to the N for clearing out debris by lifting the plow and backing up. The H had to lift, go out of the furrow, make a circle back to the furrow and drop back into it.
We had a mounted 6' disc for the N and a "drag behind" 7' disc for the H to break up the plowed ground. We used a 4-section "drag behind" spring tooth harrow behind the H for the finish prep before planting.
Planting was done with a two row trailer type planter that either tractor pulled and the other hauled seed and fertilizer. We had set our planter for 34 inch rows for both corn and soy beans. That way we didn't spend a lot of time setting up for different crops. This was at a time that corn typically was planted in 40" rows (I think a carryover from farming with horses) and soy beans were planted in 28" rows.
Both tractors had cultivators. The H was a two row with what was called a delayed lift. When you reached the end of the rows, the front gang came up with the touch control and then the rear gang came up just as the tractor rear wheels reached the head rows. The ford cultivator was the rigid shank rear mount 3 point.
For harvesting we had a Woods Brothers Dearborn one row corn picker driven by the PTO. The Ford could pull it but the H had more power for it. We would use the Ford to spot the wagons, haul them home and, with the front brush guard/hitch, push them into the barn.
We had a Woods Brothers Dearborn 6' head combine with it's own engine. Again, either tractor could pull it but the H had more power.
I don't know if you could find any of the harvesting equipment today although I was at an auction several years ago that had a corn picker like ours. It went for $25.
Also, in Wisconsin (I don't remember exactly where) there is a bone yard that has (had) 7 or 8 corn pickers. The owner told me that one time FoMoCo hired him to provide a corn picker for a lawsuit defense. I don't remember if there was a combine there. I suspect that most of this stuff has gone to salvage, like this past summer when iron was over $200 per ton.

I have fond memories of that era but also remember the long hours, late nights, cold harvests and often being caught in the rain a mile from home, breakdowns and some bad crops due to weather.
I also have a permanent twist in my lower back (per x-rays) from so many hours twisting and looking over my right shoulder while working with the 8N. Although the picker head and the combine cutting head were on the left side.

I am not sure where you are, but here in Virginia a good cash crop is Tomatoes.
You can easily plow and disc the soil with an N and harvesting is mainly by hand.
The guys around here that grow and sell "organic" crops are always looking for more growers. Specialty items like Lettuce, Eggplant, Squash and green peppers are easy to grow and are also harvested by hand... You just need a good sales outlet for when they all come in at once, or you can stagger your planting times.

The 8N will do all the soil prep stuff and cultivating just fine. It will also manage a small 10 to 13 spout grain drill or a two row lift type planter for corn or beans. Check out the Covington products.
For harvesting Ford made a mounted one row corn picker, however I'm not sure the 8N could handle it. On level ground the 8N could probably run a pull type corn picker of the New Idea type. I've used the 8N to test run ours after repairs but never in the field. The pickers both require a wagon to catch and haul the corn. Any hills could make things dangerous as picker and wagon would outweigh the tractor.
Allis Chalmers made a nice All-Crop Harvester to use on beans and small grain. They had a lot of wooden parts in them so one that's been sitting outdoors is a parts only machine. The 8N will pull the 60 inch wide one, but only just barely.
Dad tells about making driver changes on the fly to avoid stopping the machine once they got it going, but at the time they were pulling it with the slightly less powerful 9N. He said landing on the foot peg was challenging.
6 acres would be pretty tight for any bovine type critters to coexist with any crops at all; need most of it for grazing.
Some of the All-Crop Harvesters have the optional bagging attachment which requires someone to ride on the machine and tie and place the bags while the luckier guy drives the tractor. The bagging platform is a little on the dusty side.

I think you are asking a question many of us have pondered. Also, what to plant and how to market/utilize your crop?
An N could easily farm 6 acres with, as others have said, a plow, disc and maybe a cultivator. A one or 2 row corn planter would be handy. Many had changeable seed plates and would plant a variety of seeds.
I do think the choke point is going to be finding suitable harvesting equipment. Most everything of that scale and era will have already been melted down.
I remember when my older cousin rented a field from my grand dad. He put corn in there a couple of times. Once I know he chopped the corn and put it in his silo. But other times I remember him hand picking the ears - dragging a gunny sack along and emptying it when it was full. It was about 6 acres. I think usually he just raised hay there.
I was 16 when we moved onto the farm and Dad and I cut that field several times with an Allis B and a JD #5 horse drawn mower. We raked it into piles with a dump rake then used hay forks to load it onto the hay rack, then into the haymow. We raised 3 Herefords that year.
Just got some lab work back last week. Gained 12 lbs. last year, cholesterol and BP are both up. It would do me good to snap the ears or fork up the hay on 6 acres about now.
I don't recall the exact payment Grandpa got from that field.
I know our cousin gave him a feeder pig and a quart of whiskey every year.
He raised a pig every year that I can remember him.
He raised the quart more often than that.

My .02 worth....you might be able to break even more quickly on 6 acres if you grow something organically (i.e. no chemical pesticides, etc.) over the various seasons (not sure where you live). I don't know if you have a market for this type of product nearby, or if you have the time to invest (along w/ money) to get the soil prepped & your crop planted & harvested. It will likely take a couple of years to figure out what works for you.

If you go that route the crop will likely have to be hand harvested. I don't know of any 8N-sized harvesting equipment other than for hay or corn.

More and more small operations are starting up around the country to grow specialized organic produce. The 8N & some of the original Dearborn and Ferguson implements would be ideal for organic farming since none of the chemical sprays, etc. had been invented yet.

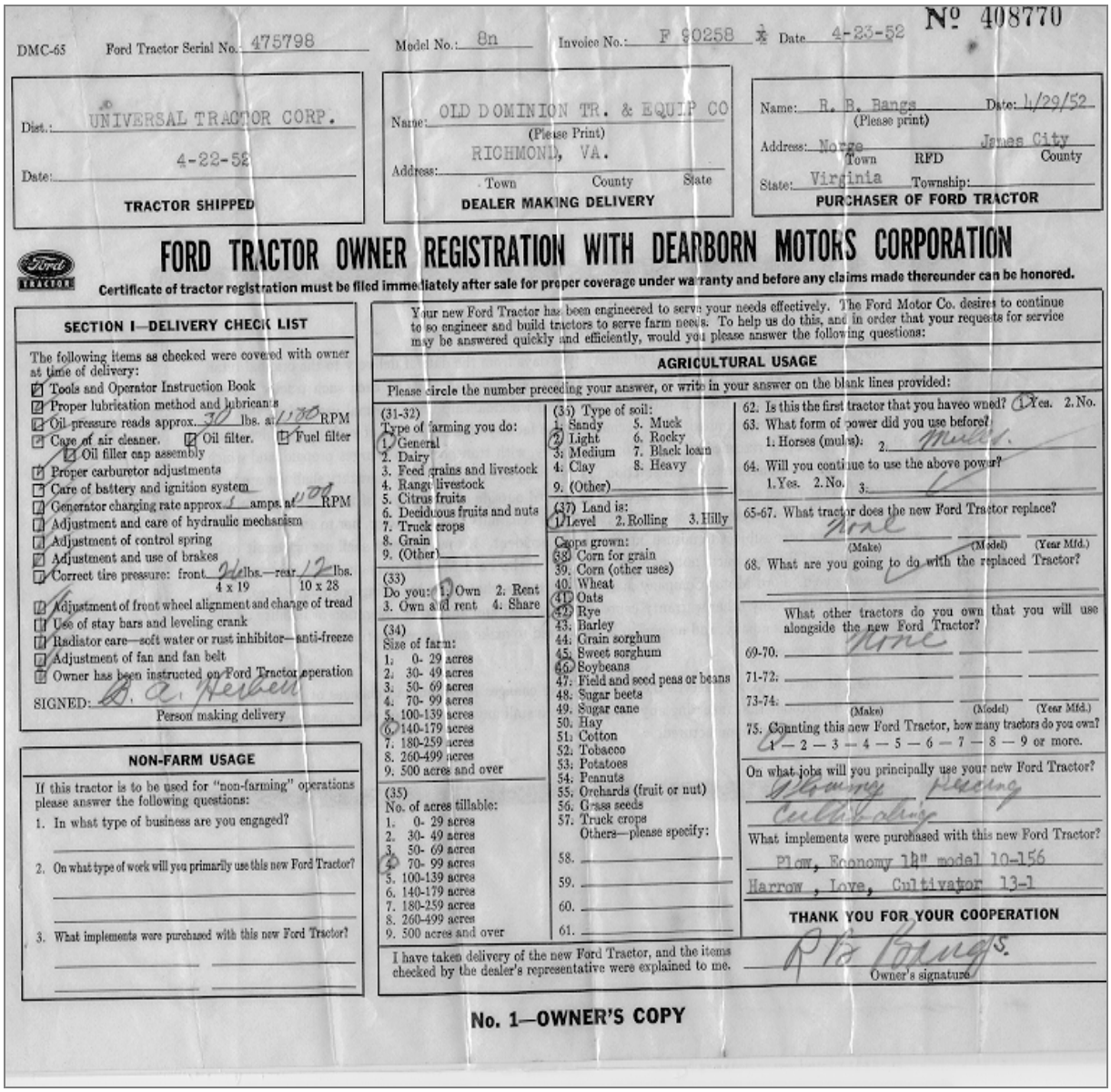
My family used nothing but a 9n and a 2n on our 200 acre working farm for 40 years. The newer tractors are definitely more convenient and will handle better equipment but it can be done.

I think the straight answer to your question is "yes" you could easily farm that six acres with an 8N. You would need a one or two-bottom plow to turn the soil over on weeds/dead crop/turf, etc. to have it rot and enrich the soil. A disc harrow would help bust up plow clods, chop up any growth, smooth the soil, even prepare seed beds. A cultivator would help control weeds. A 4 or 5' bush hog would help shred corn stalks so you could plow them under in the fall, but I've also used my disc harrow to do this by going over them several times (more seat time).

You can get detailed info on all of these implements in our Manuals section here by reading the owner's and dealer parts manuals on them.

Here in central Virginia, a nice two-bottom plow will run up to $350, a tandem disc harrow about the same, a rigid shank or spring tine cultivator will run $250-350 and a 5' bush hog will run from $100 - $500 depending on brand and condition.

When I bought my '52 8N, I was fortunate enough to also acquire the original invoice, customer registration and owner's manual with it. Check out the customer registration and survey and you'll note that the buyer farmed 70+ acres with his 8N, 2-bottom plow, tandem disc harrow and cultivator:



DMC-65 Ford Tractor Serial No. 475798 Model No.: 8n Invoice No.: F 90258 X Date 4-23-52 № 408770

Dist.: UNIVERSAL TRACTOR CORP.
Date: 4-22-52
TRACTOR SHIPPED

Name: OLD DOMINION TR. & EQUIP CO (Please Print)
Address: RICHMOND, VA. (Town, County, State)
DEALER MAKING DELIVERY

Name: R. B. Bangs (Please print) Date: 4/29/52
Address: Norge (Town) James City (RFD, County)
State: Virginia Township:
PURCHASER OF FORD TRACTOR

FORD TRACTOR OWNER REGISTRATION WITH DEARBORN MOTORS CORPORATION

Certificate of tractor registration must be filed immediately after sale for proper coverage under warranty and before any claims made thereunder can be honored.

SECTION I—DELIVERY CHECK LIST

The following items as checked were covered with owner at time of delivery:

- ☑ Tools and Operator Instruction Book
- ☑ Proper lubrication method and lubricants
- ☑ Oil pressure reads approx. 30 lbs. at 1100 RPM
- ☑ Care of air cleaner. ☑ Oil filter. ☑ Fuel filter. ☑ Oil filler cap assembly
- ☑ Proper carburetor adjustments
- ☑ Care of battery and ignition system
- ☑ Generator charging rate approx. 7 amps. at 1000 RPM
- ☑ Adjustment and care of hydraulic mechanism
- ☑ Adjustment of control spring
- ☑ Adjustment and use of brakes
- ☑ Correct tire pressure: front 24 lbs. (4 x 19) — rear 12 lbs. (10 x 28)
- ☑ Adjustment of front wheel alignment and change of tread
- ☑ Use of stay bars and leveling crank
- ☑ Radiator care—soft water or rust inhibitor—anti-freeze
- ☑ Adjustment of fan and fan belt
- ☑ Owner has been instructed on Ford Tractor operation

SIGNED: B. A. Herbert
Person making delivery

NON-FARM USAGE

If this tractor is to be used for "non-farming" operations please answer the following questions:

1. In what type of business are you engaged?
2. On what type of work will you primarily use this new Ford Tractor?
3. What implements were purchased with this new Ford Tractor?

Your new Ford Tractor has been engineered to serve your needs effectively. The Ford Motor Co. desires to continue to so engineer and build tractors to serve farm needs. To help us do this, and in order that your requests for service may be answered quickly and efficiently, would you please answer the following questions:

AGRICULTURAL USAGE

Please circle the number preceding your answer, or write in your answer on the blank lines provided:

(31-32) Type of farming you do:
1. General
2. Dairy
3. Feed grains and livestock
4. Range livestock
5. Citrus fruits
6. Deciduous fruits and nuts
7. Truck crops
8. Grain
9. (Other)

(33) Do you: 1. Own 2. Rent 3. Own and rent 4. Share

(34) Size of farm:
1. 0- 29 acres
2. 30- 49 acres
3. 50- 69 acres
4. 70- 99 acres
5. 100-139 acres
6. 140-179 acres
7. 180-259 acres
8. 260-499 acres
9. 500 acres and over

(35) No. of acres tillable:
1. 0- 29 acres
2. 30- 49 acres
3. 50- 69 acres
4. 70- 99 acres
5. 100-139 acres
6. 140-179 acres
7. 180-259 acres
8. 260-499 acres
9. 500 acres and over

(35) Type of soil:
1. Sandy 5. Muck
2. Light 6. Rocky
3. Medium 7. Black loam
4. Clay 8. Heavy
9. (Other)

(37) Land is:
1. Level 2. Rolling 3. Hilly

Crops grown:
38. Corn for grain
39. Corn (other uses)
40. Wheat
41. Oats
42. Rye
43. Barley
44. Grain sorghum
45. Sweet sorghum
46. Soybeans
47. Field and seed peas or beans
48. Sugar beets
49. Sugar cane
50. Hay
51. Cotton
52. Tobacco
53. Potatoes
54. Peanuts
55. Orchards (fruit or nut)
56. Grass seeds
57. Truck crops

Others—please specify:
58.
59.
60.
61.

62. Is this the first tractor that you have owned? 1. Yes. 2. No.
63. What form of power did you use before?
1. Horses (mules): 2. Mules.
64. Will you continue to use the above power?
1. Yes. 2. No. 3.

65-67. What tractor does the new Ford Tractor replace?
None (Make) (Model) (Year Mfd.)
68. What are you going to do with the replaced Tractor?

What other tractors do you own that you will use alongside the new Ford Tractor?
69-70. None
71-72.
73-74. (Make) (Model) (Year Mfd.)
75. Counting this new Ford Tractor, how many tractors do you own?
1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 or more.

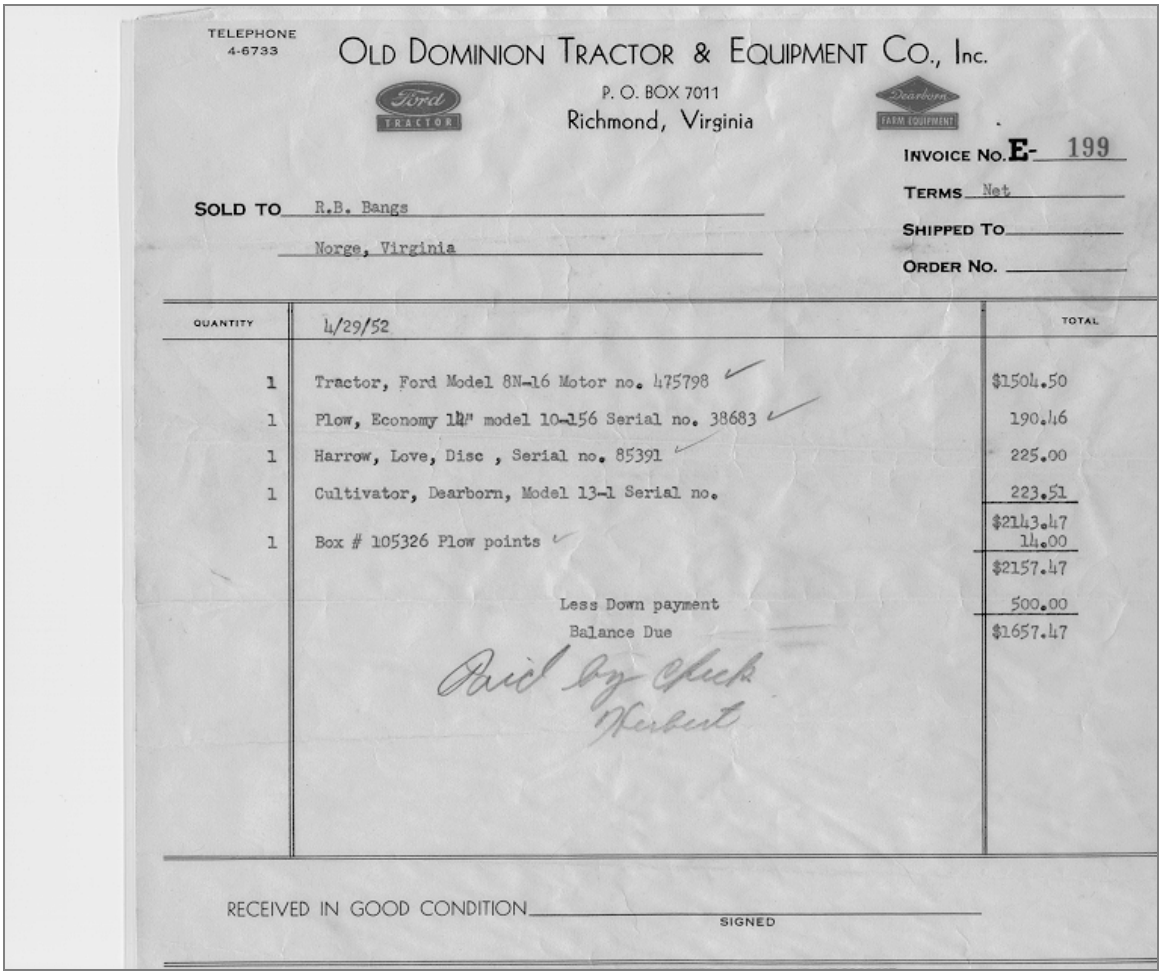
On what jobs will you principally use your new Ford Tractor?
Plowing Planting Cultivating

What implements were purchased with this new Ford Tractor?
Plow, Economy 14" model 10-156
Harrow, Love, Cultivator 13-1

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

I have taken delivery of the new Ford Tractor, and the items checked by the dealer's representative were explained to me.
R B Bangs
Owner's signature

No. 1—OWNER'S COPY



TELEPHONE 4-6733

OLD DOMINION TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO., Inc.

Ford TRACTOR

P. O. BOX 7011
Richmond, Virginia

Dearborn FARM EQUIPMENT

INVOICE NO. E- 199

TERMS Net

SOLD TO R.B. Bangs
Norge, Virginia

SHIPPED TO

ORDER NO.

QUANTITY	4/29/52	TOTAL
1	Tractor, Ford Model 8N-16 Motor no. 475798	$1504.50
1	Plow, Economy 14" model 10-156 Serial no. 38683	190.46
1	Harrow, Love, Disc , Serial no. 85391	225.00
1	Cultivator, Dearborn, Model 13-1 Serial no.	223.51
		$2143.47
1	Box # 105326 Plow points	14.00
		$2157.47
	Less Down payment	500.00
	Balance Due	$1657.47

Paid by check
Herbert

RECEIVED IN GOOD CONDITION _____ SIGNED

Thank you very much Ed, for this straightforward explanation of simple farming with a small tractor. We have never farmed and just didn't know how it was done. I invited my wife and son to read your reply as well as we are all interested in learning just what we may be able to do with our small plot of land with our 8N tractors (besides building a small home on it). We are also tinkering with the idea of possibly growing corn and or hay to help feed a couple of cattle for our freezer. On a kind of funny note, at least to me anyway, I was the character who wrote in to this forum a long time ago concerning safety issues I had with no roll bar on my 8N with a Sherman digger and a Dearborn front loader. Although I am very safety conscious, I regret having called that particular tractor a 'death trap'. I was trying to use it like a full size Case backhoe for house building and obviously, I couldn't. Talk about coming full circle! Now, I wouldn't part with either tractor under any conditions. With the political realities we are all facing and this economy, these tractors help provide one more step toward a more independent lifestyle.

Start by reading The Plow Book in our manuals section. It will walk you through using a bottom plow to open the land that you want to plant crops on. If you change your mind and decide to only plant hay you may not need the plow, as you could use a disc harrow to prep the ground for the seed. Reading the owner's manuals for the various implements will show you how to use them. After that, it's just a matter of hooking them up and doing so. You'll learn as you use them and get better every time out.

Growing hay would involve at least three more implements: sickle bar mower, rake and baler. Personally, I'm not sure it's worth it for a couple cows as just buying bales from a neighbor or local coop would be far less expensive. Plus, the 8N is not a good baling tractor. You'd pretty much have to find an old Dearborn baler with a dedicated Wisconsin engine to operate the baler - trying to operate it via your PTO would be a real pain.

Thanks a lot Ed. One of my friends just brought in his first crop of hay several weeks ago and told me his 9N just didn't have enough A-- to (spike?) the rolled up bales and move them and I think he ended up needing help from a bigger tractor. I'm going to get with our county Ag. agent, the farmer's co-op and a couple of older farmers for more information also.
Thanks again.

Yep, that's asking a little too much, especially if the bales are wet. Lifting capacity for healthy N hydraulics is in the neighborhood of 800 lbs. The large round bales can go higher. However, if an N is all you have, instead of mounting a spike you can find what's called a bale buggy that is towed by the N and lifts the bales onto a 2-wheeled axle carrier to move them from the field.

Round bales will shed water same way a thatched roof does. In six months of weathering there will be around 4 inches of loss due to deterioration. Since that is around the outermost circumference it equals quite a bit of material. Covering with woven tarps works OK, provided the wind doesn't tear the cover off. Plastic sheeting allows moisture from condensation to accumulate and actually rots more material than open uncovered storage.
We start by stuffing as many bales as possible under roof, with better quality stuff getting priority. We feed the outdoor stored bales first. Mice are very destructive of baled straw and can reduce a round bale of it to a pile of loose shredded pudgins in a matter of a month or so. Blasted rodents actually devour portions of the strings. They do the same to square baled straw. There are very likely farmers in your area who can provide some of the more specialized equipment on a for-hire or custom work basis, usually for a per acre fee. The 8N can handle everything about making hay except the actual baling.

Though commercially farming corn or beans on a small parcel of land is theoretically possible it is not practical with an 8N, or, for that matter, anything else. Commercial farming has witnessed a sea change since the days of the Ns.

Just my opinion, but if you can find someone to share crop it I advise you to jump on it.

Dean is correct, however, if you are just looking to "farm for a hobby, something to do for fun kind of thing" you would need at least a plow, disc, cultivator, sprayer, planter, and harvesting equipment for the 8N. The cost of the equipment vs. what you are going to get from the beans/corn/hay etc. on 6 acres may be prohibitive.

I currently use an 8N to plow/disc and chop corn stalks on 35 acres and have the neighbor plant, and harvest as I have not been able to locate decent "original" implements so far for the planting/harvesting.

If you are doing it for the fun of using old iron, and cost is no problem, I would say go for it---

What do you chop corn stalks for? Is it to enrich the soil? Is it feasible to raise feed for a couple of cattle hay/corn using 8N's and the right implements?

I chop up the corn stalks and plow them back into the soil. It allows the plow to work easier than on the standing stalks (my Amish neighbors hand pick the corn)and helps retain moisture in the soil.

I don't know much about raising cattle, but if I wanted to learn, I would contact your county USDA-NRCS via the web or call them. They are very helpful.

As far as stocking rate, look at the 'Soil Survey' from USDA-NRCS and determine soil type then refer to the table of AUM (animal unit months). This will let you determine stocking rate.

If you only have 6 acres of corn, you can actually pick that much by hand in a day or two. I used to do it when I was a teen ager back in 1949. You can pick 100 bushels a day by hand.

My neighbor uses a 800 series tractor to plant and cultivate acres of corn , tomatoes and pumpkins. He's retired - so he has the time. He hand picks. As far as I know, he simply sells the produce on the side of the road.