

Subject: Restoring Old Tractors

Story summary: Many farmers spend much of their time aboard tractors getting work done. An increasing number are making antique tractors part of their leisure time by collecting, restoring and showing what they refer to as “old iron.”

TRT: 1:26

Suggested lead: The preservation of our agricultural heritage has become a popular recreation. Tom Steever reports on what draws people to old tractors.

Suggested supers: Sandwich, Illinois
@ :08

Terry Eipers
Illinois tractor collector
@ :18

Fremont Hoover
Indiana tractor collector
@ :40

Rusty Stephens
Iowa tractor collector
@ :48

Tom Steever reporting
@ 1:12

Restoring Old Tractors
Tom Steever Reporting
July 27, 2000

<p>Z-out from big tractor to old smaller one</p> <p>Sandwich, Illinois</p>	<p>VO/ THESE MACHINES HAVE CONTRIBUTED UNTOLD AMOUNTS TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY OVER THE PAST CENTURY. THEY STILL DO, BUT NOW PEOPLE HAVE A KEEN INTEREST IN PRESERVING THEM. THEY ALSO GET A TREMENDOUS KICK OUT OF SHOWING THEM OFF. AND, IN MOST CASES, COLOR MATTERS.</p>
<p>Terry Eipers Illinois tractor collector</p> <p>Tilt up sign to tractor</p>	<p>SOT/ “Red – all of the old I-H guys like to show off their red tractors and everybody likes to paint ‘em up, show off that shiny paint.”</p>
<p>John Deeres</p> <p>Oliver tractor</p> <p>Case tractor</p> <p>Tractors on parade</p>	<p>VO/ TRACTOR MANUFACTURERS IDENTIFY CLOSELY WITH SPECIFIC PAINT COLORS OFTEN BUILDING LIFETIME LOYALTY TO THE COLOR ITSELF. BUT THOSE WHO RESTORE AND SHOW OLD TRACTORS DO IT FOR MANY REASONS.</p>
<p>Fremont Hoover Indiana tractor collector</p>	<p>SOT/ “And I think more than a few people restore a tractor because they identify with that tractor and they want to become new again.”</p>

<p>Rusty Stephens Iowa tractor collector</p> <p>Rusty's son</p>	<p>SOT/ "I saw this as a way of getting my son's interest, that we could do something together and have fun with. And I'm having, I think, more fun than he is right now."</p>
<p>Stephens moves tractor</p> <p>Tractor and tree</p>	<p>VO/ STEPHENS ADMITS HE HAS FUN ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS ANTIQUE THAT STOOD IN ONE PLACE A LONG TIME.</p>
<p>Stephens</p>	<p>SOT/ "But I think it's important to preserve this era of our farming."</p>
<p>Tractors parading</p> <p>Tom Steever reporting</p> <p>People looking at tractor</p>	<p>VO/ PERHAPS WHAT ANTIQUE TRACTOR COLLECTORS LIKE MOST IS BEING AROUND OTHERS WHO APPRECIATE OLD IRON.</p>
<p>Eipers sot</p> <p>Z-out old tractor</p>	<p>SOT/ "The biggest thing about tractor collecting is friendship. That's what it's all about."</p>
	<p>VO/ IN SANDWICH, ILLINOIS, I'M TOM STEEVER.</p>