

Henry Ford (left) built many experimental tractors before actually putting one into mass production. This experimental model, which he called an "automobile plow," was built in 1907. Gasoline powered, it was one of his

first attempts toward a light, sturdy, inexpensive machine that the average farmer could afford.

## Through the Years with Ford Tractor

1907 - Henry Ford builds one of his first gasoline-powered experimental tractors, capable of pulling a single-bottom plow, and calls it an "automobile plow."

1907 to 1916 - Mr. Ford builds more than 50 experimental tractors searching for the right tractor to put into production.

1917 - British government requests assistance from Mr. Ford in building large quantities of tractors to help raise urgently needed food to counteract the effect of enemy blockade during World War I.

October 8 - First Fordson rolls off assembly line at Brady Street and Michigan Avenue in Dearborn, Mich. Six months later, British order for 7,000 Fordsons is filled.

1917 to 1928 - U.S. Fordson production totals 739,977 tractors. For

some years during the 1920's, 75 percent of all tractors built in the U.S. are Fordsons.

1929 - Ford tractor manufacturing is transferred to Cork, Ireland, and later to Dagenham, England. Fordsons built at two sites are sold in U.S. as well as United Kingdom and in export markets.

1939 - Ford builds in Dearborn the 9N tractor - one of the world's first production tractors with three-point hitch and a hydraulic system which enables the operator to raise or lower attached implements by hydraulic controls.

1947 - The 8N tractor is introduced.

1949 - Ford builds 103,463 model 8N tractors, the largest 12-month total of tractors produced to date by one manufacturer.

Ford pioneers industrial equip-

ment business with introduction of industrial loaders, backhoes, and trenchers to team with the 8N.

1952 - The Dagenham Plant produces the Fordson Major tractor. The Major becomes Ford's most widely exported tractor and establishes the company in many world markets.

1955 - Five new Ford tractor models in two power series are introduced in making the company a multiple tractor model manufacturer for the first time.

1956 - Ford becomes the first to introduce power steering as standard equipment in all row-crop farm tractors.

1958 - Ford unveils first American-built diesel engines for tractors (Ford models 901 and 801).

Ford announces company's first



Ford 2310 Tractor

industrial tractors (Series 1800) available with a 2,500-pound loader.

1961 - Model 4000 and 2000 industrial tractors are introduced.

1962 - Blue and white selected as standardized colors for Ford farm tractors.

1964 - Manufacturing and assembly operations begin at new Basildon, England, and Antwerp, Belgium, plants.

Ford announces a single series of tractor models for worldwide markets - tractors to meet power needs of farmers throughout the world.

1965 - Ford lawn and garden tractors debut.

1967 - New Romeo, Mich., Equipment Plant assembles its first industrial tractor-loader-backhoe rigs.

Ford introduces model 5500 industrial tractor-loader-backhoe - largest in TLB line.

Ford unveils "Auto-Dig," a revolutionary tractor backhoe option that automatically assists digging cycle.

1968 - First 100-horse-power-plus Ford farm tractor - the model 8000 - is introduced.

1969 - Ford introduces 131-horsepower model 9000 farm tractor - most powerful Ford tractor produced to date.

1971 - Ford introduces 83-horsepower turbocharged, model 7000 farm tractor with revolutionary Load Monitor - a hydraulic draft control system designed to boost productivity through more versatile implement control.

Rider mower and chain saw lines unveiled as company forms new Consumer Products Department.

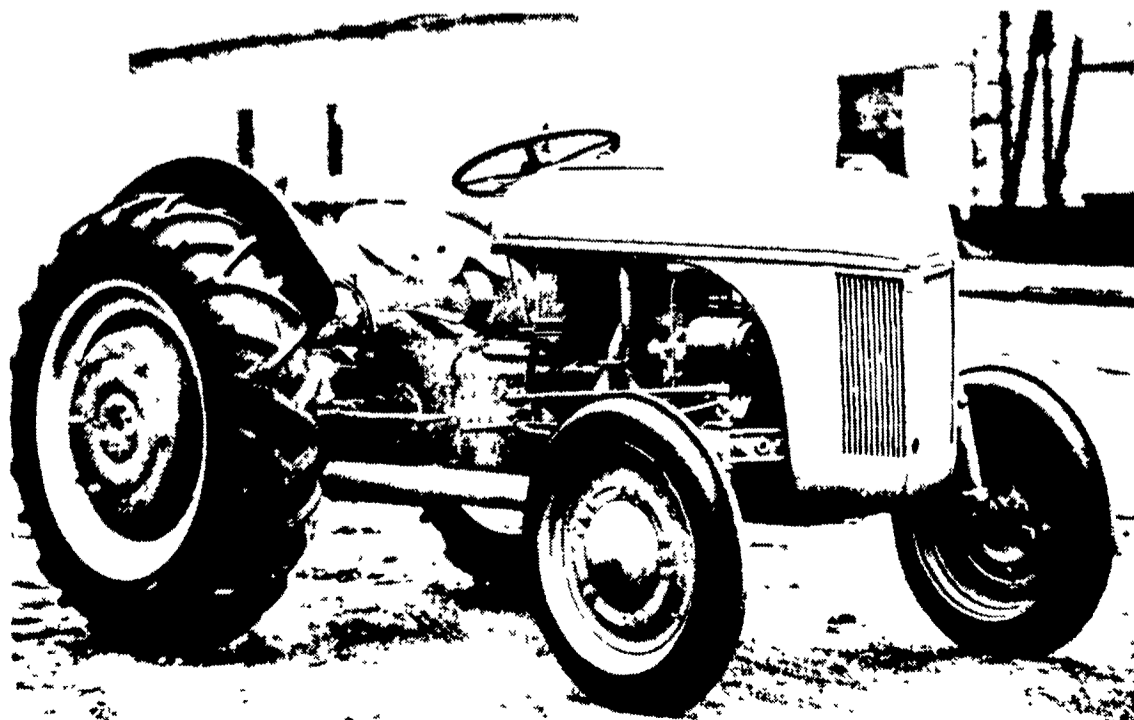
1972 - Expansion of Romeo, Mich., facility announced. It will consolidate work previously done at plants in Des Moines, Iowa; Highland Park, Royal Oak and Romeo - all in Mich.

1973 - Ford expands range of farm tractors, introducing new bottom-of-the-line model 100, 23-horsepower, and 135-horsepower model 9600, Ford's largest, most powerful.

New top-of-the-line model 7500 and 6500 tractor-loader-backhoes announced by Ford.

1974 - New walk-behind lawn

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Ford 9N