Finding Aid for

FORD TRACTOR AND IMPLEMENT LITERATURE COLLECTION, 1917-1986 (bulk 1948-1962)
Accession 179

Finding Aid Republished: March 2011
OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 179

CREATOR: Ford Motor Company Archives

TITLE: Ford Tractor and Implement Literature collection

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1917-1986

BULK DATES: 1948-1962

QUANTITY: 7.4 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are primarily in English. Among the other languages represented are Danish, Dutch, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Ukrainian.

ABSTRACT: The intentionally assembled collection contains product literature and parts and service publications for Ford tractors, implements, and accessories.
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The collection is open for research.

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HISTORICAL NOTE

Henry Ford had a personal interest in tractors and began building experimental tractors in the early 1900s. He wanted to mass produce a tractor for farmers that was light, sturdy, and affordable. Ford demonstrated tractors at state fairs with much success. In England, British officials were interested in using Ford tractors to help alleviate World War I food shortages.

In response, Henry Ford established Henry Ford & Son, Inc.; began mass producing the Fordson tractor at his Brady Street plant in Dearborn, Michigan; and during 1917 and 1918, shipped the tractors to England. In 1919, the first Fordson tractor was produced in Cork, Ireland. After Henry Ford bought out Ford Motor Company minority stockholders in 1919, Ford dissolved Henry Ford & Son, Inc. and transferred the manufacturing and sale of Fordson tractors to Ford Motor Company. Production continued in Cork until the end of 1921 when it was shifted to the new Rouge plant in Dearborn, Michigan. Fordson tractors were produced at the Rouge plant until 1928. In 1929, all Fordson tractor production was transferred to Cork, Ireland. In 1933, production of the Fordson tractor moved from Cork to Dagenham, England. From 1929 to 1938, tractors built in Cork, Ireland, and Dagenham, England were sold in the United Kingdom and exported to the United States.

In 1938, Henry Ford entered into a verbal agreement with Harry Ferguson to produce a Ford tractor with a three point implement hitch called the "Ferguson System." Based on the Ford-Ferguson agreement, the 9N tractor was marketed by the Ferguson-Sherman Company, and later Harry Ferguson, Inc. Production of the 9N Ford tractor at the Rouge plant in Dearborn began in 1939 and ceased in 1942 due to World War II. The 9N Ford tractor was replaced by the 2N Ford tractor from 1942 to 1947 and later the 8N from 1947 to 1952. In 1947, Henry Ford II terminated the Ford-Ferguson agreement and established Dearborn Motors Corporation to distribute Ford tractors and implements. In 1953, Ford Motor Company assumed the distribution of Ford tractors and implements and established the Ford Tractor Division.

In 1953, the NAA Golden Jubilee Ford tractor was introduced in honor of Ford Motor Company's 50th anniversary. In 1954, Ford Tractor Operations was reorganized into the Tractor and Implement Division. In 1955, Ford Motor company offered five new models, which was the first time the company produced multiple tractor models in one year. In 1962, Tractor and Implement Operations (U.S.) was formed, which was responsible for the design, manufacture, and distribution of Ford tractors and equipment for farm and industrial uses. In 1965, Ford Motor Company began producing lawn and garden tractors. In 1974, new "walk behind lawn mowers" were introduced. In 1986, Ford Motor Company acquired Sperry New Holland, merged it with Ford Tractor Operations, and created a new separate company called Ford New Holland, Inc.
**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Ford Tractor and Implement Literature collection is an intentionally assembled collection that is arranged into two series. The **Ford Tractor Product Literature series**, circa 1917-1986 (2.2 cubic ft.), consists of sales and promotional materials used to market and sell Ford agricultural equipment. The series is arranged into five subseries. The **Tractors subseries**, 1922-1986 (1.2 cubic ft.), includes product literature for County, Ford, and Fordson tractors. The product literature for Ford tractors includes farm tractors, industrial tractors, and lawn and garden tractors. The **Implements subseries**, 1922-1986 (0.4 cubic ft.), includes product literature for the following farm implement makes: Big Blue, Covington, Danuser, Dearborn, Dearborn-Peoria, Dearborn-Wood Bros., Ford, Fordson, Taylor, and Towner. The product literature for implements includes blades, combines, corn pickers, corn planters, cultivators, harrows, hay balers, lime and fertilizer spreaders, loaders, manure spreaders, middlebusters, mowers, plows, post hole diggers, rakes, scoops, snow removal equipment, subsoilers, wagons, and other agricultural implements. The **Parts and Accessories subseries**, 1950-1985 (0.2 cubic ft.), includes product literature for parts and accessories used on tractors and implements. The **Foreign Language subseries**, circa 1917-1955 (0.2 cubic ft.), includes product literature for Ford and Fordson tractors printed in Danish, Dutch, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, and Ukrainian. Product literature for Ford New Holland, Inc. is not included in this collection. See the trade catalog collection for product literature for tractors, implements, and accessories produced by Ford New Holland, Inc. The **Dealer Services subseries**, 1917-1985 (0.2 cubic ft.), consists of promotional material and sales aids directed at tractor dealers to assist in selling tractors, implements, and service parts.

The **Ford Tractor Parts and Service series**, 1917-1984 (5.2 cubic ft.), consists of service publications, technical information, and parts lists for the maintenance and repair of Ford agricultural equipment. The series is arranged into four subseries. The **Tractor subseries**, 1917-1984 (2.6 cubic ft.), includes operators’ manuals, parts catalogs, service manuals, service warranties, and other parts and service literature for Ford and Fordson tractors. The **Implements subseries**, 1947-1962 (1.6 cubic ft.), includes master parts books, temporary parts lists, assembly and operating instructions and other parts and service literature for the following farm implement makes: Danuser, Dearborn, Dearborn-Peoria, Dearborn-Wood Bros., Ford, Litchfield, Taylor, and Towner. Types of implements included are: blades, combines, corn pickers, corn planters, cultivators, harrows, hay balers, lime and fertilizer spreaders, loaders, manure spreaders, middlebusters, mowers, plows, post hole diggers, scoops, snow removal equipment, subsoilers, wagons, and other agricultural implements. The **Parts and Accessories subseries**, circa 1927-1984 (0.6 cubic ft.), includes parts and service literature for parts and accessories used on tractors and implements. The **Foreign Language subseries**, circa 1917-1938 (0.4 cubic ft.), includes parts and service literature for Ford and Fordson tractors printed in Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Danish, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, and Turkish.
SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate
Ford Motor Company. Ford Tractor Division.
Ford Motor Company. Tractor & Implement Division.
Ford Motor Company. Tractor & Implement Operations.
Ford Motor Company. Tractor Division.
Henry Ford & Son, Inc.

Subjects
Agricultural implements
County tractors
Farm equipment
Farm tractors
Ford tractors
Fordson tractors
Garden tractors
Industrial power trucks
Lawn mowers
Lawn tractors
Tractor industry

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