



Guide to Fenland Farm Machinery

The Farmland Museum cares for some 9,000 objects relating to agriculture and everyday life in the Fen communities of South Cambridgeshire. It was started in Haddenham in 1969 and moved to the current site in 1997, when the Fossey collection was added.

This guide gives details of all the outdoor exhibits that cover three areas of the site: start with the grey tractor near the entrance, then along the open cart lodge, continuing into the field next to the stone barn and finish in the courtyard in front of the Village shop.

If you have any information about the equipment, please tell one of our staff in the kiosk so we can update our records.

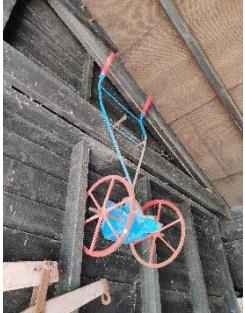
We hope you enjoy your visit!

	<p>1. Ferguson 'Little Grey' TE20 Tractor The Ferguson TE20 is an agricultural tractor designed by Harry Ferguson. It was his most successful design, manufactured from 1946 to 1956 and known as the Little Grey Fergie. It was light weight, small sized, manoeuvrable and versatile. It popularised Ferguson's hydraulic three-point hitch system, which became an international standard for tractors of all makes and sizes. In many parts of the world the TE20 was the first affordable tractor and replaced the draft horse and manual labour. Many remain in regular use and the model is also a popular collector's item for enthusiasts today. Ours was restored by volunteers in 2018.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2000.627</p>
	<p>2. Can you help us identify this object? If so, please let one of our staff in the kiosk know!</p>
	<p>3. Wrekin Root Cutter – c.1930 Cleans mangolds by knocking off soil before chopping them up for use as animal feed. A Mangold (sometimes called a Mangelwurzel) is a root vegetable similar to a beet that is mostly used for animal feed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2000.628</p>

	<p>4. Tractor drawn plough</p> <p>One of our visitors helped us identify this as a tractor-drawn planter/plough, designed to turn over soil that has already been ploughed. It would have had a seed box on the back.</p>
	<p>5. Guyco Sugar Beet Sledge – c.1960</p> <p>A type of sugar beet lifter that squeezed the roots from the ground leaving them clean and ready to collect.</p> <p>DNNFM:2000.630</p>
	<p>6. The Kent Gapper</p> <p>Made by Bentall and Co. Ltd of Maldon, England. This was used for thinning turnips. It was designed by Irish farmer Mr H. C. Kent who was awarded a silver medal at the Highland Show 1937.</p> <p>DNNFM:1996.1589</p>
	<p>7. Randell Sugar Beet Hoe</p> <p>Dips lightly between rows removing weeds but without damaging the crop.</p> <p>DNNFM:2000.631</p>
	<p>8. Howard Sugar Beet Lifter</p> <p>A simple two-horse implement with a strong vertical steel knife attached at the top of the plough beam and two small cast-iron shares at the bottom. These act as a wedge, running beneath the rows, raising the beet and loosening the soil around them.</p> <p>DNNFM:2000.629</p>
	<p>9. Randell Sugar Beet Lifter</p> <p>Uses its wedge-shaped share to pass under the beets, lifting them out of the ground.</p> <p>DNNFM:2000.634</p>

	<p>10. Sugar Beet Topper Made by the Mern Harvester Company in 1949. Removes the leafy tops from the beet crop and pushes them to one side. The tops must then be cleared by hand or moved by a side-rake before lifting the roots.</p>
	<p>DNNFM:2000.633</p> <p>11. Maynard of Whittlesford Root Lifter Lifts the sugar beet root and removes excess soil from it.</p>
	<p>DNNFM:1996.1696</p> <p>12. Roerslev Sugar Beet Topper Takes the top (the green leaves) off sugar beet – without damaging the beet – which must be done before harvesting. Can be pulled by either a horse or a tractor.</p>
	<p>DNNFM:1996.1862</p> <p>13. Martin's Sugar Beet Lifter A horse-drawn beet lifter for harvesting sugar beet.</p>
	<p>DNNFM:2000.632</p> <p>14. Roeslev Sugar Beet Lifter Pulled by a tractor, this harvests the beets themselves. The cage cleaner knocks off the mud to save this being done by hand.</p>
	<p>DNNFM:1996.1863</p>

	<p>15. Green water carrier</p> <p>This was used to carry water and was pushed along by hand.</p>
	<p>16. Massey Harris Combine Harvester</p> <p>Manufactured in the 1950s to 1960s, likely used for field trials as it's only 6ft (1.8m) wide. Normal combines today are around 40ft (12m) wide. Before there were combined harvesters, agricultural workers had to harvest crops by hand –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cut the crops with a long-handled cutting tool such as a scythe - bundle the stalks up into 'stooks' or bales to be used for animal bedding - separate the edible grain from the inedible chaff by beating the cut stalks—known as threshing - clean any remaining debris away from the seeds to make them suitable for use in a mill. <p>This took a lot of time, people and special tools, some of which are displayed in the Stone Barn. Modern machines do the whole job automatically. Grain is collected in a tank inside the combine harvester (which is emptied regularly into carts pulled by tractors that drive alongside), the straw is cut for the bailer to collect later and the chaff, or waste, spouts from a big pipe at the back and into the field.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2003.252</p>
	<p>17. Elevator</p> <p>After hay or straw has been baled, the elevator lifts the bales from the threshing machine into a hay loft to be stored or to the top of the stacks if storing in fields.</p>
	<p>18. Snowplough</p> <p>This was pulled by a tractor and used to clear snow in Great Eversden, Cambs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2000.637</p>

	<p>19. Hand seed drill</p> <p>A device that sows the seeds for crops by positioning them in the soil and burying them to a specific depth. This one has handles so it can be pushed along by a labourer.</p> <p>HANFM:23</p>
	<p>20. Horse-drawn cultivator with Martin tractor seat.</p> <p>RASC (Royal Agricultural Society, Cambridge) First Prize 1960 winner. Cultivators break up the soil, either before planting or after the crop has begun growing to kill weeds. Unlike a harrow, which disturbs the entire surface of the soil, cultivators are designed to disturb the soil in careful rows, sparing the crop plants but disrupting the weeds.</p> <p>DNNFM:2000.638</p>
	<p>21. Bamlett Grass Cutter</p> <p>Used at Willow Farm, Aldreth, around 1950. Sickle mowers, or finger-bar mowers, have a long bar on which are mounted fingers with stationary guardplates.</p> <p>In a channel on the bar there is a row of very sharp blades or sickle sections that move back and forth along the channel to cut the grass or other plant (a bit like an electric hair clipper). It can be tilted to adjust the height of the cut and a spring-loaded board at the outer end guides the cut hay away from the uncut hay.</p> <p>These were the first successful horse-drawn mowers on farms and the general principles still guide the design of modern mowers.</p> <p>DNNFM:2000.639</p>
	<p>22. Swath Turner</p> <p>Used by the Fossey brothers at Great Eversden along with a tractor. A swath turner is an agricultural machine for turning/inverting and thereby aerating a row of cut crop, usually grass, hay or straw. Generally, they can be classified as special types of hay tedders/turners.</p> <p>DNNFM:1996.1860</p>

	<p>23. Hay Rake A Bamford 'Lion' triple action rake, used at Haddenham until the 1980s. Hay is grass that is cut and left in the fields to dry. It was made in the early summer and used in the winter for feeding cattle. Drying is sped up by turning the hay. When dry, the hay was gathered with a hay rake and made into stacks. Today hay is made into bales and stored.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1996.1779</p>
	<p>24 & 25. Two Part harrow Made to fit alongside each other. Harrowing is often carried out on fields to follow the rough finish left by ploughing. The purpose is to break up clods or lumps of soil and provide a finer tilth or soil structure that is suitable for seedbed use. Coarser harrowing is used to remove weeds and cover seed after sowing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.84.1 & .2</p>
	<p>26. Cultivator A Cooke of Lincoln cultivator, which adjusts with a slot and lock nut.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.85</p> <p>27. Cultivator A cultivator which adjusts with wedges onto a central blade.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.97</p> <p>The difference between a harrow and a cultivator is that harrows disturb the entire surface of the soil, but cultivators disturb the soil in careful patterns, sparing the crop plants but pulling up the weeds.</p>
	<p>28. Plough A single furrow, mulched ridge furrow plough by E and H Roberts, Deanshanger. It used to be used for Plough Sunday in Haddenham church. Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the start of the agricultural year, usually held on the Sunday after Epiphany in January.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.86</p>

	<p>29. Howard Bedford Potato Ridging Plough</p> <p>Potatoes are grown in ridges, a deep and continuous mound of soil containing potatoes buried within. These ridges are created by the ridging plough which is a simple machine dating back to the 1940s. These help to cover potatoes and stop them being damaged by sunlight.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.87</p>
	<p>30. Cultivator</p> <p>A horse-drawn cultivator manufactured by Barnard and Lake (Rayne, Essex). It would have been used to break up the soil prior to ploughing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.89</p>
	<p>31. Howard Bedford 'DD' Plough</p> <p>A two-wheeled, horse-drawn plough that made a single furrow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.90</p>
	<p>32. Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries 'CLAKUT' Plough – c.1945</p> <p>A two-wheeled, horse-drawn plough, originally used on Haddenham Fen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.98</p>
	<p>33. Cooke & Sons Moulding/Ridging 'RDG' Plough</p> <p>A two-wheeled, horse-drawn ridging plough. This produces a ridge of land that is better for crops such as potatoes or scallions, and results in better drainage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.94</p>
	<p>34. Tractor-drawn Harrow</p> <p>One of our visitors helped us identify this as a tractor-drawn harrow. Note the cast iron label</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J A Choppen Agricultural Engineer Saffron Walden</p>

	<p>35. J. Bissett and Co. Blairgowrie Potato Spinner Has a strong, wide share that passes beneath the potato rows and completely loosens the soil and tubers, leaving the latter exposed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1995.153</p>
	<p>36. Chain-type harrow This trailed along behind a tractor and was used for gathering up weeds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.100</p>
	<p>37. Two furrow plough by Cooke of Lincoln A wood and steel construction, with a third wheel behind the second breast and two disc coulters fitted to help seed placement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.96</p>
	<p>38. Ransomes 'GDN' Digger Plough A two-wheeled, single furrow horse-drawn plough.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.99</p>
	<p>39. Howard Bedford 'Deep Digger' Plough As its name suggests this plough digs a deeper furrow which is good for potatoes and other root crops.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.93</p>
	<p>40. Cultivator Used to break up the land before ploughing or to weed the land after ploughing. Its careful arrangement of teeth doesn't harm the crop. This one adjusts by two 'arms' through a slot with double bolts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.92</p>

	<p>41. Ransomes 'RHR' Moulding/Ridging Plough</p> <p>Horse-drawn plough that produces a high ridge of land that is better for crops such as potatoes or scallions (small onions) and results in better drainage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.91</p>
	<p>42. Fenton Sleaford 'Little Wonder' High Head No.2 Plough</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1996.1701</p> <p>43. Fenton Sleaford 'Little Wonder' High Head No.1 Plough</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.82</p> <p>Single furrow ploughs (semi-match type)</p>
	<p>44. Ruston Hornsby 'GDRH' Plough</p> <p>A digger plough, producing deep furrows good for root crops.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.79</p>
	<p>45. Fenton Sleaford 'Little Wonder' Digger No.2 Plough</p> <p>A digger plough, producing deep furrows good for root crops.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.80</p>
	<p>46. Cookes of Lincoln Digger Plough</p> <p>Horse-drawn plough, creating deep furrows good for root crops.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.81</p>
	<p>47. Melotte Brevete Reversible 'Turnwrest' Plough</p> <p>Allows the ploughman to return along the adjacent furrows. The mouldboard can be shifted from one side to the other end at each furrow so the furrow slice is always facing the right way. Melotte are a Belgian company and this plough was manufactured by them in February 1930.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1996.1537</p>

	<p>48. Sanderson Thorne 'RP' Plough A two wheeled, horse-drawn ridging plough.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">HANFM:99</p>
	<p>49. Cole & Son Ridging Plough Creates ridges that are good for sowing root crops.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1996.1699</p>
	<p>50. Sugar Beet Lifter Horsedrawn and took up a single row. These were used until fairly recent times to take up the outside row before bringing in larger machines.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.95</p>
	<p>51. Ransomes 'GDRH' Plough Manufactured from 1895 to 1940. Used at Denny Abbey Farm for deep ploughing until the 1970s. The high mouldboard allowed for larger furrows to be created.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:2007.101</p>
	<p>52. Ransomes 'VRL2' Plough A rare single farrow 'digger' plough made by Ransomes of Ipswich. C.1855 to 1865.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1995.150</p>
	<p>53. J. Cole of Ely Plough Used at Black Horse Drove near Littleport.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1995.157</p>
	<p>54. J.B. Edlington 'EDN22' Plough Used at Eversden, this ploughed two furrows at a time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1996.1781</p>

	<p>55. Headley & Edwards Cultivator A cultivator used to break up soil, made in Cambridge. Note the two arms that adjust the spacing of the tines.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1996.1881</p>
	<p>56. Wallace & Sons of Glasgow Cultivator Cultivators break up the soil, to aerate the soil before planting or to kill weeds later. Wallace also made tractors, which influenced the more complicated mechanism for adjusting the tines.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1996.1850</p>
	<p>57. Broadshare Plough Made by W. J. Miller in Haddenham, this was used to break up the hard top surface after the corn had been cut.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">HANFM:130</p>
	<p>58. Three-Corner Harrow Used at Stone Cross Farm, Haddenham to remove and kill weeds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DNNFM:1996.1780</p>
	<p>59. Cambridge Roller Used at Eversden to flatten land and break up large clumps of soil after ploughing, it was not named after the place, rather the man who invented it – Mr. Cambridge. Flatter land makes weed control and harvesting easier and helps reduce moisture loss from cultivated soil.</p>
	<p>60. Pony Gear A horse or pony was attached to the bar by a harness. The horse walked round in a circle, rotating the spindle and driving the machinery. This was used, for example, to power an elevator (see the Cart Lodge round the corner) to carry hay up to a hay loft.</p> <p>This machinery went out of use when internal combustion engines were introduced to farms. This particular pony gear came from Sutton and was last worked in 1937.</p>

	<p>61. Dibbing Machine Pulled by a horse, this was used to plant seed potatoes. Holes were created by the raised dibbers as the wheels turned around. The distance between each potato seed could be adjusted by adding or removing dibbers.</p>
	<p>62. Potato Elevator Digger (Temporarily removed for restoration) Exposes more potatoes than a spinner, and leaves them in narrower rows. However, these will not operate in sticky soil and carry heavy maintenance costs.</p>
	<p>63. Potato Spinner Known as the Cambrian Digger and manufactured by Powell Brothers and Whitaker Ltd, this would have had a net attached to catch the potatoes that were spun out of the ground. This machine won first prize at the Royal Society's show in Newcastle in 1894 or 1895. DNNFM:2003.251</p>
	<p>64. Sail Reaper Developed around 1862 to cut grain. When drawn behind horses, the arms rotated and pushed the cut stalks off the platform into piles at the side. Men then collected and bound up the stalks by hand. From the 1880s the binder replaced it and in the 1920s the combine harvester could harvest, thresh, reap and bind all in one go.</p> <p>This reaper could harvest up to 5 acres in a day and came from a farm in Littleport. It was last used to cut rape in 1957 as a storm had damaged and flattened the crop and the more modern binder machine was unable to cope with the cutting.</p>

Please return this guide into the big, red post-box by the play area on your way out ... We hope to see you again soon!