



Farmall Regular Sept  
2017.mp4

This antique tractor is a Farmall "Regular".

The International Harvester Corporation, (IHC), developed the "Farmall" in the early 1920s. Before the Farmall, tractors were huge, slow moving, clumsy contraptions. Those tractors were good for running stationary machines like threshers or pulling large, many bottom plows. There were no tractors available for the common farm work of making hay, planting or cultivating crops. There were no tractors available that were sized right or cheap enough for most midwestern farms.

IHC did not know how successful the Farmall would be. The first 200 Farmalls were built in 1924. Each year, farmers demanded more Farmalls. By 1932 the company had sold 130,000.

The company was so busy that it took until 1931 to introduce larger and smaller versions of the Farmall.

When new tractors came out, IHC decided to use the now very popular Farmall brand name.

The larger tractor was designated the Farmall F30. It was around 30 horsepower.

The smaller tractor was named the Farmall F12. It was around 12 horsepower.

Using the Farmall brand name on addition models rendered the original Farmall essentially unnamed. To remedy that, Farmers called the original tractor the "Regular". That identifier caught on quickly and to this day, the first Farmall model is called a Regular.

In 1932, IHC came out with an improved version of the Regular. That was named the Farmall F20.

In 1938, the F12 was replaced by the F14.

In 1939, the F14 was replaced by the Farmall A, the F20 was replaced by the Farmall H and the F30 was replaced by the Farmall M. By 1939, almost 500,000 of these early Farmalls were sold.

Many were sold with steel wheels and without starters. Most were converted to rubber tires and some had after-market starters and generators added.

You may have noticed that the Regular in this video is grey. In fact, all Regulars were grey. IHC switched from grey to red in 1937.

This particular Regular has an interesting history.

Gail and I traveled to Des Moines last September to buy the tractor from Evellyn Vanderpool.

Evellyn's grandfather, Joseph Penner, bought the new tractor in March of 1927. Joseph lived from 1896 to 1962.

Joseph's son, William Penner, restored the tractor in the 1970s. William lived from 1914 until 1992.

Evellyn is Williams' daughter.

Evellyn's husband, Everett put new tires on the tractor. Everett drove it in several parades in the 1990s.

Everett lived from 1930 until 2013.

Evellyn is of course getting on in years. She sold the tractor to us in part because she believed we would take good care of it.

The tractor was stored for some years and did not run when we brought it home. I have some experience repairing these grand old tractors. I got it running in a few days.

Gail made the video immediately after we started the tractor for the first time. These early tractors were made without starters. They were designed to be started by cranking or pulling. In this case Gail pulled me on the Regular with our Farmall B.

In this first time driving the Regular, I tested reverse and the three forward gears. It ran very nicely.

More than half way through the video I ask Gail if she wants a ride. She did go for a ride with me on the Regular. That is not on the video. Turn the volume up so you can hear this beautiful old tractor. They came without mufflers.

I have one of each of the Farmall models mentioned here and each of the Farmall models produced until 1950. Everyone is in good running condition. I will write a short article with, a video or photo about each Farmall over time.

Best regards. Tom



