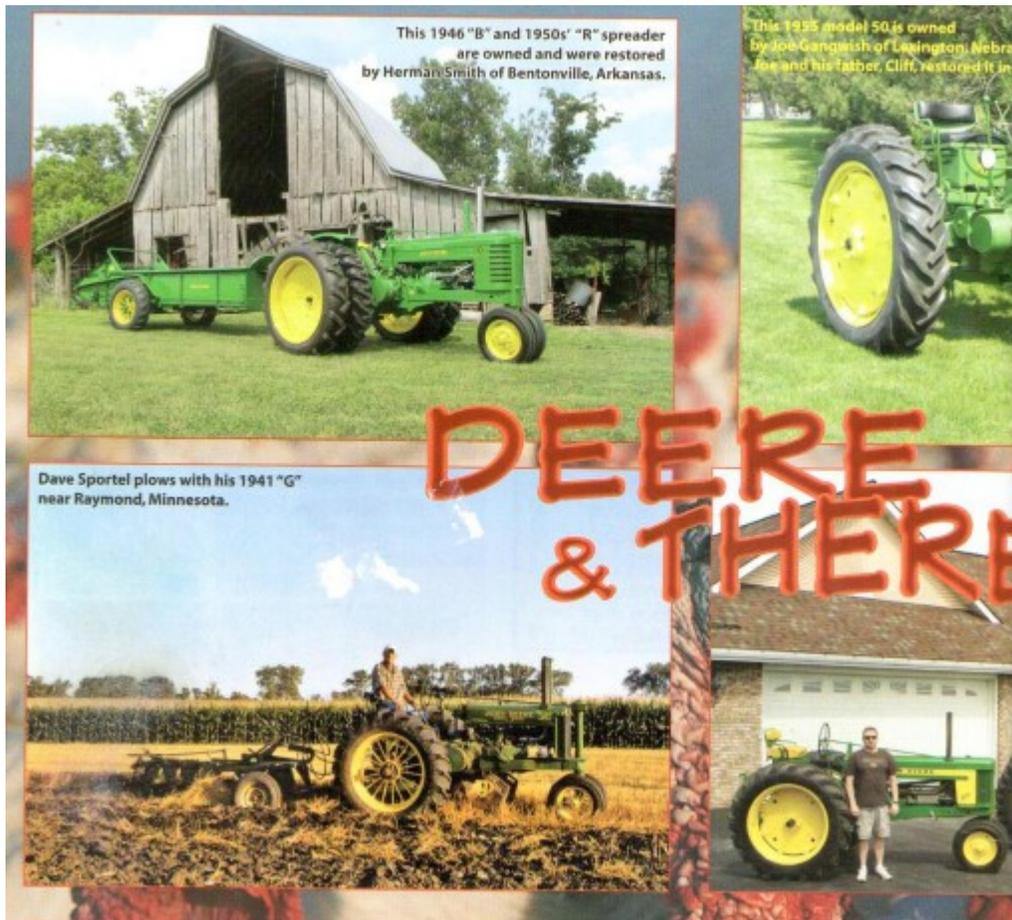


## Herman Smith's JD

Club member Herman Smith submitted a photo of his perfectly restored John Deere B and manure spreader to Green Magazine a few months ago. After failing to find his photo included in an issue for a couple of months and basically giving up on it being there, he opened the November 2012 issue and it was there in the top left corner.



The 1946 John Deere B was purchased new by Oliver Cowger in September of 1946. Mr. Cowger and wife Marguerette went to the Washington county fair and saw this tractor on display. The dealer at that time was a gentleman that lived in the Robinson community in the Springdale-Tontitown area. It came with electric start and lights but no three-point or fenders. The power-trol lift kit was purchased later. The lift was installed by two gentleman, Duck Moore and Burch Crockett, who had a shop in Centerton. He also purchased a two-bottom drag plow but not sure if at the same time or at a later date.

The Cowgers lived on a sixty-three acre farm on Highway 72 between Bentonville and Hiwasse. This tractor was used there until Mr. Cowger retired it into the barn and bought a later model diesel John Deere. The tractor remained in the barn for twenty-one years until Herman purchased it from Mrs. Cowger in 2009. The manure spreader was also purchased new by the Cowgers sometime in the early 50's at the dealer in Southwest City, Missouri. It sat in an open field for about thirty years and was more challenging to restore than the tractor. The spreader was used to clean out chicken houses and we

know what chicken liter does to metal. The photo was taken in front of the barn where the tractor sat all those years.

One interesting thing Mrs. Cowger told about was the extra money they paid for the tractor. According to her, farmers were to have some sort of document from the government to purchase farm equipment. This was due to the supply of steel being in short supply from the war. Mr. Cowger paid an extra \$500.00 black market money because he had no document. That was a lot of money in 1946. According to Mr. Cowger's brother, it sure beat the mule that he was using before. Also Mrs. Cowger came up with the original owners manual, which was missing the cover, but all of Mr. Cowger's greasy finger prints were still intact, especially on the pages about the clutch replacement and adjustment.