

The Cockshutt Company's Plows

The Cockshutt Plow Company built a large number of plow models, as many as 130 over the company's life time.

Why so many models of plows? Obviously a plow meant for horse traction did not need to be as heavy as a plow meant to be pulled by a tractor, which operated at higher speeds and was capable of exerting more tractive force on the plow if the plow encountered an obstruction. When tractors were first introduced, horse plows were used behind them and these plows suffered from being pulled apart or from the rivets being "started" or loosened in their holes. And as tractors became more powerful, plows needed to be updated and more models resulted.

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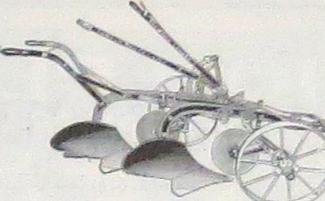
THE CANADIAN THRESHERMAN AND FARMER



J. G. C. RIDING PLOW

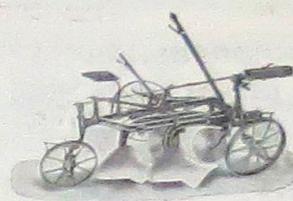
The plow that is built for the hardest kind of work on the toughest prairie soil, it also does good work in stubble. This plow is very easy to turn and handle on rough land. The seat is so located that the driver can watch the turning of the furrow, and his weight keeps the plow in the hard soil.

This plow can be furnished with 14, 16 or 18-inch stubble or breaker bottoms, rolling couler and tripletrees. It can also be furnished with rod breaker bottoms.



EMPIRE CHIEF GANG

A light, easy running, walking plow, that will do good work, it is unsurpassed for strength and simplicity. The beams are made of heavy high carbon steel, designed to meet the requirements of a light plow in heavy work. The material and design of these beams insures their remaining in perfect alignment when subjected to the severest strains. The high arch of the beams and the unusual clearance of the bottoms, prevents clogging on heavy trash land. The long levers, which are fitted with lifting springs, make it an easy matter to raise the bottoms.



NEW JEWEL GANG

The latest and best ideas in plow construction are embodied in this plow, it is adaptable to good plowing in any soil. The plow can be turned in its own length. An automatic foot lift raises and lowers the bottoms, and the driver's hands are left free to handle the lines. The bottoms lift high, so that all obstructions may be cleared, they may also be locked rigid with the frame, or allowed to float. Long, dust-proof bearings are provided on the wheels, and when hard oil is used, these require but little attention.

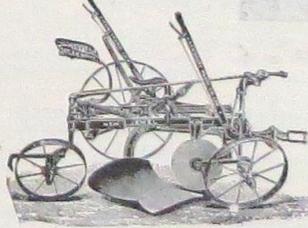
CHOOSE YOUR PLOW

FROM CANADA'S LEADERS

We have a great variety of styles and sizes of plows, only six of which are shown here; at least one of them is exactly suited for the work you want done.

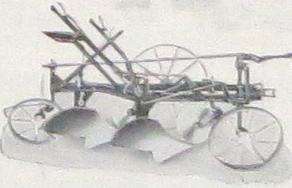
COCKSHUTT Plows are used by the best class of farmers. Those who farm to make money, and most farmers do, prefer COCKSHUTT Farm Implements every time. Because they are correctly built, in the first place, and they stay that way even after years of service. They do the best work, take less time and cost less for repairs.

We have a Plow that will give you better service than you are now getting— better hear about it right away. Drop us a card, or call on our nearest agent.



NEW JEWEL SULKY

This plow is similar in most respects to the new Jewel Gang. The plow bottom is set firmly in the ground by simply touching a foot lever, and when once set for work, it will never vary. The controlling rod, which operates automatically, connects the furrow and rear wheels. The wheels have long, dust-proof, removable bearings which require but little attention when hard oil is used. This plow is furnished with either breaker or stubble bottom, and rolling couler and whippetrees. It can also be furnished with rod breaker bottoms.



BEAVER GANG

The hardest light weight plow you ever saw, it combines many of the features of the Jewel Gang, such as short turning, high lift, perfect adjustments, removable dust-proof bearings, etc., but is much lighter in weight. The bottoms are easily raised and lowered by a convenient lever and spring lift. This plow is fitted with unbreakable steel and malleable standards, and the soft centre shares are the heaviest ever used on a plow.



NEW EMPIRE GANG

This is a light, strong, two-furrow walking plow that will keep in good condition for a lifetime. It has unbreakable steel and malleable standards. The frame is made of steel and is extra strong. Heavy axles and dust-proof bearings further increase its durability; this plow is made tight and will stay right always. It is equipped with our fine adjustable ratchets, compound adjustable levers, and spring lift, all of which mean easier operation and better plowing.

COCKSHUTT PLOW COMPANY LIMITED

Branches: Winnipeg Calgary Regina Saskatoon

Distributing Warehouses: Red Deer Lethbridge Edmonton Brandon Portage la Prairie

A Cockshutt ad from the May 1913 Canadian Thresherman and Farmer magazine which shows some of the plow models offered by Cockshutt at the time.

The 1908 Winnipeg Tractor Trials standardized on Cockshutt plows in the plowing segment of the event in order to remove differences between makes of plows. Photos of tractors plowing in the 1908 event illustrate the heavy duty plow that Cockshutt had introduced in 1903 to cope with mechanical power. This plow was built in either three or four bottom versions. This plow was very similar in overall design to the Cockshutt horse drawn plows. As many steam engines and gas tractors were capable of pulling more than four bottoms these plows could be "ganged" together using jockey rods. However this was not a totally problem free solution and

Cockshutt soon introduced their engine gang plow built in three basic sizes from 6 to 12 bottoms. This design was very different when compared to horse plows and featured a heavy triangular frame supported by wheels with the front wheels castoring. The plow bottoms were attached at the back and individually controlled by levers worked by a person standing on the platform built over the triangular frame.

However there are more reasons for different plow models than just the differences between animal traction and tractors. In the pre tractor era, "skimming" plows were somewhat common. These were plows meant to skim along just beneath the surface. This type of plow was useful in weed control or in seeding with either a "gatling gun" seeder or hand broadcasting. A skimming plow was useful with broadcasted seed as it did not bury the seed too deep.

Preferences for certain plows also explained why Cockshutt introduced various plow models. The Manitoba Agricultural Museum collect contains several different models of two bottom Cockshutt walking plows, such as the Empire Chief gang plow. And these walking plows remained in the catalogue at least as late as 1913. Just why some people preferred walking plows at this time is not known. It may have been the British idea that a true plow man did not ride. By this time riding plows in one, two or three bottom configurations were widely available and offered several advantages over a walking plow. The two wheels at the front and one wheel at the rear offered a three point stance with the result the depth of the plow cut was relatively easy to maintain in comparison to a walking plow. In addition, the rear wheel was set at an angle in order to take a significant amount of the side thrust the plow bottom created as it cut the earth and turned it over while moving it to the side. The result was that the landslide or flat metal bar standing on its edge on the right side of the plow bottom did not need to be as long on a riding plow as on a walking plow. As the landslide was shorter, this reduced the tractive force or draft needed to move the plow forward as the plow worked.

Why Cockshutt offered plow models that are seemingly quite similar such as the Cockshutt two bottom walking plows in the collection may be best explained by the shape of the plow bottom or moldboard. The best way for a plow to cut into sod or dirt while, at the same time, lifting and turning the material over through 90 degrees is with a moldboard that possesses a spiral curve across the face of the moldboard. A properly curved moldboard would result in reduced draft and so result in economical plowing. To complicate matters a different spiral curve is required for the moldboard to efficiently cope with different soil types, depth worked and working speeds encountered plus produce the appearance of the plowed field that the plow man desires. Differently curved moldboards were then needed for clay, sand, sod, corn and wheat stubble, the slow moving breaking plow and so on. In other words, a plow meant to plow corn stubble in Ontario would require a different moldboard shape than a plow meant to break Prairie sod. So more plow models resulted.

The Expo at the 2015 Threshermen's Reunion features the Cockshutt family of companies. If you have equipment built by Cockshutt or Frost and Wood you should consider bringing it to the Cockshutt Expo. You can contact the Museum office at [204-637-2354](tel:204-637-2354) to make arrangements.

The Museum is open year round and operates a website at <http://ag-museum.mb.ca/> which can provide visitors with information on Museum events and location.



A Kinneard and Haines Flour City 40 horsepower tractor plowing in the 1908 Winnipeg Tractor Trials with 2 heavy duty Cockshutt plows ganged together. This heavy duty plow design was introduced in 1903 as a result of the increasing use of steam and gas tractors to break the prairies. While heavier, the design still shows its roots in the animal drawn plow designs of Cockshutt. A close examination of the image shows the jockey rod hooking the two plows together as well as the chains that hooked each plow separately to the tractor. Obviously this arrangement would cause some issues particularly in turning. The Cockshutt engine gang plow came out in 1908 and was radical departure in design. It was very successful and other manufacturers soon copied the design.