

Fleury, Kosack to be part of world record threshing attempt for Canadian Foodgrains Bank



By Glen Hallick, Interlake Publishing

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East Selkirk's Jason Kosack will use his antique John Deere tractor to power this vintage McCormick-Deering thresher. The thresher is one of a planned 125 schedule to run simultaneously at the Manitoba Agricultural Museum July 31. (Photo submitted by Jason Kosack)

Bill Fleury, from the RM of Woodlands, and East Selkirk's Jason Kosack will be part of an attempt to break a world record.

The two will be among more than 100 participants determined to set a new world record for the number of antique threshers operating at the same time.

The Canada Foodgrains Bank organized Harvesting Hope: a World Record to Help the Hungry, and plans to have 125 old-time threshing machines running simultaneously for 20 minutes at the 62nd Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede in Austin, Man., July 31. The attempt get underway at 4 p.m.

To qualify for the record, the Guinness Book of World Records requires the machines run together for a minimum of five minutes. The current world record is 111 threshers, set in St. Albert, Ont. Aug. 15, 2015.

Fleury will be transporting his Rumley thresher to Austin.

"I saved this machine from the scrap man. It practically came to me as a pile. Everything was rotten," Fleury said in a prepared statement June 29.

The thresher, he said, came from John 'Ticker' Proctor and it originally belonged to Proctor's father.

Helping Fleury in Austin will be sons Bill Jr. and John, plus family friend Sheldon Brown.

Kosack will be providing his 1938 John Deere tractor. A long belt from the tractor's flywheel will power a McCormick-Deering Thresher that has been loaned to him.

"I remember my grandpa driving it as a kid. It sat in the yard for so long after he stopped using it, that I wanted to get it running again," Kosack said.

Together with his brother, Kosack restored the antique tractor.

Foodgrains Bank spokesperson Amanda Thorsteinsson said organizers are expecting more than 500 volunteers to assist with the attempt for a new world record.

To have enough wheat for the event in Austin, she said more than 75 acres of wheat will be required.

The proceeds from the world record attempt will be split between the Canada Foodgrains Bank, to help end global hunger, and by the Manitoba Agricultural Museum for its work to preserve the province's rural heritage.

Thorsteinsson said donations can be made at www.harvestinghope.ca.