

# FFA Tractor Day

**IN RURAL AREAS**, it's not unusual to see a tractor heading down the road. But 10 tractors? 30? 60? Be prepared: That's exactly what you might see during the third week of February, also known as National FFA Week.

National FFA Week was created in 1947 as a way to increase awareness and understanding about agriculture. FFA members across the U.S. will host events like community service activities, appreciation breakfasts, speaking engagements and official/theme dress days. And for some students, there will be Tractor Day.

Lincoln County High School in Fayetteville, Tenn., is hosting its 35th annual Tractor Day event this year. "We have activities throughout FFA Week, but Friday's Tractor Day always caps it off," explains Jennifer Snoddy, one of the school's three agriculture instructors and FFA advisers. "It's one of the most exciting days of the year for many of our students."

Each year, roughly 40 to 60 students eagerly fire up their tractors for the much slower drive to school. After a parade and breakfast, the tractors are used as teaching tools throughout the day.

The tractors run the gamut in terms of size, age and brand, and there are plenty of Massey Ferguson models in the mix. Student Evan Campbell drove one of his family's Massey Ferguson tractors last year, and plans to repeat this year. "I enjoy getting to drive my tractor to

school, and I like getting to see all the different tractors people drive," says Campbell.

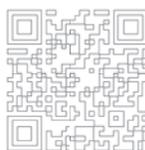
*Brandon Bryant on his MF150, which was restored, painted and fitted with a roll bar in the ag shop at Lincoln County High.*



One day in early December, Sue received a report that the Ninja Cow was seen with a newborn calf. The calf was caught fairly easily, but her mother remained on the lam ... until the cowboys arrived and, after four hours, successfully roped and secured her.

Plattsmouth singer/songwriter Terry Little followed the saga and decided that, like most legends, Ninja Cow should be immortalized in song. So he and his son Jonathan debuted "Bovine Blues (Ballad of the Ninja Cow)" at a concert last September. "It was well-received," Terry says. "There was a good bit of toe tapping and chuckles from the crowd."

With her place in local folklore now secured, Ninja Cow has given up her Ninja-like ways, and both she and her calf now reportedly live on local farms.



See Terry and Jonathan Little perform "Bovine Blues" at [myFarmLife.com/bovineblues](http://myFarmLife.com/bovineblues), or scan the code with your phone.

# FarmLIFE FIVE

**Quick cuts about life on the land.**

**THIS ISSUE:** *True snowbirds, century-old vacation advice for farmers and extremely valid reasons to ask the question on everyone's mind: "Cold enough for ya?"*

■ **BIRD WATCHERS.** And you thought your drive from Nebraska to Florida was long. Red knots and white-rumped sandpipers are just two species that travel from nests in the arctic tundra of northernmost Canada and fly as far south as the southernmost part of South America, a one-way distance of up to 10,000 miles.



■ **SOUTHERLY MIGRATION.** In 2009, Canadians made more than 1.2 million winter visits to Mexico, 2.6 million visits to Florida and 1.23 million visits to California. In the first three months of 2011, 5.1 million U.S. citizens flew down to Mexico. From January to March 2012, more than 19.7 million Americans flocked to Florida's mild winter climate.

■ **MARITAL ADVICE.** "Every Dairyman Should Take a Vacation," advised the cover of *Kimball's Dairy Farmer* in 1911. "The farmer's vacation should include other(s). The wife who has been struggling through the entire year with her tasks, that oftentimes seem hopelessly burdensome, should share in the recreation pleasures."

■ **MEET AND GREET.** Winter travel for farmers doesn't always mean sand and sun. 'Tis the season when many agricultural organizations hold annual conferences. For instance, the 2013 AG Connect Expo & Summit will be held in Kansas City, Jan. 29-31, when the average daily temperatures in the Paris of the Plains range from 22°F to 39°F (-5.5°C to 16°C). Inside AG Connect, however, the temp as well as the mood will be warm and hospitable, with plenty of industry-leading innovations on display to take your mind off all that sand that's not in your shorts.

■ **WEATHER FORECAST.** The top three largest farming provinces in Canada—Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan—have annual average low temperatures in January of, respectively, -10°C (14°F), -15°C (5°F) and -21°C (-5.8°F).

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