

## Museum Display Equipment and Artifacts

All equipment and artifacts on display in the Brunn Barn have been generously donated or provided on loan to the Woodstock Agricultural Society. We have identified many of the items with signs. We continue to add display information to our website. We appreciate any anecdotal or historical information from visitors regarding display items.

### “Egomatic” Egg Sorter

This is one of the more popular pieces of equipment in the barn and serves as interactive entertainment for young and old. Otto Niederer invented this machine in the 1930's. Before the Egomatic, as his invention was called, poultry farms employed dozens of people to hold eggs up to a light, inspect them for imperfections such as cracks and blood spots and then weigh them with egg scales and sort the good ones into various sizes. Otto Niederer's simple yet ingenious machine made it possible for one person to sort 3,600 eggs an hour, an unheard of pace that allowed one person to do the work of 10.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GH5qNFFzwdY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opK7SFghGbU>

<http://mercerspace.com/features/mr-niederers-enduring-egomatic/>

## 1946 New Holland Model 76 'Automaton' Self-Tie Baler



Cost new: Baler w/ 20 HP Wisconsin engine on 7.50x24 tires - \$1863.00

Weight: approx. 5000 lbs.

Left hand pick-up

As early as 1940, United States Defense Industries were beginning to require enormous quantities of materials that were becoming increasingly scarce. Because the Model 73 baler required so little manpower (boys and women on the farm joined the harvest crew), New Holland was able to get special allocation of steel to build balers during World War II. In 1943 New Holland built 632 Model 75 balers, followed by over 2000 balers in 1944. Baler production soared to 4700 Model 76 balers in 1946.

Websites showing the baler in operation can be found at the links below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNkErrBNEhc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bY-dANYZzk>

## 1949 Allis-Chalmers “Roto-Baler”



Produced from 1947 to 1955  
Cost new in 1947: \$935

The Allis-Chalmers Roto-Baler could easily be one of the most complex farm machines ever used. Allis-Chalmers did not invent the round baler; the company modified an already invented machine and was able to successfully mass market it.

The Roto-Baler could produce bale sizes from 14” to 22” in diameter, and, depending on the size, could weigh from 40 to 100 pounds. A double windrow is required to make an even, full-width round bale.

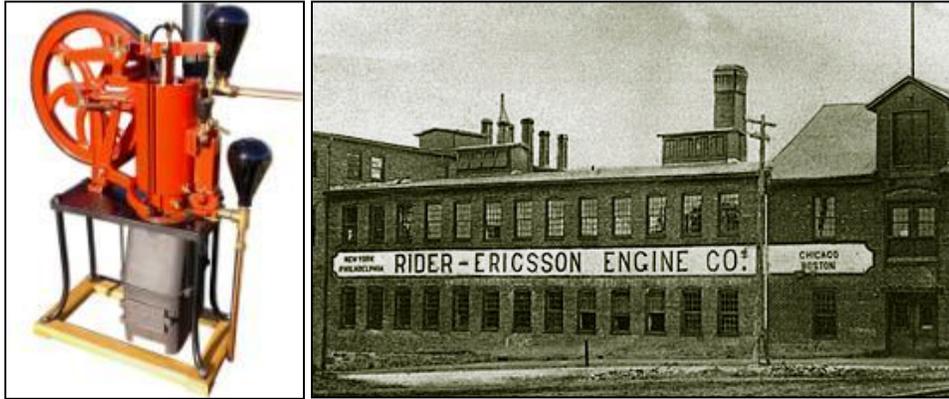
One setback of the Roto-Baler is that when the tying mechanism is engaged, the operator needs to stop forward travel, but also keep the PTO running. The hay conveyor is also stopped as the tying mechanism is working.

Once the bale is wrapped and tied, the chamber would discharge the bale, then the conveyor would reengage, and the operator would continue forward motion until the next tying cycle.

You can view the baler in operation at the link below.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iFNbq\\_SLE8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iFNbq_SLE8)

## 1895 Rider Ericsson Hot-Air Pumping Engine (or “Stirling” Engine)



Bore: 6-inch          Stroke: 3 inch  
Horsepower: 1/8 to ¼ HP at 100 RPM  
Weight: Approx. 625 lbs.

John Ericsson, builder of the ironclad U.S.S. Monitor, developed many different hot air engine designs, beginning with his 1826 British Patent and was built by the Rider Ericsson Company.

Ericsson engines were used strictly to pump water; the smaller engines were used in homes and small businesses. The water was pumped from a well or cistern into an overhead tank where it was stored for later usage.

The operation of the Stirling engine is not complicated. There are no carburetors, ignition systems, valves, or other complicated mechanisms. Stirling engines run off of the expansion of air as it is heated, and the contraction of the same air as it is cooled. The source of heat can be wood, fuel oil, sunlight, or geothermal sources. Cooling can be achieved from water, or air.

## Clipper Lawn Mower



Sickle bar mowers were used on farms to cut crops but they were also used for lawn care. The Clipper, invented in 1895 and patented in 1898 is a classic example. It was manufactured by Clipper Mower Company in Norristown, Pennsylvania until 1904 when the company's manufacturing operation was moved to Dixon, Illinois. Clipper introduced a reel mower in 1914; the company went out of business in the 1940's. The Clipper was offered in 12, 15, 18 and 21 inch widths. All were hand pushed. A 24 inch model was designed to be pulled by a pony.

The Clipper mower on display in the Brunn Barn is on loan from Mr. Doug Stark. It originally belonged to his grandfather but his father had this to say about it:

*Dear Doug:*

*I cannot recall what I was supposed to recall something about! Oh!  
Yeah! The old mower!*

*When I was a kid, which was now a l - o - n - g time ago, I couldn't wait to be old enough (not knowing when that might be) to help my father mow the lawn! We had a regular push type reel mower at that time, and I do not recall how old I was when we got a powered reel mower (which was VERY durable and RELIABLE !) All of the push type mowers were very hard to push - especially when I was very young. I remember frequently attempting to do so, with both mowers, which, of course, includes the one represented in the picture.*

*As you can tell, this was intended for use on tall grass or weeds. Cutting tall grass with it was VERY hard, but cutting an area of tall, thin weeds was easy! My dad always kept everything well oiled, greased, and sharpened - but that old mower as pictured was NEVER easy to push. I have no recollection of what age I might have been when I succeeded in actually using it, but I did have fun doing it! I wouldn't doubt that this originated with my grandfather's use at his place before he moved in with us. If you could establish when he moved in with us, that would be a help in this case. I would guess that might have been between 9 and 13 somewhere!*

*As soon as we got the terrific power mower (which we walked behind and which could move at a very high speed), I took over the mowing of the complete lawn and really enjoyed it!*

*Love,*

*Dad*