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## FORDSON SUPER DEXTA: A BRIEF HISTORY

Henry Ford, the well-known American industrialist and auto manufacturing pioneer, started his career in auto manufacturing in the early 1900. Although not well-known, the Ford Motor Company also manufactured tractors since 1907. Ford named the first experimental tractor the "Automobile Plow". Edsel, the son of Henry Ford, joined his father to manage the then newly formed company, Ford and Son Inc. In 1916, Edsel Ford, so is claimed, named the first mass-produced tractor the Fordson, a contraction of the name of the tractor operation, Henry Ford & Son.

During the 1920's, a total of 75% of all tractors manufactured in the USA were Fordson's. The tractors were initially built in 1916 for export purposes to Britain and was introduced to American farmers only in 1918. Many Fordson's are currently still used on farms in Britain and Europe.

During the early development of Fordsons, some of the tractors, during plowing operations when plows caused strong forward movement resistance, flipped over backwards killing the driver in the process. The Eastern Development Dealer, in their chronicle, claimed that Fordson tractors killed 36 drivers in 1918 and Pipp's Weekly claimed Fordson's killed 136 men up to August 1922. Henry Ford & Son Inc however maintained that the accidents resulted from the inexperience of the drivers, adding that any tractor could be dangerous if improperly handled.

Production of the Fordson tractors ceased in 1964 and thereafter newly produced tractors were simply called Ford tractors. Towards the end of the 1950's, the manufacturing of Fordson's were moved to and continued in Dagenham, Essex, Brittain. Fordson tractors were produced there from 1958 to 1964. During this phase of production, the Fordson tractor enjoyed a name change and became known as the Fordson Super Dexta, partly due to manufacturing tractors with enhanced engine power. The official launch of the new tractor took place on 19 to 26 November 1957 at the Alexandra Palace in London, in a marquee, called the 'Dexta Drome' thus founding the last portion of the tractor's name.

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