



1947- 1954 (INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER)
McCORMIC FARMALL SUPER A TRACTOR
A BRIEF HISTORY

Farmall tractors were developed during the early 1900 and built by the company International Harvester (IH) in Rock Island, Illinois, USA. These tractors later became known as the McCormick–Deering Farmall. The McCormic Farmall Super A was a more advanced tractor as its predecessor, the McCormic Farmall A model, manufactured prior to 1947. These Super A tractors were primarily built as in-row crop tractors with the “tricycle” configuration (a single front wheel or narrowly spaced pair) as one of the outstanding characteristics of the tractor. This trait allowed for remarkable nimble manoeuvring and more accurate cultivation than most other tractors of the day.

The Farmall Super A was fitted with a 113 cubic inch, 4-cylinder engine. This engine generated approximately 25 drawbar and 35 take-off horsepower. A three-speed transmission ensured smooth operation. Another trait of the 1947 Farmall tractor was that it had the driver’s seat offset from the engine inter alia since the cultivator was fitted on the sides of the tractor frame between the front and rear wheels, allowing the operator to look directly at the ground under the tractor. This offset system was called “Culti- vision” because it was created to give the operator an excellent view of the cultivator teeth as it cultivated the in-row crop. (Cultivation in this context refers to the breaking up of the soil next to the vegetable or other crop row, which kills weeds by uprooting them and/or burying its leaves).

The McCormic Farmall A model was initially fitted with a two-point “Fast Hitch” system (as the design specification in the Dutchy-pattern depicts) to fend off the early competitive advantage of the Ferguson linkage

system. This Ferguson three-point hydraulic linkage system (called the "hitch") was one of the early invented systems to be fitted directly to tractors to raise or lower equipment hydraulically with a control lever which obviated the need for the equipment to be drawn like trailers.

Harry Ferguson (whose name lives on in the Massey Ferguson Company) designed, manufactured and patented the three-point hydraulic linkage system in 1926. (Henry Ford, the famous Ford Model T and Fordson tractor manufacturer, initially resisted fitting Fordson tractors with the three-point hydraulic linkage system but he finally collaborated with Ferguson and with the manufacturing of the new Ford-Ferguson 9N tractor in 1938, fitted all these tractors with this system.) When the patent protection enjoyed by Ferguson expired, the three-point hydraulic linkage system became an industry standard and part of the Farmall Super A models.

Approximately 94000 McCormic Farmall Super A tractors were manufactured from 1947 to 1954, inter alia, for in row-crop work. Its affordability was well received by small and medium size family farms throughout the USA and elsewhere. The Farmall tractors could be used for most of the ploughing and other tasks on these farms thereby reducing the need for hired hands and eliminated the need for working horses or mules.

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