

# Case

# CC

Racine, WI 1937



Founded by Jerome I. Case, the J.I. Case Threshing Machine Company operated for the better part of a century before changing its name to the J.I. Case Company. In the late 19th century, Case was one of America's largest builders of steam engines, producing self-propelled portable engines, traction engines, and steam tractors. In the 20th century, CASE (should this really be all caps?) was among the top ten largest builders of farm tractors. However, in 1950, construction equipment became Case's primary focus with agricultural business second.

The Case Model CC was the row-crop version on the standard model C. The Model CC was released in response to the introduction of the IHC's revolutionary Farmall Regular in 1924, which sent manufacturers into a mad scramble to come up with a row-crop machine of their own.

Case had been the king of horsepower for decades, first dominating the steam-traction engine market, then as an early innovator in the internal-combustion tractor market. But their market share had slipped precipitously, starting with the massive popularity of the inexpensive Fordson and then with the success of the very popular, flexible Farmall. Case had to respond and quickly.

Enter the engineering team of David Davies and Robert Hendrickson. Davies had started with Case as a 16-year-old Welsh immigrant working his way up through the company to the position of vice president of engineering.

Hendrickson had come to Case from Wallis Tractor where he and Clarence Eason had innovated the first tractor with a unit-frame.

This dynamic duo knew they had to outdo IHC and their new Farmall Regular by creating a row-crop tractor that would catch the farmer's attention. Their brainchild, the Case Model CC, did that and much more. The Model CC was rated at nearly 18 horsepower, offering twice the oomph of the Farmall Regular, yet weighing the same. The extra weight of a larger engine in the CC was offset by the fact the tractor's axles came straight out of the rear transmission case. The Farmall, on the other hand, employed a much heavier drop rear-axle design.

The Model CC's rear axle also featured an advance unseen on tractors up to this time: the ability to readily adjust its rear tread width. Davies and Hendricks came up with a system that allowed two, 10- or 12-inch-long extension spools to be bolted to either side of the axle on the same flange that supported the wheels. This allowed the rear tread to be adjusted from 48 to 84 inches in 4-inch increments when combined with reversing the rear wheel position.

This engineering breakthrough allowed farmers to be able to narrow the CC's tread for plowing and later lengthen the axle for row-crop cultivation. Case stated in their advertisements "This new Case tractor is really two tractors in one, adaptable to every farm power operation."

Variations of the Model CC included high-clearance, wide-row for bedded crops, narrow tread for vineyards and sugar cane, the Florida Special for orchard work, and a high-crop cane tractor.

The Model CC was the first row-crop tractor produced by the Case Company. It was manufactured for ten years from 1929 through 1939. During this period, around 30,000 tractors were produced. In 1939, the last year of production, you could take home a steel-wheeled Model CC for \$975.

The CC Case was one of 12 tractors chosen as the greatest of their time in a survey published in the August 1990 issue of Successful Farming. Incidentally, Loren Simmons of White, South Dakota won the National Plowing Contest in 1988 using a CC Case tractor and a Centennial Case Plow.

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