Smell the Fresh Plowed Dirt

Tim Honeycutt

North Carolina’s second largest tributary is the Yadkin Pee Dee basin. The Yadkin River’s headwaters are in the mountains near Blowing Rock, NC. From there the river meanders thru the Piedmont region in the center of the state until it joins the Uwharrie River east of Albemarle, NC to create the Pee Dee (Native American Term) as it flows to the Atlantic. The Yadkin, is no different than many of our nation’s rivers and creeks, as over time bottoms have been formed that offer a farmer a delicious loamy soil that it is ideal for growing crops because it's a nice mix of sand, clay, silt, and organic matter.

Chapter 42 has tried to schedule a Plow day for many years. Due to various conflicts, mainly weather, it did not happen until Saturday November 13, 2021. The Chapter and its members were fortunate to have access to one of the largest tillable river bottoms on the Yadkin for a Plow day. Owned by Friendship Farms and the Bryant family, the deep rich soil yielded a great occasion. We were blessed with a beautiful fall day with the sun shining on a colorful background of fall yellow, orange and green in North Carolina as red power made black smoke roll and the brown soil turned.

The Bryant family rolled out there extensive collection of IH tractors and implements as other Chapter 42 members hauled in equipment to make it a great day to observe. From big to small we had it all. Drones were flying, phones were capturing pictures and many conversations occurred as the activities of the day took place. Plows, Disk harrows, section harrows, speed disks, and planters were all in action. Young members had their first time behind the wheel as older members enjoyed simply watching and remembering many days gone past. The IH tractor models present were diverse and included but not limited to Farmall A, 140, M, MD,W6, WD9, 400, 656, 784, 856, 966, 1066,1256, 1456, 1466, 1566, 1568, 3588, 7250, 9350. West Davidson High School FFA served lunch in the field. Chapter 42 had BBQ brisket and sides served for the evening meal in the Bryant’s shop with a club meeting afterwards. All in it was a great day for fun and conversation. Thank you to Nick Hanes, Parker Bryant and various Chapter 42 members for sharing their photos for this article . Chapter 42 continues to be Running Hard and Running Red with optimism for a repeat plowing performance in 2022.