



Everything ON Wheels



Farm Tractors

There is no doubt that tractors have changed the way Americans tend to their farms. Their mechanical ability makes it possible to meet the demands of hungry people relying on domestically produced crops.

Without this advancement in technology, farmers would still rely on the labor of animals as they did in the early days.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the average farm in the United States is 434 acres. Imagine the strain that planting and harvesting a plot of that size would put on farmers without the aid of tractors.

INTRODUCTION OF TRACTORS INTO FARMING

The USDA reports that in 1920, America was home to more than 25 million horses and mules. Most were used for farm work.

Their primary responsibilities were for transport or pulling heavy wagons or other equipment. Around the same decade, the tractor began making its way to the spotlight.

Tractors could be used to turn soil, pull heavy loads and



© ADOBE STOCK

speed up the harvesting process. They eliminated some of the back-breaking labor experienced by farmers and their animals.

These mechanical powerhouses also gave agriculturalists expanded space on their land to produce more valuable crops.

Farmers began relying on gasoline and diesel fuel to power the new additions to

their farming operation. They were able to replace the vast fields of oats, used to feed their working animals, and grow crops to satisfy Americans' needs.

BUY OR LEASE A TRACTOR?

Buying and leasing both come with their own benefits and advantages.

Buying equipment offers

more benefits for tax purposes, allows operators to become more familiar with a machine and should come with a solid warranty. One downside to purchasing is the high price of today's equipment.

Leasing is beneficial to those who may be wrapping up their farming career, completing a job where a piece of machinery is only needed temporarily or those who need more work-

ing capital as they get started.

If you are in the business of farming, a common concern you might have is what to do if a tractor breaks down during the busy season. If a disabled tractor still has plenty of life left but repairs will cut into the farming season, it can be a good idea to lease machinery to fill in as a replacement without disrupting your operations.

4WD vs AWD Trucks

Pickup trucks are incredibly popular in America because of their rugged ability to haul heavy loads or act as family vehicles. Their cabins are more luxurious and spacious than ever, and safety features on newer models are cutting edge.

A common feature in trucks is the incredible convenience of making all the wheels work together.

While the general operation of all-wheel drive and four-wheel-drive provide similar results, there are major differences to how it is achieved. Understanding the difference is important when deciding which one is right for you.

Be sure to consult with your local dealership experts to weigh each option, as each has advantages and disadvantages.

HOW 4WD WORKS

The heart of a four-wheel drive system is its transfer case. This system of intricate gears is used to distribute power to the front and rear differentials, which in turn power each axle to turn both sets of wheels.

Four-wheel drive is typically



© ADOBE STOCK

considered a part-time system as it is not engaged until the driver turns it on.

Older vehicles used manual-locking hubs which forced people out of their trucks to manually unlock them before the wheels would be freed from the front-axle shafts. Today, most trucks feature a switch in the cabin to easily turn it on and off.

HOW AWD IS ACHIEVED

The major difference in this system is that it does not require manual activation. Instead, it is always on, wait-

ing on cues from sensors which sense loss of traction and report to the computer, which determines how much power is needed to grip the road.

Rather than relying on a transfer case, all-wheel-drive trucks feature a center differential to distribute power from the transmission to the front and rear axles.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The power of four powerful wheels moving is extremely helpful to those who live in

areas with inclement weather conditions and who use their trucks for hauling.

So which one is the best for you?

Four-wheel drive is typically considered a part-time system. If you feel you can get by without it, driving in rear-wheel drive provides better gas economy and less strain on the system.

It is a great asset to enlist when traveling off-road or driving through heavy snow. However, there are many moving parts to keep the system working properly. Some come

with expensive repairs.

All-wheel drive gives vehicles better traction, automatic acceleration in poor-weather conditions and impressive handling on smooth roads. One problem you might have when traveling in heavy snow or rain is the sensors in charge of switching to all-wheel-drive might become obstructed, and no longer able to interact with the computer.

Be sure to understand what your truck is capable of by consulting with local dealership experts or referencing your owner's manual.

Monster Trucks

Heavily modified pickup trucks — also known as monster trucks — began gaining popularity in the 1970s.



© ADOBE STOCK

Today, you can witness the power of these larger-than-life vehicles at events across the nation.

According to the Monster Truck Racing Association, the first stadium event to feature a car-crushing show occurred in 1981.

The rally proved to be successful and spawned enthusiasts to customize their own behemoth vehicles. In December 1987, the first official MTRA meeting took place and the first board was voted into office to govern the development of policies and procedures.

IMPRESSIVE FEATURES

The customization of a monster truck is an expensive hobby. Extreme safety measures are required to keep both drivers and spectators safe.

Here are some of the incredible features found in the well-known truck Grave Digger, as reported by the pros at Popular Mechanics:

- **Gigantic tires:** The first thing that stands out on Grave Digger is humongous tires, which are 66 inches tall.

- **Secure wheels:** For extra security, the monster truck's wheels are attached to the axle by braided-

steel cable. In case a spindle breaks, the gigantic wheels will remain on the vehicle rather than rolling into an unsuspecting crowd.

- **Driver-activated fire extinguisher:** If the driver notices flames, a handle in the cab can be activated to instantly deploy two extinguishers pointed directly at the engine.

- **Remote ignition:** Grave Digger is equipped with a remote-ignition interrupter controlled by four individuals around the track. In case of an emergency a driver is unaware of, fuel and power can be

immediately cut from the vehicle.

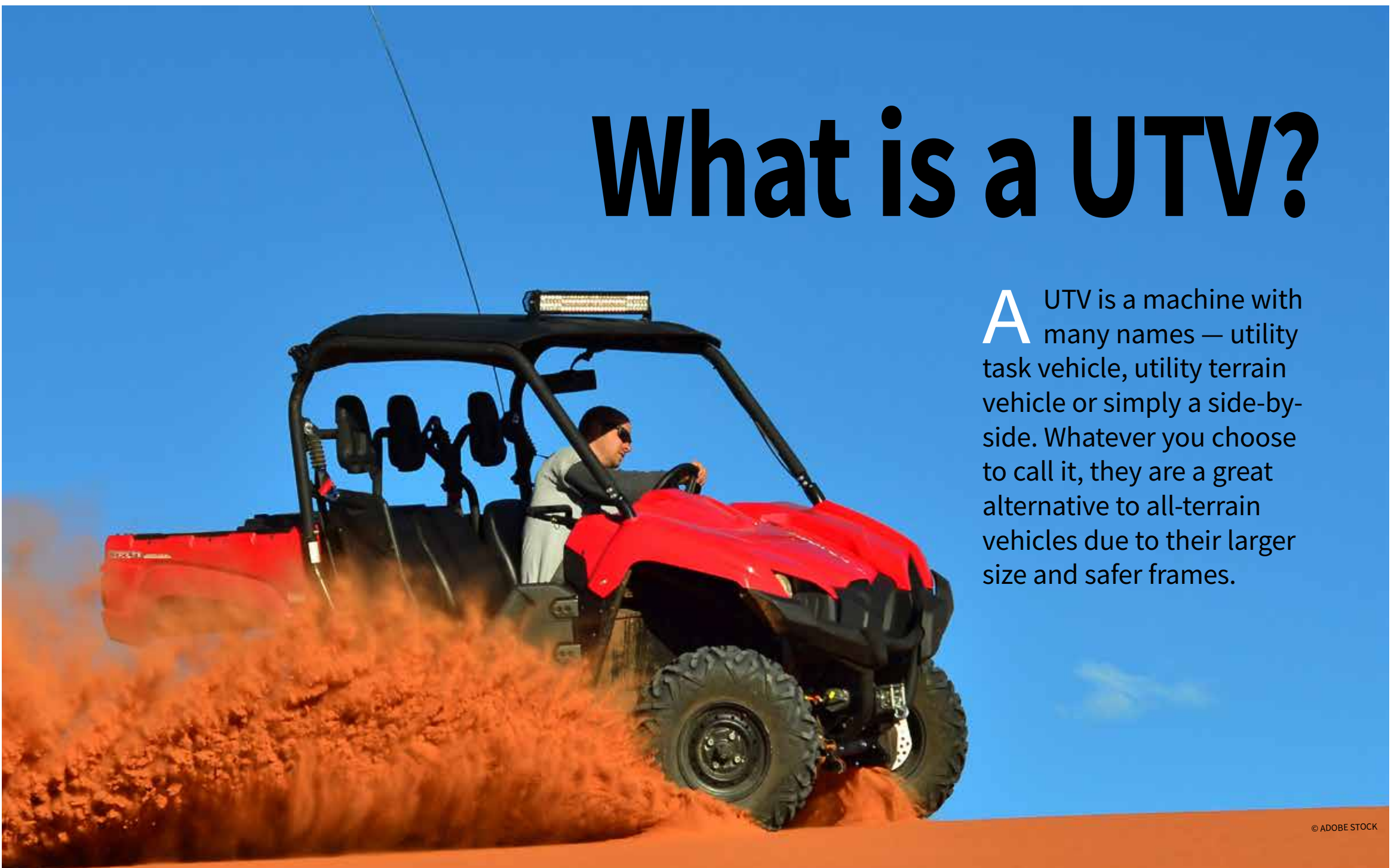
ENTERTAINMENT

When attending a monster-truck rally, you will be entertained by an incredible donut and wheelie competition where vehicles compete against each other for the most impressive moves.

Other exciting events include tournament races, launching trucks off a ramp for max-air gains and usually an autograph session after the show. Don't worry, rallies haven't forgotten their roots. At most events you will still see drivers crushing rows of smaller cars.

What is a UTV?

A UTV is a machine with many names — utility task vehicle, utility terrain vehicle or simply a side-by-side. Whatever you choose to call it, they are a great alternative to all-terrain vehicles due to their larger size and safer frames.



© ADOBE STOCK

Outdoor enthusiasts also love the ample room for storing their hunting and camping gear. While the price is a little higher than a standard ATV, the benefits may be exactly what you need.

WORK OR PLAY

The UTV was designed to be more useful than an ATV yet more versatile than a pick-up truck. The vehicles gained popularity among farmers and those who required compact transportation to monitor their operations.

The side-by-side design allows for more than one person to travel aboard and offers plenty of storage space to hold necessary tools or gear needed to make repairs around the property.

A UTV also has plenty of purpose as a recreational vehicle for those who enjoy hunting, fishing or simply spending time outdoors. When you invest in a UTV, you will be prepared to navigate trails in style and comfort.

With their popularity rising, aftermarket manufacturers are creating more and more options for customization, such as enhanced suspension, light bars and custom wheels.

SAFETY TIPS

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, one of the most common hazards associated with UTVs is rollover accidents. They can experience mishaps when the cargo bed is overloaded, while traveling on side slopes beyond

the vehicle's specifications and while attempting to climb a grade the vehicle cannot manage.

While operating a UTV, pay special attention when traveling on uneven ground to prevent tipping and always wear the included safety belt.

BUY USED OR NEW?

Buying a used UTV from a private party may save you a few bucks, but it can have many downsides. For starters, you don't know how the vehicle was maintained, how hard it was driven or how much life is actually left. Buying new from a dealer is your best bet and will come with a warranty and guarantee. Check with your local power sports dealership for deals and financing options.



Bicycles

© ADOBE STOCK

Whether you are looking for a way to stay in shape or need a quick mode of transportation to accompany you to work or on the trails, a bicycle is a viable option. This classic vehicle comes in many different types and can handle the most rugged terrain or smooth bike paths with ease.

Choosing which routes you'll be taking is the first consideration to make when buying a bicycle.

WHICH STYLE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Walking into a bicycle dealer can be intimidating if you're not sure what to look

for. The different types featured in the showroom have different purposes. Purchasing the wrong one can make your biking experience a difficult ordeal.

According to the National Bicycle Dealers Association, these are the most common types of vehicles available

today.

- **Mountain bikes:** Built with traveling off the beaten path in mind, a mountain bike will offer optimum performance on the trails. You can still use them on pavement but don't expect to achieve high speeds.

- **Road bikes:** For those commuting on smooth terrain, a road bike will offer speed, comfortability and premium handling.

- **Hybrid bikes:** A type of bike offering a blend of both mountain and road bikes. They are meant for general commute but will perform similarly to both styles.

- **Cruisers:** these bicycles are meant for leisurely rides

around town. Many of them have wider tires paired with a comfortable seat.

HEALTH BENEFITS

Now that you know which bicycle will perform best for your specific needs, you can prepare for the awesome health benefits cycling provides. Check out some of the advantages you'll feel when cruising on two wheels, per the Harvard Medical School:

- **Aerobic workout:** Riding a bike creates a workout for your heart, brain and blood vessels. You also will release endorphins, which are chemicals associated with good feelings.

- **Build muscle:** The down

stroke part of pedaling builds muscles in the buttocks, thighs and calves. When on an upstroke, you will work hamstrings and flexor muscles in your hips. Holding yourself upright and balancing will work your arms. It's basically a full-body workout every time you go for a ride.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

In order to keep your bicycle in its peak condition, general maintenance is required.

Check with our dealer to find bicycle-specific lubrication and apply it to the chain, cables, shifters and brake pivots. Make sure to wipe the area clean if there is a build-up of excess lube.

Long-Distance Buses

Road trips seldom come without frustration. Whether it's spending more than you planned on fuel, unexpected repairs or getting lost, there are many factors that can arise to ruin the adventure.

Let a long-distance bus take you across country and enjoy the open road in comfort and at a reasonable price.

Many of today's inter-city buses pride themselves on luxury. You will be treated to a comfortable seat, usually free WiFi and enough leg room to stretch out and relax.

Pampering yourself on a long trip across the nation isn't the only reason to commit to a long-distance bus travel plan. Read on to discover additional benefits and book your bus trip with your local travel agency today.

SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT

Reducing pollution is the responsibility of every American. One way you can lessen your carbon footprint is by taking public transportation.

According to the Federal Transit Administration, transportation accounts for 29 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.



© ADOBE STOCK

Limiting the number of vehicles on the road is just one step in protecting the environment.

PROFESSIONAL DRIVER

Charter bus drivers are specially trained to drive this large vehicle. You can rest assured that their expertise will be used if they experience dangerous weather ele-

ments or other potential hazards.

Instead of worrying about what is happening on the road, you can finish projects, watch a movie or even take a nap.

REDUCE WEAR AND TEAR ON YOUR VEHICLE

Every time the wheels turn on your personal vehicle,

components are slowly degrading.

A cross-country trip can put a big strain on a car that is relied upon for your daily travels. You can reduce the amount of abuse it takes by trading your keys for a bus ticket.

SEE THE COUNTRYSIDE

While flying in an airplane

will certainly get you to your destination quicker, don't expect to see the same amazing views you'll witness from the seat of a charter bus.

Many buses include stops at popular tourist destinations. These breaks, along with plenty of breathtaking views of the countryside, make the bus trip an enjoyable experience.



Rise of the All-Terrain Pickup

It seems that vehicle manufacturers have been so concerned with fuel economy, luxury and comfort that they forgot about the truck enthusiasts who want a rugged option to take off road.

That isn't the case anymore as popular vehicles are getting all-terrain packages that

are sure to appease every fanatic.

If you love beefy suspensions, off-road tires and expanded maneuverability, you'll be excited to see what three of the largest vehicle manufacturers are offering for their off-road fan base.

CHEVY COLORADO ZR2

The popular midsize truck from General Motors is fitted with the ZR2 sports package. It includes an enhanced suspension, locking differentials and wide wheelbase. Four-wheel drive diehards will be

glad to hear about the driver-controlled traction control.

Thanks to its innovative dynamic suspension spool valve shocks, the Colorado will drive flawlessly on rugged terrains or smooth pavement when it's time to get back on the road.

Consumers have the option of purchasing this beast with a 3.6-liter V6 engine or a well-built 2.8-liter Duramax diesel engine.

FORD RAPTOR

The Raptor came out of nowhere and caught the eye

of off-road enthusiasts way back in 2010. It has continued to impress with its all-terrain ability thanks to its premium suspension and giant 35-inch tires.

Ford has recently announced that the upcoming Ranger will be receiving the Raptor treatment. It will use a 2.0L twin-turbo diesel accompanied by a 10-speed automatic transmission.

The midsize truck is expected to reach 210 horsepower. It will be interesting to see how Ford's new off-road model fares against the competition.

RAM REBEL

Driving this rugged truck off road remains comfortable due to its four-corner air suspension, which also helps with gas mileage when traveling on a highway.

The four-wheel drive version comes stocked with the signature Hemi engine, paired with an eight-speed transmission.

The Rebel features the same body as a standard Ram 1500, however, there are accents across the bumper and grille that give it a more aggressive appearance.