

ADRI & JD

Special ... very special ...

Almost 15 years ago - on a Friday afternoon - I had an unforgettable experience: with contractor Adri at Wilhelminadorp: a large number of back and forth rides in a JD 8850 (?) With an 8-scissors plow.

Why was it so special?

Since childhood I have dreamed of riding a real John Deere. As a teenager I saw the back neighbor Houwers with a John Deere every day. It's the understated power, the quiet simplicity, the graceful appearance of these machines that have always attracted me. But it never happened.

On my way to Goes I always passed the fields of the Royal Association Wilhelminapolder. There was always an employee of that firm working with a JD. I passed them by with silent wonder.

But today my wish came true.

No reason. Unexpected. On the left, between the cemetery and the village, someone with a very large JD was busy pulling 8 furrows into the heavy clay of Zeeland. I parked my small car at the edge of the field and made a video of the energetic plowing. The giant passed fifty yards away.

But the machine stopped. The door was opened and the driver beckoned me. Me ?

I took a few steps on the field, but realized I couldn't go on in shoes. Quickly put on my boots, I ran across the field, hoping to be able to take some nice pictures. The driver waited patiently.

No chat, no photos... First, riding was the motto! I got it cold and hot at the same time, not knowing where to look so quickly, trying to hold on to all the impressions: the enormous subdued pulling power, the view from the cabin, the GPS-powered steering, the water in the tires, the 8-furrow plow, the wide range of gears,



the speed, the precision of the work, the experience of the driver, what love for the profession and the landscape! I had been waiting for this for over 40 years. And yes, I was allowed to draw a few lines across the country myself!

But it was very special for another reason: it was the fifth-last working day of driver Adri before he took early retirement. I hope he realized what a great experience I had that afternoon. I am still grateful to him for this afternoon.

It was getting a bit dim. And when asked Adri turned on the lights he asked "How much do I have to do for you?". Like a lot, was my answer. "OK, let's get them all"! I got the chance to take some nice pictures.

"You are pretty good at plowing" was the compliment from Adri.

I hope Adri was able to enjoy the rest afterwards, and now and then got the chance to ride along for a while because it must have been difficult for him to lose the JD feeling. I still have that feeling.

Thanks for the great experience! 04 11 2005

PS

In retrospect, the GPS control turned out to be responsible for my straight lines on the Zeeland farmland 😊



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