

USDA Engineer Devises Tractor 'Auto-Pilot'

Precision cultivation of row crops is possible with an automatic pilot for farm tractors designed and laboratory tested by U. S. Dept. of Agriculture engineer Louis A. Liljedahl, stationed at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

This new device is expected to increase the effectiveness of cultivation as a means of weed control.

The steering control system enables operators to guide tractors more accurately, thereby making possible finer adjustment of cultivation machinery for control of weeds without damage to the crops.

The automatic control is intended for use in conjunction with power steering hookups which are featured on modern tractors.

Lightweight feelers, capable of sensing the position of the crop row in relation to the tractor's front tires, are used in the automatic pilot to close switches when the tractor moves too close or too far from the row.

The microswitches, in turn open valves that permit hydraulic pressure to turn the front wheels into alignment with the row. A linkage system between the front wheels and the switches automatically straightens the front wheels as soon as the tractor returns to the correct position.

Main problem overcome in developing this device involved finding a way to use fairly simple equipment low enough in cost to be a profitable investment for farmers seeking to do a better job of cultivation.

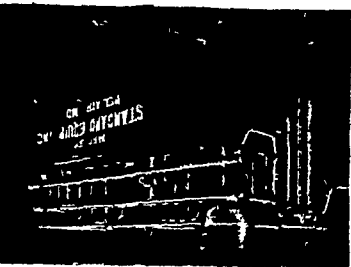
Mr. Liljedahl began his search for such a device with mathematical studies, first deriving basic equations for the design of simple on-off type steering controls.

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REVIEWS :-

A total of 46 registered Holstein daughters and grand daughters of SPABC sires, were sold April 30 at the sec-

ond "Progeny Sale" sponsored by the breeding cooperative, in Willow Street. The Sale grossed \$28,135 for an average of \$612 per head. Top individual was a "Lucifer" heifer selling for \$1,625 bought by Irvin and Levi Weaver, former Lancaster Countians from Bath, N.Y., from Charles Stroh, Suffield, Conn Paul Hess, Lititz, paid \$1,350 for "Tum-A-Lum Ivanhoe Gay", consigned by Al do Panciera, and a daughter of Osbornedale Ivanhoe, Nine-

teen animals surpassed the \$600 mark, going to seven states. The majority were purchased for herds in the SPABC area, however.

USDA research scientists report that two new fungicides, Phaltan and Cyprex, will provide almost complete

control of Black highly destructive roses. In tests at M'd., each of these was applied to severely affected foliage of roses as part of a combination ray. The combination of either of the Aramite or Malathion both DDT and L. inda-

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