

## Engineer Offers Some Guidelines For Purchasing Used Equipment

How does one determine the price to pay for second hand farm machinery? Some guidelines helpful in arriving at the answer to that question are provided by Edward J. Constien, extension agricultural engineer from Missouri University. He adds, however, that price is not the only factor to consider.

The estimated value of second hand farm machines in terms of list price, varies with age. He offers the following estimates for tractors, and machines other than tractors.

Age	Tractors	Other Machines
1 year	65%	60%
3 years	53%	47%
5 years	43%	36%
7 years	35%	28%
9 years	28%	22%
11 years	23%	17%

Probably the best guide to value of a used machine is to check prices with several dealers. If active dealers for a particular make are not available in your area, the machine is worth less because service is not available.

Actual value of a machine depends on age, mechanical condition, availability of parts and service, past history of the particular make and model in terms of performance and reliability.

It is usually best to buy a machine of the same make and model used successfully by other farmers in the community, says Constien.

When the make and model of machine desired is found its condition should be checked. Follow the power line from engine or power takeoff back to the ultimate driven part. This calls for a careful look at universal joints, bearings, chains, belts, gear boxes. Estimate cost of repairs.

Look also for frame members that have been sprung or joints in frame assembly that have come apart. Frame members bent out of line result in misaligned shafts, and chain-sprocket drives hastening wear and fatigue breakage. When basic parts are swamped, it will usually be better to look at another machine.

Finally, says Constien, consider your own talents and facilities for repair before buying second hand. If you are "hands with your hands" and have the right tools and equipment to do much of your own repair work, the likelihood of savings from buying second hand machinery is greater.

He adds that any savings from buying second hand machinery come from exten-



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## MANOR YOUNG FARMERS SCHEDULE TWO MEETINGS

According to vocational agriculture instructor Richard Hackenberger, the Manor Young Farmer class will hold two meetings in the near future, both in the Penn Manor High School agriculture room at 8 p.m.

The first will be held March 15 and will feature Chris Nissley of A. H. Hoffman Seed Co. The subject will be "Summer annual grasses." There will also be judging of hay and silage samples brought in by the members.

The following Tuesday, March 22, a panel consisting of Jay Garber, Sterling Elmer, and Hackenberger will

discuss forage program, and the forage testing service offered by Penn State.

## Area Members At Legislative Conf. Of PFA

County committees on National Legislative Affairs of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association from throughout Pennsylvania convened in Washington, D.C. at the Manger Hamilton Hotel recently for the annual Pennsylvania Farmers' Association Congressional Meeting.

The program included speakers, visits to the offices of Congressmen, visits to the House and Senate Chambers, and a banquet at the Presidential Arms with the Pennsylvania Congressmen as guests.

The purpose of the meeting was to give PFA mem-

bers an opportunity to learn more of the legislative processes and to become better acquainted with their Congressmen. A total of two hundred Pennsylvania farmers and Congressmen attended the banquet.

Roger Fleming, director of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Washington office, spoke to the Pennsylvania delegation Tuesday morning. Fleming discussed the organization structure of the AFBF and the various program divisions. Hollis Hatfield, PFA executive secretary, presented some thoughts on President Johnson's proposal for four-year legislators.

Attending the meeting from the Lancaster County Farmers' Association were: Jay Newcomer; Henry Reist; Noah Wenger and Mrs. Wenger; Charlie Koocher; Earl Martin; Harold Ney and Mrs. Ney; Roy Greider and Mrs. Greider; and Earl Smoker.

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