

Modifying Tractors Can Mean Trouble

Farmers who modify diesel tractors to improve efficiency may be letting themselves in for a pack of trouble, according to Thomas H. Williams, extension agricultural engineer at the University of Delaware.

Tractor modification has been going on for a long time, says Williams. Oversize sleeves and piston sets, special carburetors and high altitude pistons or heads have been used for years to increase power.

Perhaps the most popular method of increasing diesel engine power is overfueling — adjusting the fuel delivery screw on the fuel injection pump to step up the amount of fuel being delivered to the engine. This is probably the fastest, easiest and cheapest way to squeeze more power from a diesel. But it's also hardest on the engine.

Oil contamination caused by excess fuel washes off cylinder

walls causing scuffed pistons, carbon buildup in the oil and fouled seals. Excess heat from burning more fuel leads to higher valve temperatures and shorter engine life.

Overfueling also causes injector and injection pump failures to rise sharply and may increase combustion pressure to the point where bearing and crankshaft failure and head gasket leakage become a chronic problem.

In addition, the extra power causes undue strain on the transmission and final drive. These extra strains may shorten gear, bearing and shaft life.

Overfueling a tractor by no more than 10 percent is enough to bring on these problems, cautions Williams. They become critical when fueling is increased 30 to 40 percent to get a 20 percent increase in power.

Before deciding to modify a diesel, a farmer should take into account the effect on tractor life and maintenance costs.

Farm Women Hold Dinner Meeting

Society of Farm Women 1 held a Mother-Daughter banquet at the General Sutter Inn. Mrs. Roy Brubaker, president, was mistress of ceremonies.

Devotions were led by Mrs. Graybill Hollinger. The group was entertained by local vocalists from Linden Hall called the Lindinaires, under the direction of Barbara Heck.

A reading was given by Dona Walton. Fifty-seven members and guests attended. Gifts were given to the oldest mother, Mrs. Benjamin Sheaffer; the youngest mother, Mrs. David Auker; the youngest person there, Beverly Stark; and to Mrs. Paul Stark, who brought the most guests.

Guest speaker was Sarah Martin, Lancaster, who spoke of "Famous Women of Pennsylvania."

The next meeting will be June 1 at the home of Mrs. Elmer Hershey, Litz R2, with Mrs. Franklin Weber as co-hostess. Speaker will be furnished by the Lancaster Red Cross.

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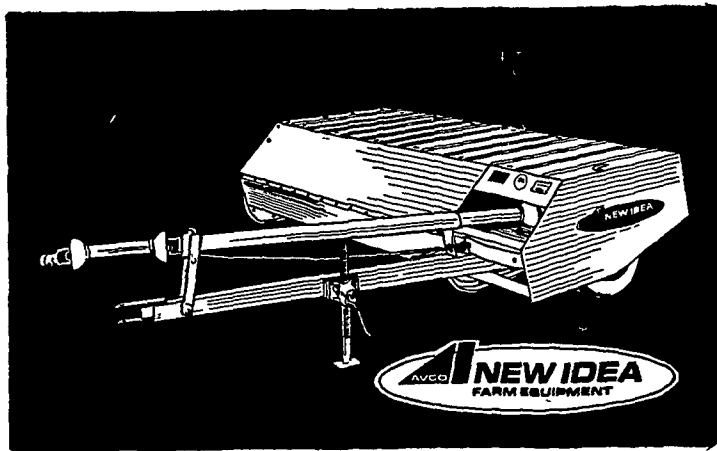
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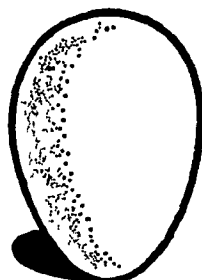
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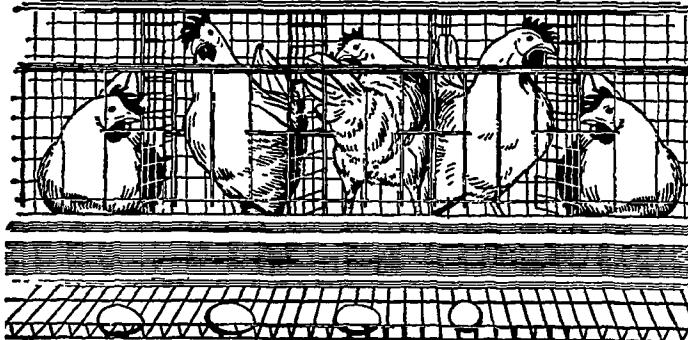
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