

Tractor Sales Booming

The free world farm and industrial tractor industry—paced by a sales boom in the United States and Canada—is finishing its best year since 1969 and should do almost as well in 1973, according to a Ford Motor Company tractor executive.

James H. Grommersch, who heads worldwide sales for Ford Tractor Operations, said that industry sales of wheeled tractors in the free world will be about 690,000 units this year, compared with 700,000 in 1969 and

640,000 last year. Further, he predicted that 1973 sales would total about 675,000 units.

"Industry tractor sales in the United States and Canada reached about 228,000 units this year, up 18 per cent from last year's 193,000 units," he said. "That's the best year for North American sales since 1967 when the industry sold 243,000 units."

"By contrast, industry unit sales in Europe are up about four per cent for 1972, while sales in the rest of the free world (ex-

cluding North America and Europe) are up about two per cent," Grommersch said.

"We're optimistic about 1973 because of a number of factors—the improvement in farmers' income, some pent-up demand from recent years, increased exports of farm commodities, a surge in construction contracts, a general realignment of world currencies and a greater supply of loanable money," he said. "We expect these factors to continue to buoy sales although their benefits already have been realized most during 1972."

"In the United States, for example, the gross national product is up 6.4 per cent this year over last year and is expected to grow another 6.1 per cent in 1973," he said. "And with U.S. government fiscal pressures expected to hold interest rates down and forestall any tight credit crises during 1973, tractor buyers should find ample funds available at reasonable rates."

"Over 70 horsepower farm tractors accounted for 40 per cent of all industry unit sales this year in the U.S. and Canada, for example, compared with only 18 per cent 10 years ago," Grommersch concluded

Crockett in Congress

Davy Crockett, the famous Indian scout, was elected from Tennessee to the House of Representatives in 1826, 1828 and 1832. He was defeated in 1830, partly because of his opposition to Andrew Jackson's Indian Bill, which violated Indian treaties



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Corn Growers Win Top Yield Awards

Outstanding local corn growers are receiving high yield awards from The Producers of Funk's G-Hybrids for their early entries in 1972 Project:200. They are Weidler Bros., Palmyra, and Jay Rohrer and Harold Musser of Manheim.

Project:200 is America's largest high yield corn growing contest. With a beginning in 1969, the contest has grown each year with over 5,500 corn growers participating in 1971. Even greater participation is expected for 1972.

The early yields, and hybrids reported by the growers are: Weidler Bros., 106.8 bushels per acre made with G-4646, and Jay Rohrer and Harold Musser, 140.9 bushels per acre made with G-4646.

The thousands of corn growers throughout the U.S. and Canada who take part in Project:200

machine harvest and shell a minimum of two acres from not less than four adjacent rows running the full length of the field. Yields are converted to No. 2 corn and all figures are validated by a disinterested witness.

The top yield in 1971 was 289.9 bushels per acre. Overall average yield of 5,500 entries was 146.5 bushels per acre.

The agronomic practices used by Project:200 competitors are annually computerized. The summary of this information represents one of the largest studies ever made of the techniques used by corn growers in striving for higher yields.

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