

IH Production Boost Planned

International Harvester has announced plans for a one-third increase in production of its larger sized tractors, as a result of a \$14 million capital expansion program at its Farmall plant in Rock Island, Ill.

J. Patrick Kaine, president of IH's Agricultural - Industrial Equipment Division said at a press conference this morning, "Despite record output of these high horsepower tractors, continuing demand makes further production increases a 'must', at the earliest possible moment."

Kaine said that the program will mean more tractors by mid-'75 and full production by the end of that year. "This has been under development for about a year," he said. "It became a

reality as a direct result of the company's recently announced decision to increase engine production by over 50 percent." These engines are used in the tractors built at Farmall Plant. He further attributed the expansion decision to, "a foreseeable easing of some of the major supply problems which have been plaguing the industry in recent months."

The program is a part of IH's recently announced \$150 million capital expenditure program for 1974, which is up from \$105 million planned at the beginning of this fiscal year.

Commenting further on the decision to expand, Kaine said, "in view of the promising outlook for agriculture and our backlog of tractor orders, par-

ticularly those in this fastest growing, high horsepower category, we had just two choices. One was to build an entirely new facility which would require several years to bring on stream. We chose, instead to expand this facility, thus accelerating the movement of more tractors onto U. S. farms. Fortunately the Farmall assembly line had been completely revamped a few years ago and at that time, provisions for future expansion were designed into it."

Plant manager, T V McAllister said that the expansion phase of the program involves two building additions totaling over 46,000 square feet. The renovation project will cover an additional 300,000 square feet of floor space and the purchase and installation of over 50 sophisticated production machine tools.

About 500 additional people will eventually be added to the plant's payroll which currently numbers about 3100.

McAllister also unveiled a sketch of the plant's huge machining building which will be given an attractive exterior face-lift to enhance the neighborhood's environment and contribute to the city's over-all beautification program.

IH's Farmall plant was purchased in 1924 and is considered the "mother

plant" of the company's tractor manufacturing facilities. It was recently the scene of a celebration marking the assembly of the company's 5 millionth tractor - a feat claimed by no other tractor maker.

Total IH employment in the Quad Cities is about 7,000. This includes employees at its East Moline combine and planter facility and the recently completed sales region office in Davenport.

Mt. Joy Photography 4-H Club

The Mount Joy Photography Club held their sixth meeting on Tuesday, August 13, at Glossbrenner's United Methodist Church, Mount Joy.

Dan Hoy graded our record books and went over our photo albums with us. Jay Fisher assisted him. Mr. Hoy gave us suggestions on how we should arrange our pictures in our albums. This was in preparation for 4-H Achievement Day, August 15, at the Farm and Home Center.

We also planned a picnic for Tuesday, September 3, at 7 P.M. at Sico Park in Mount Joy. This will be our last meeting of the year.

Jere Swarr
News Reporter

Poultry Disease Closes Exhibit

An outbreak of a highly contagious and deadly poultry disease has prompted the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to close the poultry exhibit at the Crawford County Fair.

Dr. Everett Denlinger, director of the department's Bureau of Animal Industry, said the bird disease was identified Aug. 20 as infectious laryngotracheitis. He said the affected birds have been isolated and the exhibit closed to prevent the spread of the disease to other poultry flocks.

Denlinger said the disease does not affect humans and, therefore, does not pose a public health problem.

The first symptoms of the disease are watery eyes, extreme difficulty in breathing, coughing, sneezing and shaking of the head to dislodge exudate plugs in the windpipe.

Onset of the disease, according to Denlinger, is rapid and birds either die or recover in five to six days. Mortality ranges from ten to

70 percent and egg production drops sharply.

"It is obvious," said Denlinger, "that this disease can have a severe economic impact on poultry farmers. That is why they should be aware of first symptoms and isolate affected flocks."

The disease can be transmitted from bird to bird, dead bird to live bird, by infected buildings or by people wearing contaminated clothing, shoes and so forth. Recovered chickens may remain carriers for up to 24 months.

Denlinger urged poultrymen with infected flocks to maintain strict isolation on their own farms and avoid contact with other poultry operations.

He also urged poultrymen whose flocks show any health problem to contact a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regional office or the department's Regional Diagnostic Laboratory at Evans City.

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