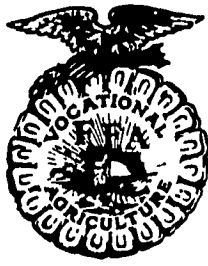


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



"Even Your Workload" By:
Glenn L. Spangler
Ag Instructor
Manheim Central H.S.

Your corn and soybeans are harvested, winter small grains were sown, Thanksgiving is past, you never saw a buck, Christmas was just with us and you are completing your last minute year end tax management plans. The only thing to do is file your 1040 forms, go to the Farm Show and wait for spring. Hopefully you will

disagree with this last statement and you will use your time wisely.

Unfortunately, too many farmers do wait for spring. Because of the greater amount of time available, now is the time to recondition your machinery. The fact is, however, the farm shop is used less during the months of January and February when compared to the other months. The reason for this is quite obvious, it is just too cold to work in most farm shops.

Your shop should probably have a means to be heated. When you heat your shop, be certain that the proper ventilation is available for your heating system. Fumes from welding, paints, fuels and running engines can be hazardous to your health. A means to remove these and other vapor from a closed shop is a must.

Even if your shop is unheated there are a number of things you should try to do now to prevent down time this spring and the months to come. One good place to start is with the combine or cornpicker which you just used. Do you remember any belts or chains which were slipping? Was one part of the machine knocking? If you are having trouble remembering this now, imagine how much harder it will be when you go to start using it again. Instead of just depending on your memory, why not clean the machine, check all belts and chains

and other moving parts. Do any teeth guards or knives need to be replaced? Does the knife on the bean head need sharpening? When all of these are done grease the machine and put it away.

The same things apply to other machines. Special attention must be given to equipment which comes in contact with corrosive materials such as fertilizer. Other things which could be done are hard surface parts of machines, check plow shears and paint equipment. With harvest completed and fall tillage done your tractors may need to have oil and filters changed. If you have an older tractor, when was the last time you packed the front wheel bearings?

One job which you can start in the warm is determining how you are going to calibrate your corn planter with corn of lower germination. Read your owner's manual, make certain you do know how to change the seed drop if you seed corn is of low germination.

The above are just a few ideas of things which you can do to even your workload throughout the year. Even if your shop is unheated, you should try to do many of these on the milder days this winter.

Lebanon County In Census Count

The 1974 Census of Agriculture being conducted by the Bureau of the Census will bring up to date farm statistics collected for the year 1969 when the last farm census was taken.

Newton J. Bair, Assoc. County Extension Agent, says that cooperation from every farm and ranch operator is needed in order to insure an accurate measurement of changes in Lebanon County. Farm business records are to be used in filling out the report farm, but when records are not available, reasonable estimates are fully acceptable. He stresses that the Census Bureau must have a good report from each operator if county records are to be complete and accurate. The report forms (questionnaires), mailed out about January 1, should be filled out and mailed back as early as possible.

Nothing is revealed in the published reports that might disclose information about

an individual operator. The data are combined into county and State totals that provide benchmarks for keeping up with changes in farming. The Census of Agriculture, taken every five years, is the only source of statistics on agriculture that are comparable, county by county, on a nationwide basis.

The 1969 census counted 767 farms in Lebanon County; 176 reported selling \$2,500 or more of agricultural products, and 591 reported sales of \$40,000 or more. The market value of all agricultural products sold amounted to \$23,041,018 an average of \$30,040 per farm. However, farm production expenses totaled \$17,373,501, an average of \$22,651 per farm. This left a net farm income of \$7,389 per farm in 1969.

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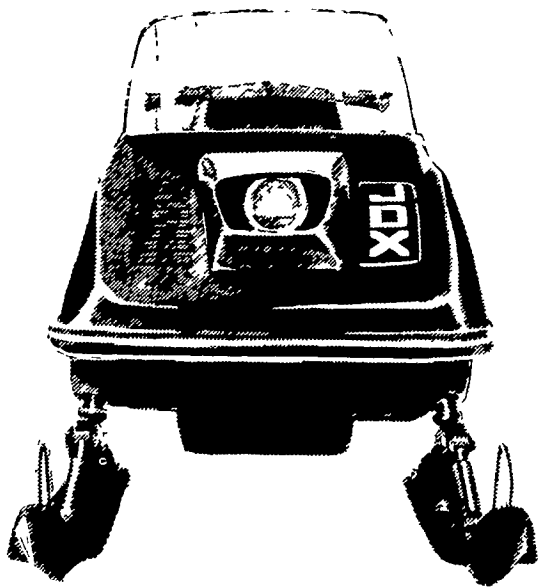
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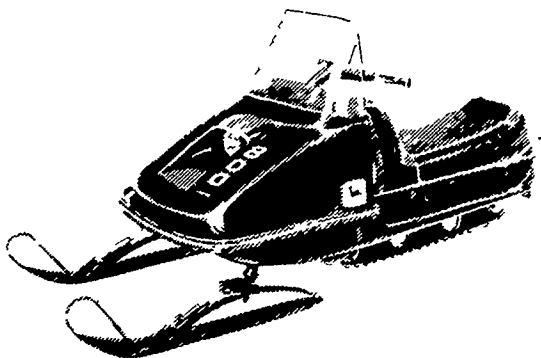
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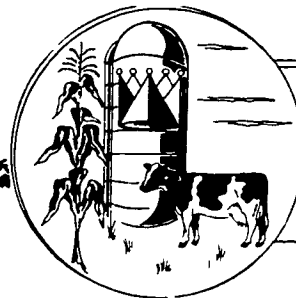
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