

## Harvesting is key to alfalfa's value

NEW HOLLAND, Pa. - Alfalfa has been one of the most sought-after farm crops in recent months.

In areas hardest hit by drought, such as Minnesota, supplies are exhausted and alfalfa has been transported 1200 to 1500 miles to dairymen seeking to maintain their herds.

Premium prices have been paid for such alfalfa, making it one of the major cash crops recently.

It is such conditions which have confirmed again, not only the basic value of alfalfa as a cash crop, but the dependence of a significant segment of agriculture such as dairying on it as a primary feed.

The key to alfalfa's value as a cash crop and a dairy feed, centers on modern harvesting techniques to maintain top quality of the

crop, according to Sperry New Holland.

The basic principle of reducing harvesting time by using one machine to both cut and condition a crop now has been expanded to provide additional advantages for farmers.

Increased alfalfa acreage to fill the growing demand, such as was apparent this year, has created a need for units with greater cutting and conditioning capacity. Machines with 12-foot cuts and more than 9-foot-wide conditioning rolls have been developed in both pull-type and self-propelled models, Sperry New Holland says.

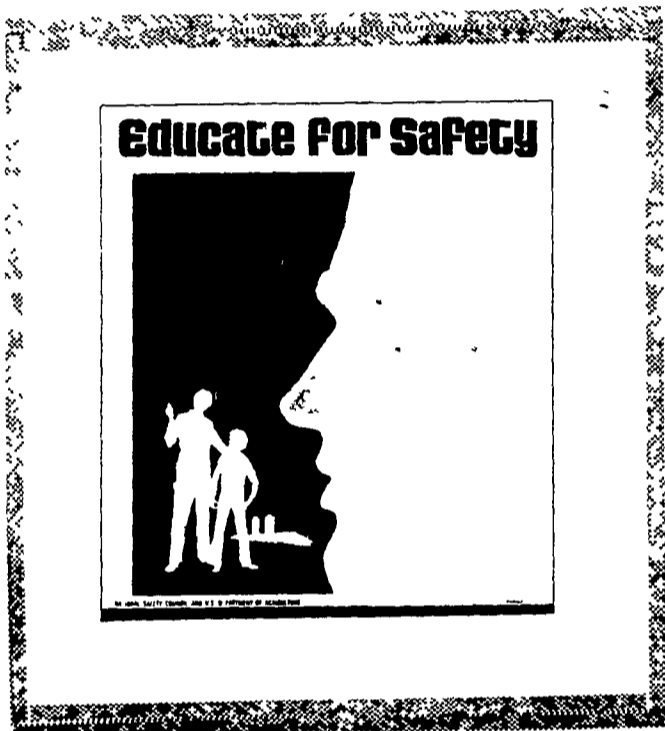
Another important guideline to judge the value of a mower-conditioner is its dual capability to either swath or windrow. This gives greater versatility to meet

varying weather conditions.

Coupled with greater capacity, today's harvesting requires gentler handling of the crop to preserve its feed value. Elimination of the auger in mower-conditioners provides such gentle handling. A header with converging reels picks up the crop and delivers it directly to the conditioning rolls. These reels also provide a sweeping action for a clean cut in a down and tangled crop.



The new officers of the Lower Dauphin Future Farmers of America chapter are: (front row left to right) Dave Shriener, Steve Fackler, Dan Geeseman, and Sheila Dee Spittle, Michelle Henry, Donna Capp, and Brenda Hooker. Back row left to right are: Steve Fackler, Dan Geeseman, and Sheila Dee Spittle, Michelle Henry, Donna Capp, and Brenda Hooker.



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