IH engineer tells Young Farmers of tillage alternatives

LANCASTER - Eldon A. Harden, product engineer for moldboard and subsoil chisel plows at International Harvester's Engineering Center in Hinsdale, Ill. told members attending the Pennsylvania Young Farmer's Eighteenth Annual Convention, here recently, there are three basic reasons for the emergence of a great variety of tillage practices over the past few years. "The basics used for determining which tillage method you might use will come from one of or all of these three reasons. They are money, time and con-servation," Harden said during an educational workshop he conducted at



the convention held Wednesday and Thursday,

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Eldon A. Harden

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The farmer must often time choose for himself which factor is nore important to him in a given situation. "Considering money, time and conservation, all three cannot be satisfied with one set type of tillage year after year. A farmer today must use a combination of methods and equipment most practical to fulfill his needs," Harden

You must decide what type tillage will result in the greatest profit, if that is your major goal, he said. When you are in a hurry and time is most important, in most cases you can expect a little less yield and conservation is not given much consideration. When soil conservation is given the consideration it deserves, time and money become secondary, Harden said.

Harden then discussed some of the equipment being used today to perform common tillage practices such as "no-till" whereby most often a colter on the front of the planter opens the ground for seeding and a heavy press wheel behind

Another good conservation method is shallow or full width tillage whereby the area to be planted is worked to a depth of four to six inches with sides, field cultivators or wide sweeps, leaving at least half the trash from the previous crop on top of the ground, he said.

The relatively new subsoil chiseling method is used to break up hard pan and loosen the soil to a greater than normal depth for better root development and plant growth. It is made more practical in Pennsylvania by a new subsoil chisel that has a safety trip similar to the automatic moldboard plow trip, allowing for deep tillage work in rocky soil, he said.

Harden concluded by pointing out that the moldboard plow is the oldest and still the most popular means of tillage. "It is being used to produce the highest and nost consistent yields under the widest variety of conditions," he said. On the other hand, he said, where "no-till" or "shallow till" systems are successful, plowing may not yield the best results.

"The moldboard plow can be used as a conservation tool by using wider furrows to leave the field in a rougher state and by leaving off all

some trash will be left on the conservation. ground," he said.

and the entire tillage in-

Lebruary 8 and 9, at the Host the planter firms the seed. trash covering devices so dustry is interested in soil working to make the plow a "International Harvester better conservation tool," he

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HINKLETOWN - The Hinkletown Adult Farmer program will sponsor an educational meeting on

Management" on Tuesday

evening March 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Lawrence Hutchinson,

Extension veterinarian for Penn State University, will

The meeting will be held at

the Hinkletown Alternative School located ap-

proximately 1/2 mile north of

Route 322 on Wanner Road

just east of Hinkletown. All interested persons are in-

vited to attend.

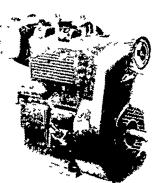
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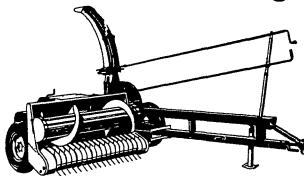
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