

19-ton tractor has all the luxuries

No symbol of modern agriculture suggests its bigness any more than the four-wheel drive tractors that are becoming so common. Almost every farmer with more than a few hundred acres owns at least one of those monsters. The major equipment manufacturers all have a complete line of them - even some relatively small companies have been able to get into the business and compete quite effectively with the old line tractor-makers.

Today's farmer, who is thinking of a bigger tractor, may be bewildered by the

many sizes, shapes, brands, options, and prices available to him. A careful buyer can pick up a new, small four-wheel drive tractor for no more than \$40,000 or he can go all the way and spend as much as \$120,000. For that top figure he gets a machine that will pull almost anything he can fasten behind it, one that will go in any kind of weather, and provide the operator with all the comforts of home.

A manufacturer in Georgia is building giant tractors, which are considered to be the Rolls Royce of farm tractors. The original designer-builder

was Jones Earl Copeland of Texas. Copeland started out in the machinery business and decided he could build a better tractor. So at age 27, with \$10,000 of borrowed money, he set out to build his first one - the Copeland 6500. Five years later, in 1969, he made a deal with a Texas rice farmer, J.D. Woods, to design some special tractors that would not bog down in his rice fields. They proved so successful that everybody wanted one so the two men went into a partnership. The resulting company was Woods and Copeland Manufacturing, Inc., which has since been acquired by

the Rome Plow Company of Cedartown, Ga.

The big four-wheel drive tractors have come on the scene very rapidly with bright prospects predicted for them by most manufacturers. They have power, the flotation, the maneuverability to perform almost any farm job. They'll do anything from chisel plowing and heavy disking to planting corn, owners say.

About two years ago, Woods & Copeland, Inc. of Wharton, Tex. delivered what is believed to be the most powerful farm tractor every made in the world. Elmo Meiners, an Illinois

corn farmer, was the man who placed the order, and the 600 horsepower behemoth was especially built to his specifications. The tractor is now owned by Ron Allen of Montana.

Meiners, one of the growing number of

America's "big farmers", was referred to the Texas firm by representatives of The Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Ill. They suggested that the size and other special requirements

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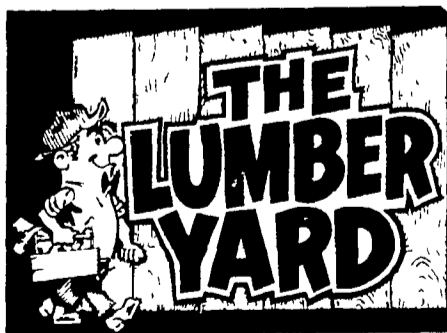
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