

MEDICINE AND MANAGEMENT

By CARL TROOP, VMD



Metric system will be costly to farmer

Since the heading of this column is Medicine and Management we are going to take the liberty in this one to journey from the world of medicine to a critical situation which is affecting the management and profitability of every farm in this country.

There is, at the present time, a determined effort by a certain segment of the population to introduce the metric system to the citizens of this country.

Why, I need to ask, are we abandoning a system which has served us quite sufficiently.

Now I do understand all of the arguments for the advantages of the metric system and it's effect with world trade and all of that. And if we had had this system of measurement all along I am sure that few of us would find fault with it. But the fact is we are not using it and are using a system which few of us in the real working world ever had any concern about being inadequate for any reason.

The metric system has always been there, it is not something new. Indeed, in medicine and the measurement of drugs the

metric system is used and serving them well.

But how many of us have stopped long enough to consider the consequences. Just about everything the farmer purchases is measured in the old English system. All the equipment used is produced in shops tooled in this system. All production records are recorded, all computers programmed, all tools produced using these measurements. Can you imagine the expense of retooling the entire farm equipment industry to produce bolts, tolerances, etc. in the metric system? The cost would be astronomical. And guess who is going to end up paying

for it. Crop records, production records for generations have been recorded and stored, now a way will need to be found for comparison with future measurements. Computers will have to be reprogrammed, entire record keeping systems revamped and the cost, of course, will be passed on.

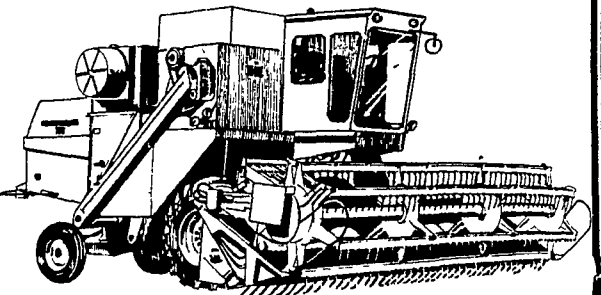
And won't it be fun for every farmer to now need to keep two complete sets of tools to cope with all the new metric and old English nuts and bolts they are going to have to fight with. No wonder the tool industry isn't putting up any fuss. The list goes on and on. One only has to stop and think for a little while to

realize how all these changes are going to affect not only costs, but gross inefficiency for some time to come. And for what benefit?

There is already a movement on in this country to stop this monstrosity enacted upon us by our legislature apparently against the wishes of the majority of the people. But you have to be heard from. Write your congressman. Let him know why you are opposed. Point out the effect this is going to have on the cost and efficiency. Inflation is bad enough without adding artificial costs on top which are not necessary. It is not yet too late. But that time is rapidly approaching.

LANCASTER — Gladys Mae Brubaker, New Providence R1, was elected Regional Director for the Pennsylvania Extension Para Professional Association for the Capital Region. A life time resident of Lancaster County, Brubaker is employed by the Penn State Extension Service as an Extension Nutrition Aide working with low-income persons in southern Lancaster County teaching them foods and nutrition.

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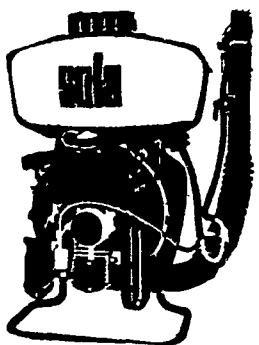
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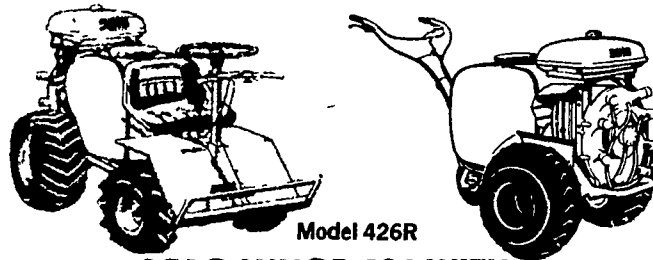
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