

Farmers are harnessing more gasoline engines

TOLEDO, Ohio — Over the last decade, the number of gasoline-powered engines per commercial farm in the United States increased by 13.5 per cent.

According to a study by Champion Spark Plug Company, the average farm in 1966 had 7.4 gasoline engines. Ten years later,

there was an average of 8.4 engines on each farm. The statistics are even more significant because diesel-powered tractors are not included in the study (A commercial farm is defined as one that has an annual gross income from farming of \$2,500 or more).

According to the recently

completed study—the eighth farm spark plug survey Champion has performed over the years—the number of commercial farms in the U.S. in 1976 totaled 1,711,318, a reduction of nearly 38,600 since 1966.

However, gasoline-powered vehicles and equipment on U.S. farms grew from 13,034,000 in 1966 to 14,459,000 just a decade later.

The only category where the number of gasoline engines decreased — a drop of 11 per cent — was tractors, although there are still more than 3.1 million in use.

But dramatic increases were noted in all other categories of farm vehicles and equipment. The Champion study showed that there are 11 per cent more automobiles on farms than a decade ago, 12 per cent more miscellaneous engines, 32 per cent more trucks, and 52 per cent more self-propelled vehicles.

The conclusion from the test — that the gasoline-powered, internal combustion engine performs better and with greater fuel efficiency when it receives periodic tune-ups—has been substantiated through the years by other Champion testing programs.

The program, conducted in 1968, was one of the most unique tests ever performed by Champion. It involved field tests throughout the United States and Canada on more than 100 farm tractors in "as found" condition and then after a tune-up.

The findings reached were that periodic farm tractor tune-up will benefit the farmer by increasing the acreage covered for the same working time period. For an eight-hour working day, the tests demonstrated that a farmer could cover an average of two additional

acres after a tune-up, for an increase in productivity of nearly 5 per cent. Computed another way, the findings showed that a tractor tune-up provided an average fuel savings of nearly 10 per cent.

Although the number of gasoline-powered tractors has diminished in recent years, the benefits of tune-ups are still important to the farm owner, who operates a growing fleet of vehicles that

do run on gasoline, including the family car.

The results of the tractor tests, interestingly, have been matched almost to the percentage point, by a series of Champion tests worldwide, completed this year.

The technology involved in testing has improved over the years, but the results are the same. Periodic tune-ups save gasoline and improve performance.

Fertilizer producers up energy efficiency

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Major U.S. fertilizer producers improved energy efficiency in fertilizer production during 1977 by an average 12 per cent above 1972, according to a report submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy by The Fertilizer Institute. The energy efficiency average is based on a survey for results from July through December, 1977, compared to 1972 base year date for the industry. Included are reports from companies designated by the government for filing energy efficiency figures, and also companies who are filing voluntarily in the Institute-sponsored report.

Edwin M. Wheeler, TFI president, while explaining the report, pointed out that energy use per ton of fertilizer produced during July-December, was 3.65 million BTU's, excluding operational changes.

"Had there not been improvements since 1972 in energy use efficiency," he said, "4.16 million BTU's per ton would have been used."

Thus, the efficiency gain was equivalent to 0.51 million BTU's per ton of fertilizer," he added. Applied to 51.6 million tons consumed in 1977, this gain represented an energy

savings of about 26 trillion BTU's — equivalent to about 26 million mcf of natural gas, or 4.5 million barrels of oil.

With fertilizer production requiring nearly one per cent of the nation's total annual energy consumption, fertilizer producers are making major efforts in energy conservation and in converting from scarce forms of energy to more abundant sources.

Sheep club learns fitting

CARLISLE--The 4-H Sheep Club of Cumberland County held its June meeting at the home of Robert Holtry, the group's leader. Holtry demonstrated how to prepare the sheep for showing. Shearing, blocking, hoof trimming, and showmanship were shown. The July meeting will be held at the home of Mark and Tom Lebo.

Time To Rise
The draftee was rudely awakened by the sergeant "It's four-thirty," was the roar "Four'thirty!" replied the recruit "You'd better get to bed, sarge, we've got a long day ahead of us tomorrow."

Northeast

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Boneless cow beef, 90 per cent lean, was down \$1 while 85 per cent lean increased 50 cents. Prime carcass veal closed steady to \$5 lower, with Good and Choice boning veal ranging from steady to weak. Fresh pork loins finished \$1 lower in a limited test.

Choice Three steer beef,

550 to 700 pounds, brought \$86.50. Boneless cow beef, 90 per cent lean, sold at \$100 to \$101. Prime special fed veal, hide on, 180 to 225 pounds, went from \$130 to \$140. Good and Choice boning veal, 34 pounds and down, were priced \$88 to \$90, with a few late sales going down to \$86. Fresh pork loins, 14 to 17 pounds, moved at \$103.50.

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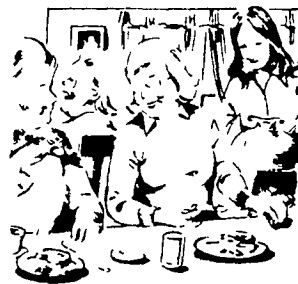
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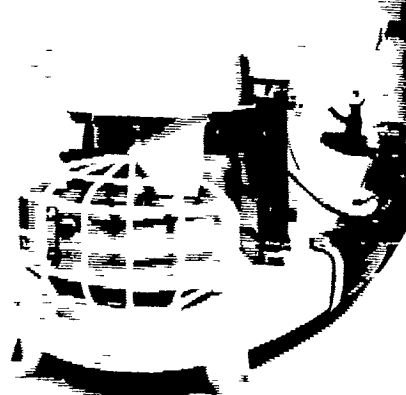
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