



For optimum performance and efficiency, the tires should slip just a bit, say University of Missouri researchers.

Traction efficiency scored

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Tractor tire slippage should run between 9 and 15 per cent.

"Zero slippage would be very inefficient," claims Ed Constien, University of Missouri-Columbia engineer. "That's because you'd need so much weight to keep from slipping, you'd waste fuel hauling the extra weight around."

"Any more than 15 per cent slippage and you're wasting fuel and causing excessive tire wear."

There are some fairly precise ways of figuring slippage, but Constien figures the easiest is to look at tire prints.

"If the tire track where the

lugs hit is torn up completely, you're slipping too much," he says. "If there is no break at all, you can afford to take some weight off the drive wheels."

"The track should be broken out a little bit if slippage is in the optimum range."

He said experienced farmers can quickly spot tractor inefficiencies. "If they can see the wheels slip," he says, "they know they have a problem and need to put more weight on those drive wheels."

Constien said farmers should have about 110 pounds on each driving wheel per PTO of horse power.

"A farmer should be able to put in a crop of corn for six or seven gallons of diesel fuel an acre, unless he has unusual soil conditions," says Constien. "This should be the amount of fuel needed for the entire operation: plowing, discing, harrowing, planting, spraying herbicides or using a rotary hoe, harvesting and shredding stalks."

"If you're using more fuel than that, there is something wrong with your tractor efficiency, you are tilling more than necessary or you have unusual soil conditions — like gumbo clay. If you have gumbo, who knows how much fuel it takes to get through that stuff!"

Outstanding ag student named

PITMAN - Don Snyder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Snyder of Pitman, Pa., was recently named winner of the 1978 DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award. The award, sponsored nationwide by DeKalb AgResearch, Inc., is presented to the senior agricultural student attaining the highest degree of proficiency in scholarship, leadership and a supervised agricultural program.

Don attends Tri-Valley High School, where he has been president and secretary of the local FFA Chapter, senior class

president and a member of the Honor Society. He also was in the drama club and was co-captain of the wrestling squad. His agricultural program consists of registered

Holstein dairy cows and heifers, alfalfa and corn.

Following graduation, Don plans to attend Penn State and major in Agriculture Business Management.

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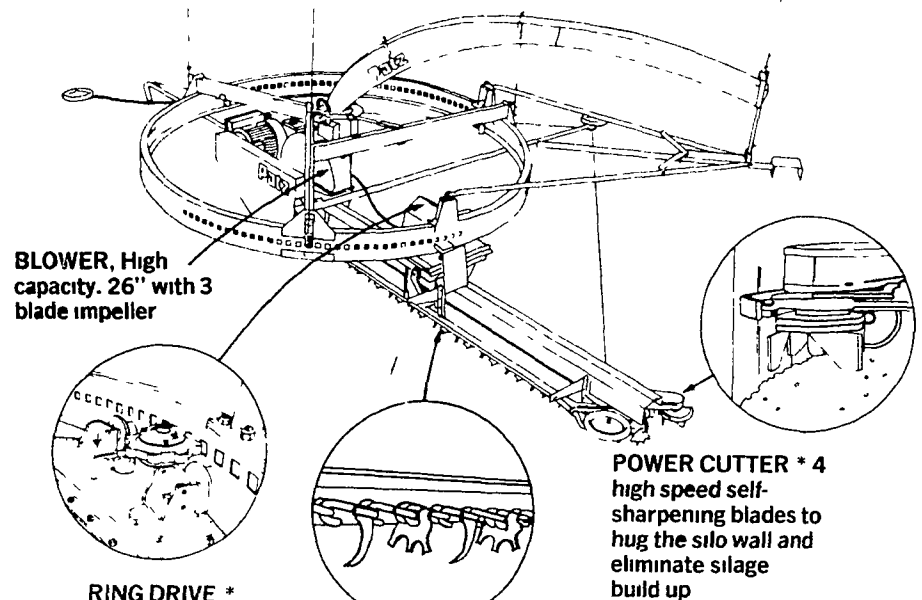
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