



Brief answers  
to short questions

## Sheila's Shorts

By Sheila Miller

### Case of the Missing Ford Tractor

Never thought I'd be in the tractor repair business. My experience with tractor mechanics was usually from the go-get-thus standpoint.

Whenever a tractor broke down on my parent's farm, I was always designated the invaluable assistant who ran to the cellar or pump shed for the tools and parts. Most times, the search that ensued took so much time that Dad came for the part himself. And, frustratingly, he always seemed to know just where to look for it.

Well, this week, a question from one of our readers poses a problem that several mechanics and he have been unable to solve. He writes:

I have an 8N Ford tractor that's been giving me trouble. I had different mechanics look at it but can't pin-point the cause.

When I am using it, mowing hay, it will run for an hour then suddenly stop. And, it won't start until it cools off about a half hour.

Sometimes when going up a grade, it will sputter and I have to keep pulling out the

choke to keep it running. At times this makes it backfire.

One mechanic told me I needed a new ignition switch. So, I replaced it and it still didn't help.

Roland G. Kamoda  
R1 Monongahela

I admit, this question had my mind swimming in strange waters. First off, we always ran red tractors.

Secondly, mechanical mysteries at home were always solved (or attempted to be solved) by Sherlock Dad, with side-kick me acting the part of puzzled Dr. Watson.

Relying on the experts for our first clue, I contacted Leonard Schott, the shop foreman at Lancaster Ford Tractor.

After listening politely to the plot, he said he felt it was the case of a bad coil in the ignition.

I raised the question that if it was the ignition—well, the switch had already been replaced.

Chuckling sympathetically, the shop foreman slowly explained that just replacing the ignition switch did nothing

for the coil. He said that the coils sometimes break down if they're heated.

A faulty coil in the ignition, he added, would explain the mysterious backfiring.

Not allowing himself just one solution to the puzzle, Schott said that if the coil was investigated and found to be innocent . . . it could be the case of a faulty gas system.

So, there are two new leads to your Ford tractor mystery, Mr. Kamoda. Good luck—and if you need any more advice, contact Leonard Schott at 717/569-7063.

### Where can I get Lazy Wife?

Not wasting his 15 cent stamp, Mr. Kamoda went on to ask where he could buy Lazy Wife pole beans.

He kept asking me questions I just couldn't answer easily.

I didn't have the Lazy Wife address at my finger tips. So I decided to let them do the walking in the yellow pages and made a few telephone calls.

Sheila: "Do you have Lazy Wife pole beans?"

Store manager: (long pause) "No."

Sheila: "Do you know where I can get them?"

Store manager: (curtly) "No."

Sheila: "Thanks anyway." I struck out several times. And then, in a flash, I remembered having read about these same pole beans in the Pennsylvania Farmer magazine.

Grabbing the telephone, I quickly called Sally Morgan, an associate editor, and told her my problem.

Sheila: "Sally, I've got a reader who wants the address of where he can buy Lazy Wife pole beans."

Sally: (groan, mixed with chuckles) "We have people asking about those beans all the time. Hold on a minute."

Sally calls to one of her colleagues, Suzanne Halas, and asks her for the address.

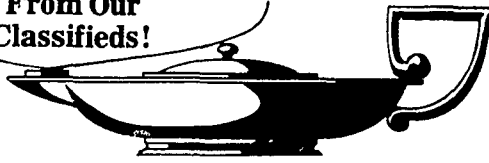
Sally: "Here's the address where he can write. It's Maurice and Eva Hobbs, R2 Box 182, Emmitsburg, MD. 21727."

Sheila: "Thanks a lot, Sally."

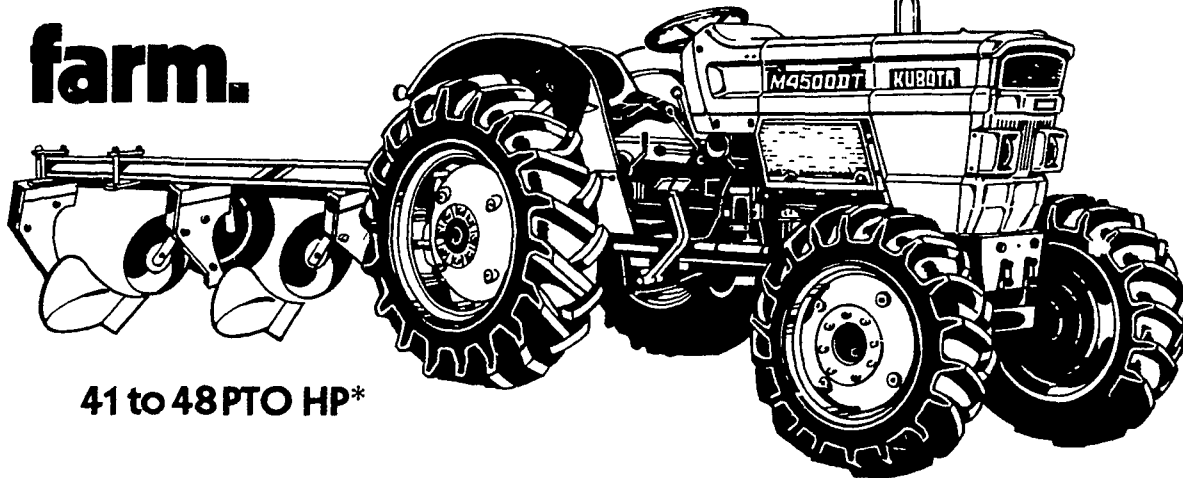
Sally: "Sure . . . 'bye."

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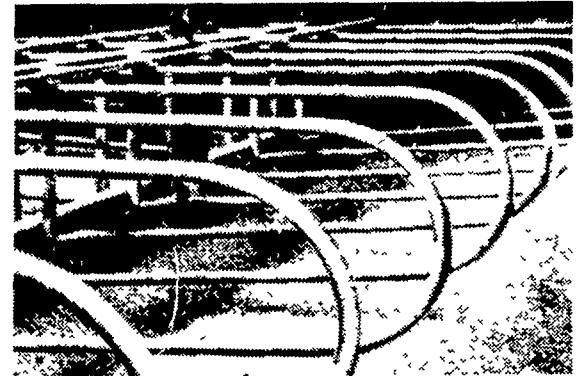
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