

291-bushel corn

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His highest yields under irrigation came from an area where two pivots overlapped. This section twice as much water and twice as much fertigated nitrogen as the rest of the field.

Everywhere else plants got 3½" of irrigation water during 7 half-inch applications. An irrigated plot of Pioneer 3382 with a population of 26,000 plants conventionally tilled after soybeans outside the overlap area yielded 226.9 bushels an acre.

The overlapped section received 280 pounds of nitrogen through the sprinkler system. Added to planter and herbicide carrier nitrogen, this brought the total N of 420 pounds per acre in that part of the field.

Haas' two pivot systems were custom built four years ago to fit the shape of his fields, which are rather long and narrow. He's made so many modifications on them that he jokingly refers to them as his "Haasomatics." One unit is 780 feet long, has four towers and covers 60 acres at a setting. The other has two towers and covers 40 acres.

Concrete pivot pads strategically placed around

the 259-acre farm make it possible to irrigate most of the land, moving towers as needed. There are six pivot sites for the larger unit and four for the other. Each 12 x 12 foot pad has its own water and electrical hookup. Water is supplied by three 100-foot wells, all interconnected and capable of delivering 600 gallons per minute. All crops grown on the farm this year were irrigated.

He has installed flood-jet nozzles on both systems. Spaced about 10 feet apart, they direct water downward. He likes their misting effect and considers this a lot less wasteful than the standard nozzles that shoot water up into the air in large droplets which tend to puddle or run off, rather than soak into the ground. The nozzles are adjusted to operate at 20 psi.

Other changes he's made include mounting the control tower on wheels and adding another tow bar for easier moving between fields. It takes about an hour to dismantle one of the systems, move it, and start it up again in a new location. Haas' 16-year-old daughter Cathi can move the two-tower unit by herself.

Bill says this was his first year to irrigate corn. But he and his family — who work the farm with him — are not

newcomers to irrigation. They've been watering vegetable crops since 1952. He started irrigating soybeans five years ago.

All this experience helped him fine tune his corn irrigation program so that he got on water and nitrogen exactly where and when he wanted it.

Until 1976 the family grew cucumbers, tomatoes, asparagus, broccoli, peas, snap beans and limas for processing. But these crops became too labor intensive and Haas got tired of all the paper work involved. Today the family's policy is: no full-time hired labor. They grow only what they can manage themselves — peas which can be mechanically harvested wheat, barley, corn and soybeans.

Field work involves the whole family — Bill's wife Phyllis, his father, and two daughters, Cathi and Lisa (23). A third daughter, Lou Ann (21), works for a Newark travel agent.

Everyone has their specialty. Phyllis does most of the plowing, a lot of the disking, some machine cultivation, and like her daughters, helps with minor equipment repairs. She's also secretary-treasurer of the family corporation and manages their seasonal fresh-killed turkey business.

Bill's father, affectionately referred to as "Pop", helps his son with the

planting, does most of the field cultivation, is responsible for the 4,000-bird turkey flock, and also tends the family garden. He's president of the corporation, which was formed in 1972.

Cathi is a senior at William Penn High School. An active member of FFA, she participates in a work-release program which permits her to work on the farm during the school year. She does 95 percent of the mowing—a chore which includes keeping all the irrigation alleys open. It takes her about 10 hours to do the entire job, plus four more for the trim. She's also handy with a grease gun.

Lisa chisel plows, disks, drives a tractor, and helps tend the irrigation systems like everyone else. She also helps her dad keep an eye on the grain dryer when it's operating at night.

Besides doing their own planting and combining, making major equipment repairs and in general overseeing farm operations, Bill also custom plants and harvests corn, beans and small grains for other farmers in the Middletown area — largely to help offset the annual payback cost of a new combine.

Haas says he'd rather have his wife and daughters work for him than a hired hand because they are more

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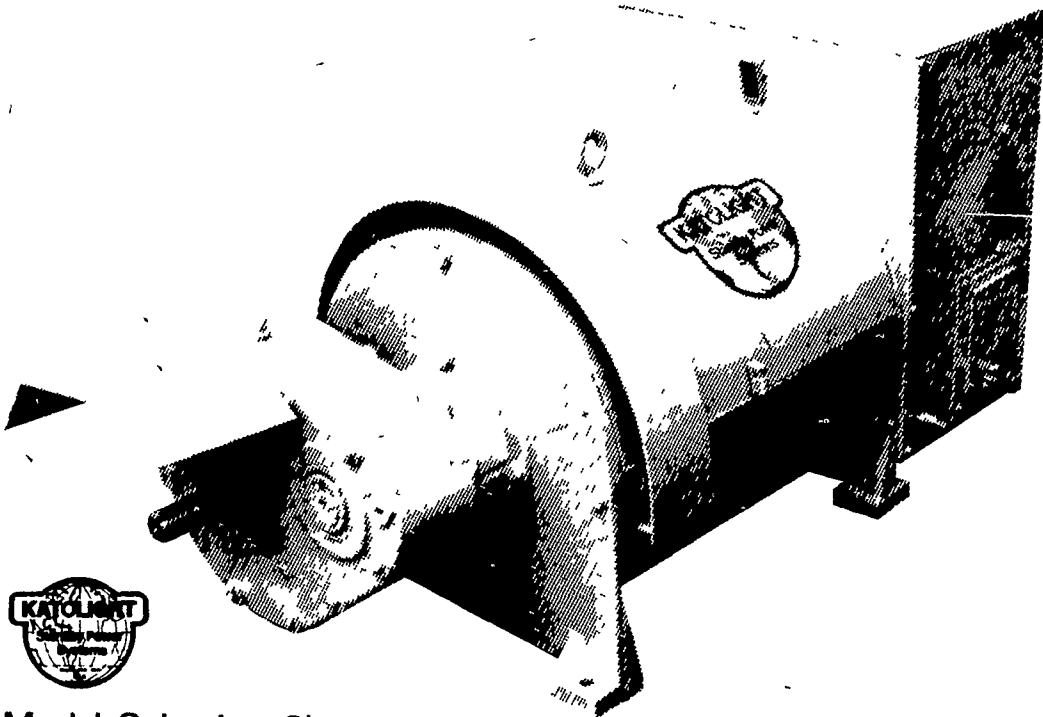
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45LR1	45,000	135,000	70	120/240	175	1	3	670	730
55LR1	55,000	165,000	86	120/240	225	1	3	730	750
85LR1	85,000	255,000	130	120/240	350	1	3	795	860

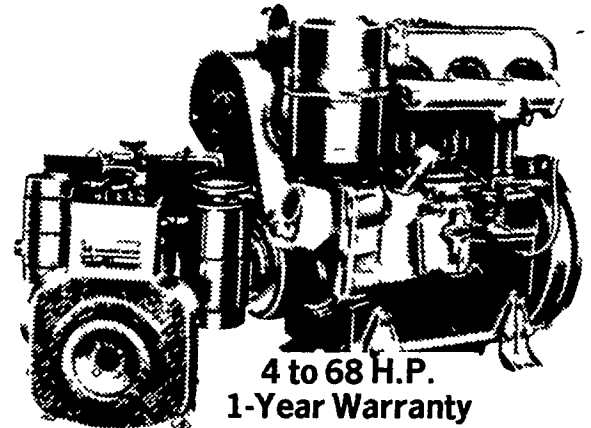
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