

SCS to offer farmers no-till planter to try

LANCASTER — There's a solution available for farmers who always have wanted to try no-till but didn't want to drop a bundle of money into equipment first.

Now Lancaster County farmers can try no-till plantings with a rented machine for \$3 per acre.

Through a cooperative effort of the John Deere Company; Wenger Implements, Buck, and the Lancaster County Conservation District, a four row, no-till corn planter is available for one-day rental.

The planter is to be used for educational-demonstration purposes on a small scale, not for whole-farm planting.

"Our objective," according to County Conservation District Administrator Tom Johnston, "is to make available, at reasonable cost, a no-till planter which a farmer can experiment with to see how no-till yields compare with fields conventionally planted."

A Deere 7000 Conservation planter will be used.

In order to allow as many farmers as possible to have access to the planter, a limit of one day and 15 acres per farmer has been set.

If demand for the planter is not too great, this could be extended. Also, the planter must be used for no-till planting, no-till being defined as the soil cover not being

disturbed this Spring, Johnston said.

This is part of a nation-wide program in which John Deere is encouraging the lending of conservation equipment to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to promote no-till planting.

The District then schedules the planter, provides insurance, and replaces worn parts at the end of the season.

Farmers will be requested to sign a six point agreement which states the following:

They will pay a maintenance fee of \$3 per acre for use of the machine.

They will agree to use the planter carefully, to keep it out of the weather, and to have a competent operator running it.

They will not make any alterations or modifications to the equipment.

They will not lend the planter to another landowner, unless assigned by the District, and must make arrangements to transport the planter;

They will use the planter only for no-till purposes.

And finally, they will agree to hold Deere, Wenger's, and the District free from loss or liabilities.

In other areas of the country the Deere company also is making

available a 1710A mulch tiller, a 251 power till seeder, and a 1550 power till seeder.

For further information, contact Tom Johnston at the Lancaster County Conservation District Office, Room 6, Farm and Home Center, or phone 717/299-5361.



Director Everett Kreider, left, and SCS District Administrator Thomas L. Johnston check out the contract for the no-till planter which is available for farmers to use to see how no-till farming works at their operation.



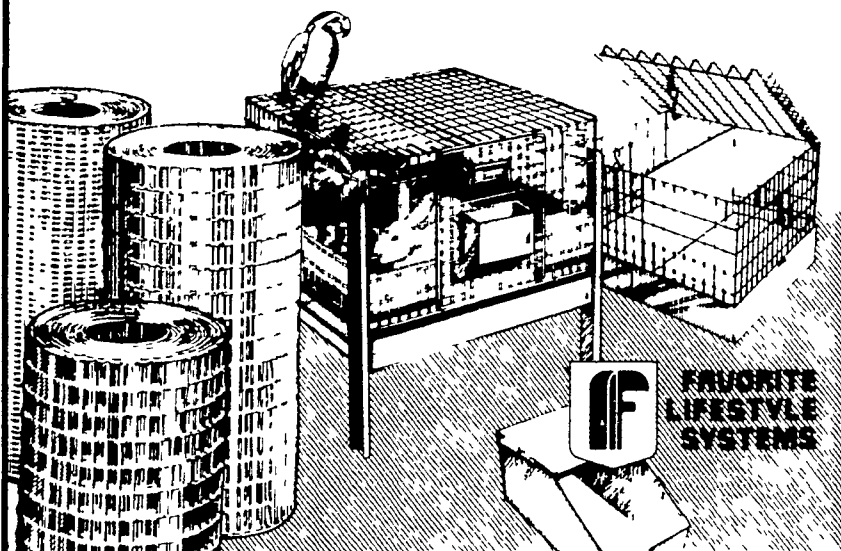
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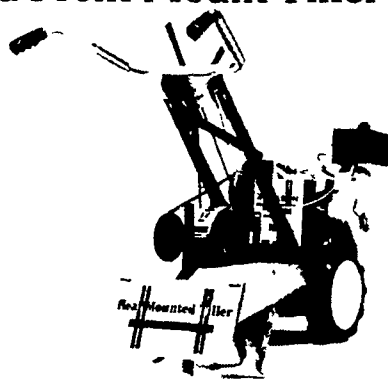
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