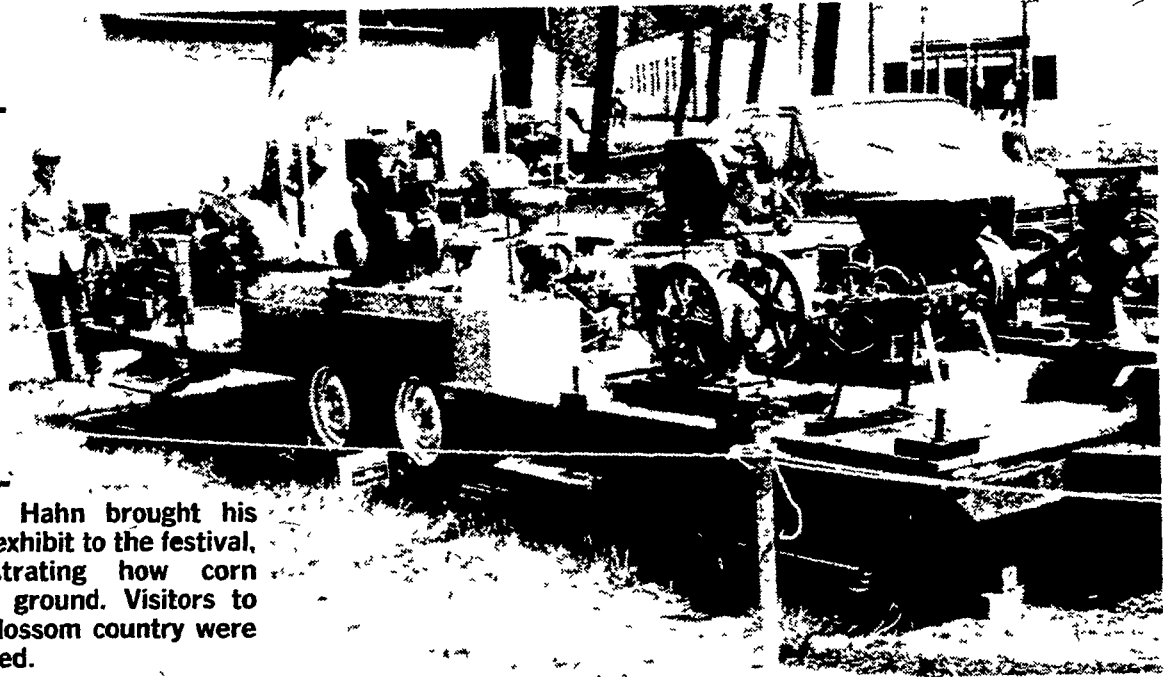


Apple Blossom Festival

(Continued from Page D16)



Harry Hahn brought his engine exhibit to the festival, demonstrating how corn meal is ground. Visitors to apple blossom country were fascinated.

Farm future looking to alternate energy system

NEWARK, Dela. — Agriculture, the largest industry in the U.S., uses the equivalent of 333 million barrels of oil each year in producing the nation's food and fiber.

Although this is only 2.5 percent of the country's total annual energy consumption, it is still a considerable amount and a target for conservation, says Delaware Extension Agricultural Engineer Tom Williams.

Implementation of energy conservation techniques such as no-tillage crop production,

building insulation and irrigation scheduling are helping to reduce farm energy requirements while maintaining or improving productivity.

Recent efforts to increase self-sufficiency in agricultural energy have brought into use some attractive alternate energy schemes such as methane production from the anaerobic fermentation of livestock manure, with the effluent being used as fertilizer or dried for bedding or feed.

The biogas, containing methane, produced in this process is then

used in boilers to produce hot water, or burned in internal-combustion engines to cogenerate electricity and hot water for farmstead use.

Production of fuel alcohol from the fermentation and distillation of grain crops has also received a lot of attention in the last two years, he says. The stillage effluent from this process is used as a high-protein feed. The carbon dioxide and waste heat produced can be used in greenhouses.

Solar energy is being used for space and water heating, crop

drying, distillation and irrigation pumping. Wind energy is also used for water heating and pumping. Burning wood and crop residues provides heat for buildings, crop drying and alcohol distillation. And, finally, vegetable oils are being extruded from oil seeds to extend or replace diesel fuel.

A more recent intriguing concept is the integration of as many of these renewable alternate energy resources as possible into a single farm operation. The U.S. Departments of Energy and Agriculture have recently

established seven "Energy Integrated Farm Systems" in six states and Puerto Rico to demonstrate the state of the art in alternate energy technology and to reduce the farm's dependence on energy produced by non-renewable resources such as oil and natural gas. These demonstration farms produce milk, eggs, hogs and crops.

For more information on these energy integrated farm concepts, contact Tom Williams, Extension Specialist in Agricultural Engineering, at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711.



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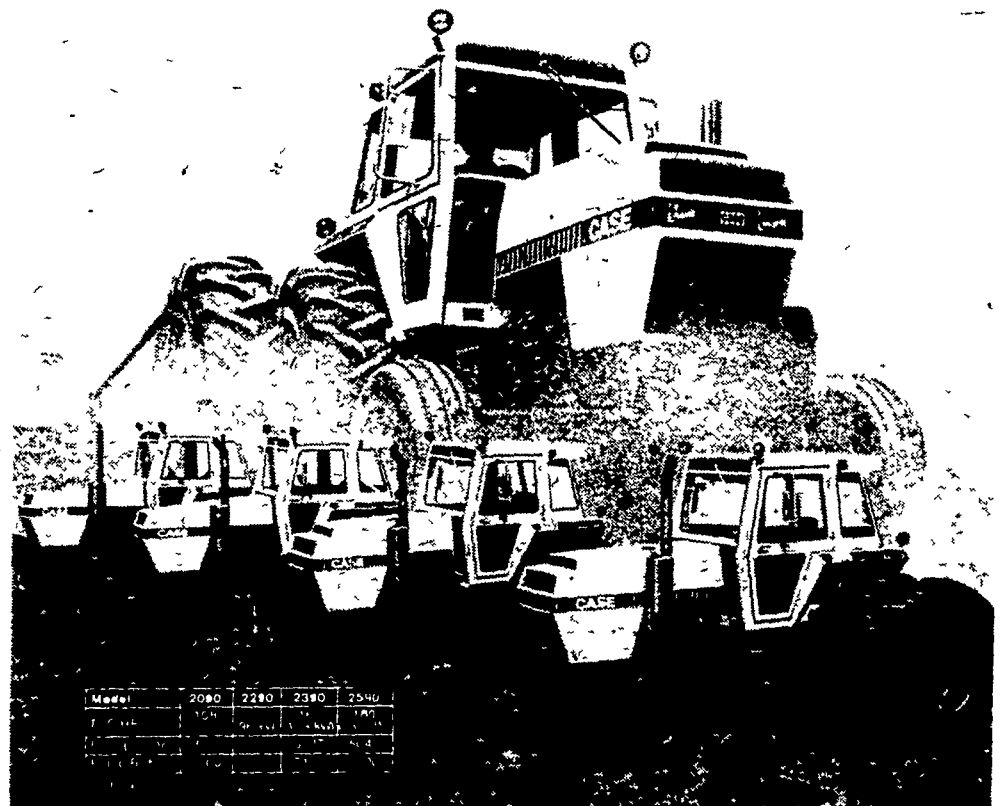
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