

# Rain-drenched Ohio counties eligible for USDA aid

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block recently designated 33 counties in Ohio as eligible for disaster emergency farm aid because of excessive spring and early summer rains that delayed crop planting.

Block's designation was the second under a new disaster emergency program put into effect by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home

Administration on May 26. It permits farmers in the 33 counties to apply for emergency loans to cover part of their losses.

The 33 counties designated at this time, Block said, clearly show damage that is not recoverable during this crop year.

Other counties for which disaster designation was requested also are being watched, and their evaluations are being updated as

the year progresses, he said.

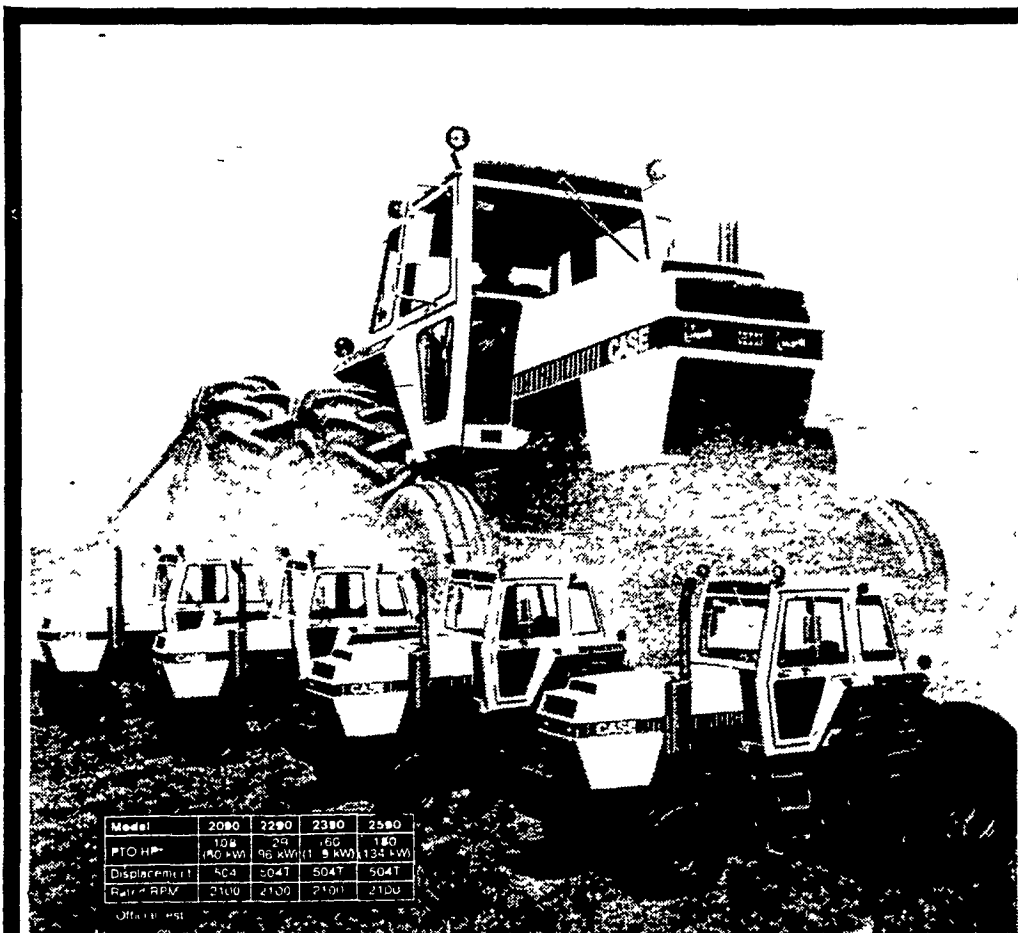
On some farms, the extent of loss may not be fully determined until after harvest. In some cases, farmers may offset, either wholly or in part, the effects of an early season disaster by replanting or by switching the cropland to another farm use.

For those farmers who sustained qualifying losses, he said, an actual loss loan can cover up to 90 percent of the dollar value of the

loss of crops at an annual interest rate of 5 percent.

Block said other emergency-related loans are available at higher interest rates.

A crop production loss of at least 30 percent of normal yield per acre or production per animal (in a livestock operation) must be caused by a natural disaster before an area can be designated as eligible for emergency loans.



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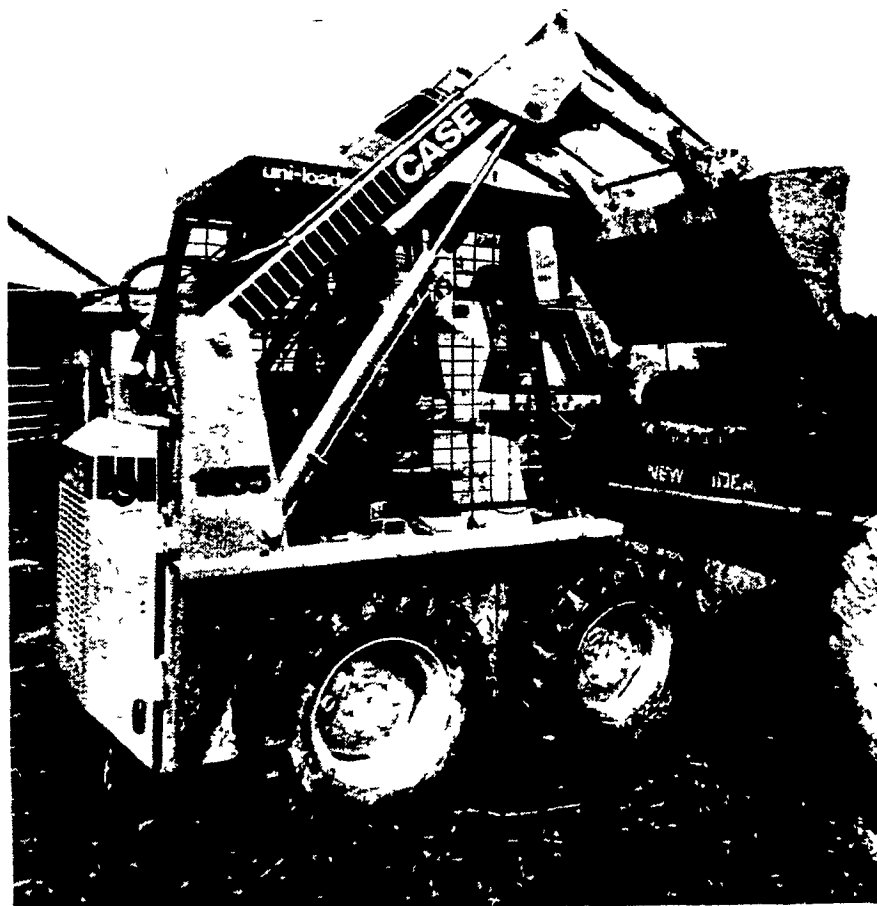
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