

Tobacco studies eye cutting machine & wire hanging

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
UPPER MARLBORO, MD. — Studies are continuing at the University of Maryland Tobacco Research Farm into mechanization and other practices designed to reduce labor requirements of the harvesting process.

The Maryland studies, directed by tobacco researcher Claude

McKee, include both a cutting machine and hanging method utilizing notches on the stems of plants and wires instead of wood laths.

The harvesting machine is of French origin and features two saw blades mounted on the front of a walk-behind garden tractor. Actually, it is similar to machines which have been tried and

sporadically used in Lancaster County for some time.

The difference to local cutters is the twin blades. One is used to cut off the plant and the other to slice the hanging notch into the stem.

After the plants are cut and notched, they are hung by the inch-deep notches on wire stretched across a wood frame. The frames are about 7 by 15 feet and hold about 350 plants. The frames are mounted on a hydraulic trailer, which lowers them for filling and raises them to hang in the shed.

The French price for the cutting machine is about \$500. The trailer was built at the University of Maryland for about \$1,200 to \$1,500. The hanging racks can be built for about \$30 each.

"We hang the plants at about double density," McKee explained.

"On the research farm, we built an open-sided pole barn-type building, which permits only one-tier hanging.

"Continuing studies will take a look at how the hanging frames can be lifted to permit multiple-tier hanging in existing sheds."

The Maryland hanging shed is completely open-sided and roll-down plastic is used when the weather requires closing the sides.

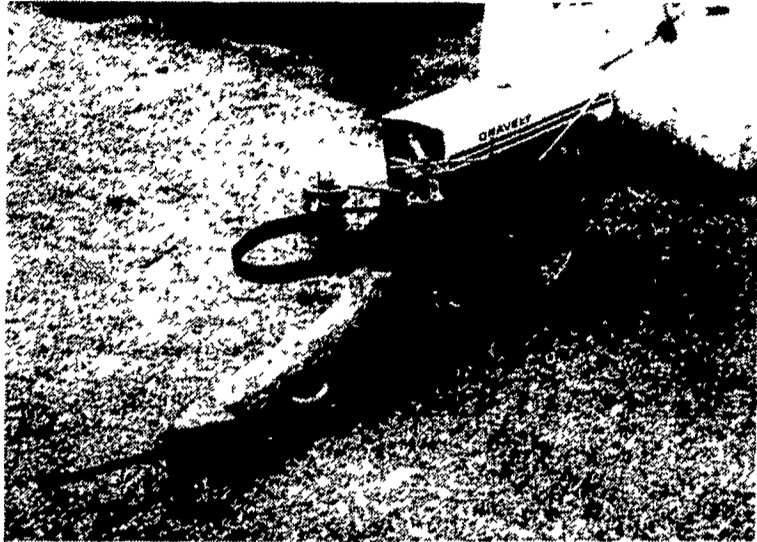
Traditionally, the main stumbling block to wider utilization of mechanical cutters in Lancaster County has been the damage and knocking off of lower leaves.

"And when the tobacco is leaning or lodged, the cutters become a real problem," according to John Yocum, of Penn

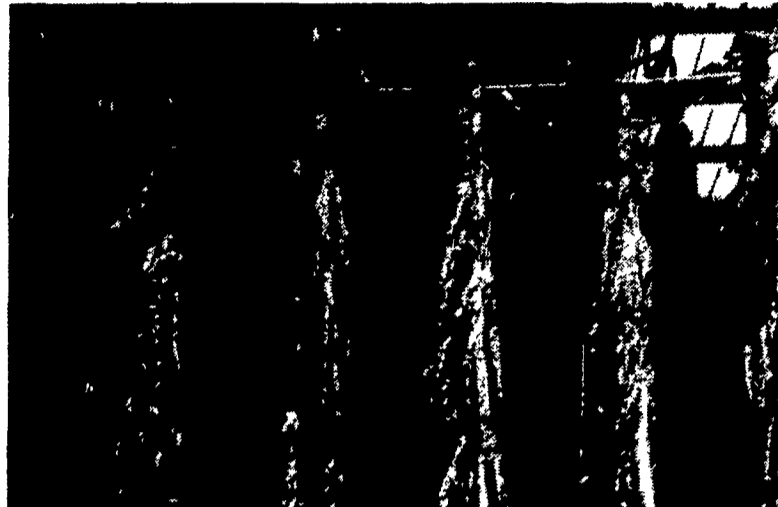
State's Southeast Research Farm at Landisville.

And the hanging of the tobacco by the wire and notch method may not be adaptable to most Lancaster County sheds.

In most local sheds, the interior wood beams on which the laths rest are primary supporting members for the shed.



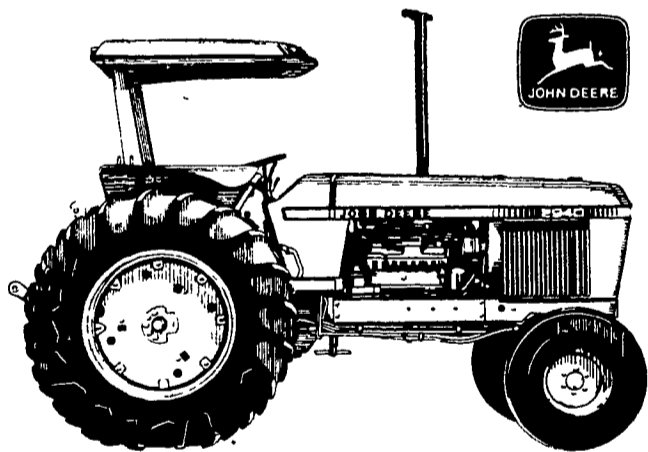
This is French tobacco cutting machine mounted on front of Gravely tractor, which is being used in Maryland studies. Guides help navigate machine down rows. Cutter has two blades - one for cutting off plant and the other for notching it.



Wire hanging method is being investigated on University of Maryland Tobacco Research Farm. Stems are notched by cutter and about 350 plants are hung on a wood and wire frame, which is then placed in open-sided shed.

ALL GOOD DEALS MUST COME TO AN END

IT'S THE LAST MONTH TO BUY A NEW 40- TO 80-HP JOHN DEERE TRACTOR AND EARN \$500 OF JOHN DEERE MONEY. AND YOU'LL SAVE ON FINANCE CHARGES.



All good deals must come to an end. So buy a new 2040, 2240, 2440, 2640 or 2940 Tractor before November 20, 1981, and you'll still qualify for \$500 in John Deere money you can spend for goods or services at our store. And, no finance charges will accrue on purchases until March 1, 1982.* The same finance waiver offer applies to new implements purchased with the tractor.

But a good deal isn't all you get with a John Deere 40- to 80-hp tractor. You also get a tractor with outstanding lugging ability, tough drivetrain and "extra" features like closed-center hydraulics that get jobs done faster.

So get in on a good deal now. You'll save.

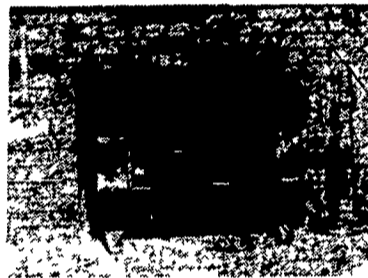
*This finance offer may be withdrawn at any time

ABC GROFF, INC.

Since 1890
110 S. Railroad Ave
New Holland, PA 17557
OPEN THURSDAY AND FRIDAY UNTIL 9 P.M.

STORE HOURS
Mon, Tues, Wed . . . 7-5
Thurs., Fri. 7-9
Sat. 7-4
Parts . . . 717-354-4191
Sales . . . 717-354-4731
Service . . 717-354-8004

OUR TRUCKS ARE RADIO CONTROLLED



AUTHORIZED DEALER
ELMER L. STOLTZFUS
171 Quarry Road
Leola, Pa. 17540
717-656-9041

THIS IS NO ORDINARY STOVE . . .

...This is the classic coal burning Surdiac® . . . the best heating appliance you can buy.

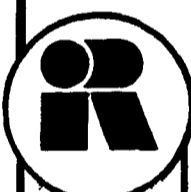
- Maximum efficiency (up to 90%)
- Constructed of the finest quality cast iron alloys.
- Minimal care & maintenance . . . light just once a year.
- Unmatched heating capacity . . . up to 17,600 cubic feet.

Red Wings

Fit for work

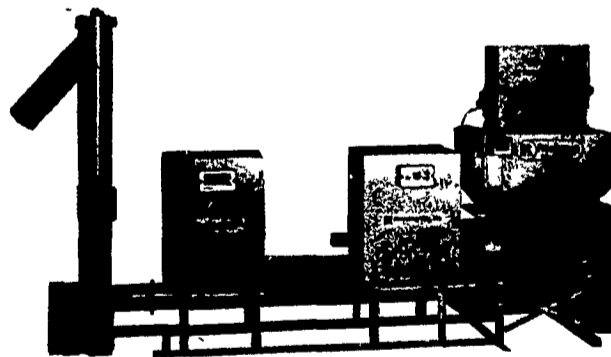


777 You've earned your Wings!
BOOKS SHOE SERVICE
107 E. STATE ST.
QUARRYVILLE PA 17566
717-786 2795
CLOSED WEDNESDAYS



"I saved between \$500 and \$600 the First Year with my Roskamp Roller Mill."

Jim Sage
Waterloo, Iowa



Stationary Feed Processing Center

Jim Sage was using a tractor powered feed grinder and faced mounting fuel costs. He switched to a Roskamp Stationary Feed Processing Center and, according to him, "I saved between \$500 and \$600 the first year alone."

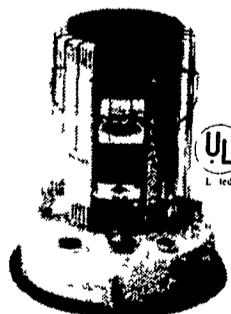
"I ground over 10,000 bushels of high moisture corn last year and never had any trouble. One thing I liked is that it grinds a lot faster, so I saved on labor costs as well as the savings I had on fuel costs." You can save energy and fuel costs with the Roskamp Stationary Feed Processing Center and the Portable Grain Roller Mill.

Write or phone for free literature.

FICKES
SILO COMPANY, INC.
Newville, Penna. 17241
(717) 776-3129

TRUCKLOAD SALE

New Shipment Just Arrived
SAVE
\$30-\$60
Includes All Models



BOWMANS STOVE SHOP INC.

Follow Signs from Light at Hinkletown on Rt. 322
717-733-4973
R.D. 3 Napierville Rd., Ephrata, Pa.
Tues., Wed., Sat 9-5
Thurs., Fri. 9-9
Closed Monday
Financing Available

