

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



It is so easy to feel depressed when a lot of things go wrong in a short period of time. Some of our corn was not planted until late in June due to the wet weather and the fact that Allen, my husband, is farming alone, although our son, who just got his agricultural engineering degree from Penn State, has consented to come home from State College each week and help on the farm.

It certainly is good that the farmer is an eternal optimist and not a pessimist like me. He says that the corn will mature fine for the silo by fall. When they put the first cutting of hay in the silo this spring, it was necessary to buy another blower as too many parts broke. Then the manure spreader decided to spring a major leak among other problems and wasn't

usable.

After carefully tending a cow, for over a week that calved in the meadow we had to get rid of her as she still wasn't able to stand. Also a wagon was driven from the silo without unhooking the power take-off and everything got bent. And when the checkbook ran out of money before all the bills were paid, I was about in tears.

Plus whenever I go out our lane, I see bigger and bigger patches of thistles in the new alfalfa stand and large water hemlock plants in the pasture field. It seems as though things are getting out of hand.

But finally the sun shines, some hemlock plants are pulled and a cow has a nice heifer calf and then it appears as though there is a bright side to farming after all.

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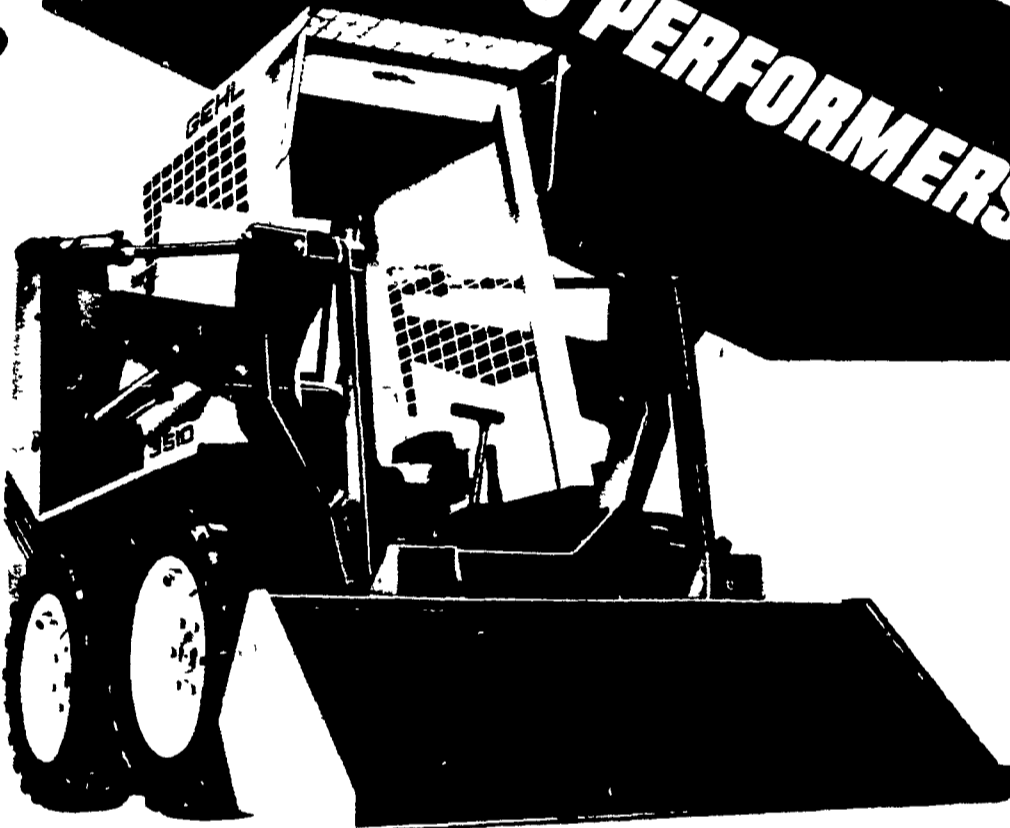
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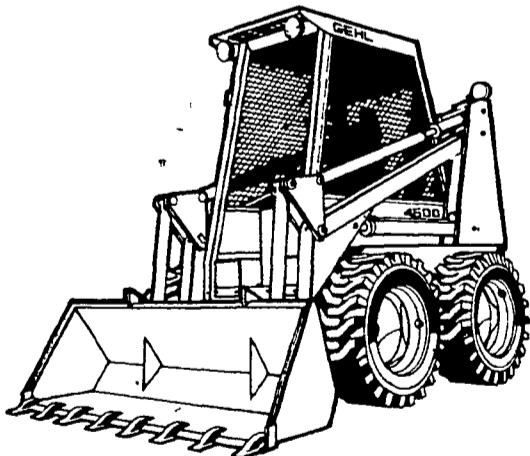
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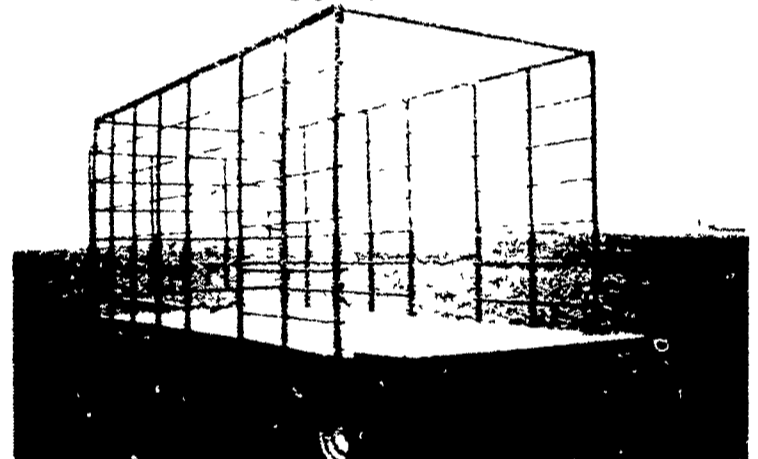
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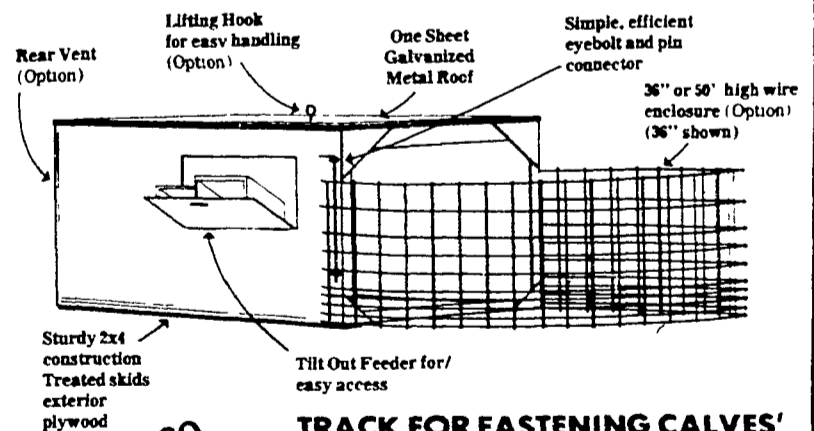
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