

Proper loader care can increase tractor life

DES MOINES, Ia. — Tractors equipped with front-end loaders can speed spring cleaning chores around the farm, doubling the tractor's usefulness. But the extra work can put extra strain on the tractor.

Careful loader operation and proper preventive maintenance can extend both tractor and loader life, says Rick Richart, product sales trainer at the Massey-Ferguson Training Center.

"A farmer may only use his loader 25 percent of the time he uses the tractor, but the tractor will show more wear during that time than the other 75 percent of use," he notes. "All tractors will handle loader work designed for them, but the operator has a lot to do with how long they'll last under the extra load."

Clutch Operation

The clutch is a good example of how operator use can affect

equipment performance. Engaging the clutch at high engine rpms, riding it and slipping it are certain steps to expensive and premature repairs.

"Stay off the clutch as much as possible," says Richart. "Engage it at low rpms, then keep the foot off until the tractor bogs down or needs to be shifted. Riding wears a clutch out fast."

He also recommends keeping the clutch adjusted so there is a proper amount of free travel left in the pedal after the clutch is engaged. The correct adjustment should be listed in the owner's manual.

Using the loader will put extra wear on tires, but proper use can prevent other problems. Approach the edge of a pile first and work toward the center, suggests Richart.

"Keep the bucket level when pushing," he says. "Turning the bucket down subjects the entire

loader to additional stress that can cause problems."

Additional Ballast

Ballast is often added to the back of the tractor or to the tires for heavy jobs. Ballasting can help, says Richart. But too much ballast puts additional strain on the clutch and final drives.

"When adding extra ballast, remember that a certain amount of wheelslip is needed for a little 'give' so nothing breaks under load," he explains. "Four-wheel drive tractors are excellent with loaders because of their traction advantage without unnecessary ballast weight."

Hydraulic System Checks

Richart recommends checking the hydraulic system at least once a day while using the loader. Hydraulic fluid should be renewed every year or 500 hours. When the loader is used on a frequent basis, the fluid should be changed more often.

He also urges using manufacturer recommended hydraulic fluids. "These fluids are compatible with the precision parts in the hydraulic pumps and valves, and also resist foaming which reduces their pressure-exerting properties."

Loader Installation

Richart says that the dealer should be the first to attach a new loader to the tractor. In case of an imperfect fit, he is equipped with

the necessary parts for proper installation.

When installing the loader, make sure that the subframe bolts are tight by using a torque wrench, he suggests. The bolts should also be checked after some use.

"Bolts can work loose after several operation," Richart says. "Then the loader's movement can snap them in two. Keeping the right torque on these bolts is very important."

Surfaces where the subframe meets the tractor should be painted-free to ensure tight fit. "If touch-up painting is necessary, do it after the loader is in place and tight," he

suggests. "Otherwise, paint can prevent the desired tightness and result in loosening under stress."

Good storage practices will also increase machinery life, especially during the winter. The loader should be kept out of the weather.

"For minimal cylinder exposure, collapse them as much as possible," says Richart. "Then, grease the outside of the shaft to prevent rusting and pitting through air exposure."

Following these important steps will ensure maximum usefulness from both the tractor and loader. They will also help save repairs, time and money.



BUSINESS NEWS...

Hinton, Hershey announce merger

LANCASTER — Cecil M. Hinton, president of Hinton Hatcheries, Inc. of Ashland, Ky. and Donald C. Hershey, president of Hershey Equipment Company, Inc. of Lancaster, jointly announced their intentions to merge their companies on June 30. This merger includes Hinton's share of Hy-Cross Company of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

Cecil Hinton has agreed to

continue serving the company in an executive position and as a member of the Board of Directors.

Andrew Hansen, Executive Vice President of Hy-Cross Company has been appointed Executive Vice President and General Manager of Hinton Hatcheries, Inc. in addition to his current responsibilities.

Hinton Hatcheries, Inc. hatches and distributes Hy-Line Chicks and Pullets in Kentucky, West

Virginia, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Hinton Hatcheries, also, produces and markets eggs in these same areas.

Hershey Equipment Company, Inc. distributes Big Dutchman poultry equipment in Pennsylvania and the Northeastern States.

Hy-Cross Company hatches and distributes Hy-Line Chicks and Pullets in Virginia, Pennsylvania and all of the Northeast.

Fox Brady adds harvester heads

APPLETON, Wis. — Fox Brady Division of Piper Industries, Inc. has expanded its selection of forage harvester attachments with the addition of three new corn harvesting heads (two, three and four row models) and the all new Model 8084 windrow pickup head. The availability of these new attachments has given farmers increased versatility and flexibility in the operation of their Fox Brady forage harvesters.

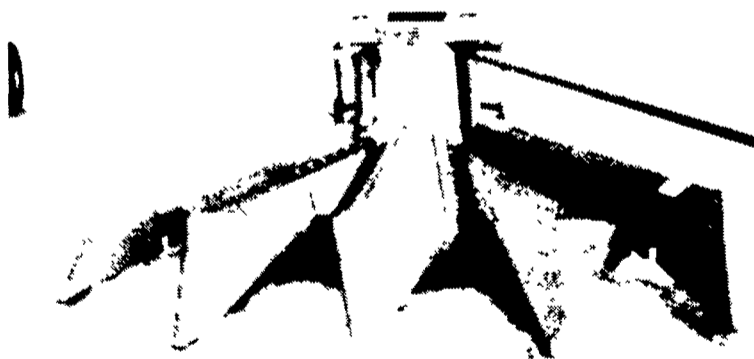
All three of the new corn heads feature the exclusive, patented Fox Brady automatic chain break detector system as well as two power corners to help down corn feeding. And they are all equipped with heavy-duty, all-steel gathering chains that grab stalks, including down corn, with the most efficiency. The two and three row models feature fast row spacing adjustments from 30" to 40". In addition, they are all tough, efficient and perfectly mated to the demanding capacities of all Fox forage harvesters since 1975.

Fox Brady's new Model 8084 windrow pickup has a full seven foot working width to pick up green, wilted or dry crops. The pickup features retractable fingers, two adjustable caster gauge wheels and variable sprocket drive to enable the farmer to handle the lightest to heaviest windrows with ease at high speed. The Model 8084 attaches quickly and features a new universal drive system. Fits all these Fox Brady forage harvesters, 4310-4410-PTOs, and all

self-propelled models.

The new attachments are the latest additions to a proven line of quality Fox Brady farm

machinery that includes forage harvesters, field cultivators, chisel plows, shredders, choppers, balers and material handling equipment.



Model 7430 four-row corn head is one of four new attachments offered by Fox Brady.

39 attend training center

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — Dealer training seminars have helped increase the skills of 39 Same Tractor dealers and their key personnel in the first two months of 1984. An intensive 4-day course is held periodically at the S & L Tractors of North America, Inc., Training Center in Bridgewater, N.J.

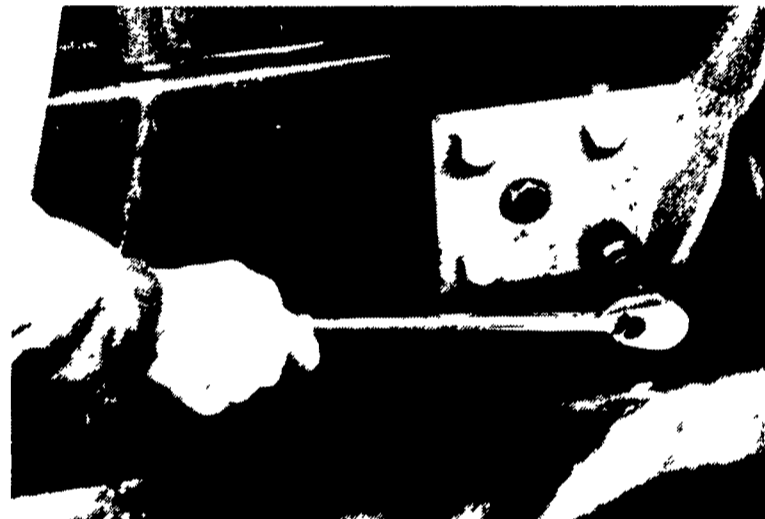
The attendees receive hands-on experience with the basic mechanical systems of Same Tractors, including engines,

transmissions, drive trains and hydraulics. Classes are structured to include time to deal with dealer's specific area needs. The purpose is to help dealers become more proficient in diagnosing their customer's repair and maintenance needs.

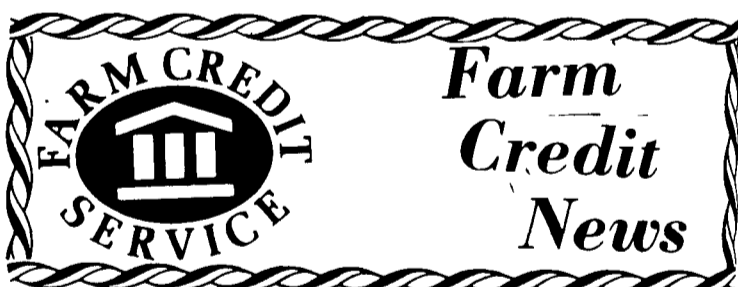
Classes are held in the special \$150,000 training complex which provides instructors, tractors and special cutaway models for easy visualization of concealed parts



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Modest growth reported

BALTIMORE — Over 650 attendees at the Farm Credit Banks of Baltimore's annual stockholders meeting were told by the organization's president, Gene L. Swackhamer, and members of the management staff that the Baltimore Banks experienced modest growth in 1983 and a low level of delinquencies and foreclosures.

"The test of a quality financial service is not volume, or profit, or absence of losses," Swackhamer told the group of agribusiness leaders and managers and directors of stockholding cooperatives and Farm Credit Associations. "Instead, it is the ability to manage a loan and debt portfolio that provides borrowers with lendable funds at reasonable rates. To meet today's uncertain economic conditions requires risk acceptance, capital strength, and dedicated people. Your cooperative Farm Credit Banks met the test of the times in 1983."

Swackhamer also noted that,

"Like agriculture, the Farm Credit System suffered some losses in 1983, but its overall condition is very good. The System has much strength in its geographic and enterprise diversity, its appraisal and lending policies, and its knowledge of extending credit to agriculture."

Comprised of the Federal Land Bank (FLB) the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank (FICB), and the Bank for Cooperatives (BC), the Baltimore Banks had over \$3 billion in outstanding loan volume in 1983. At the end of 1983, the FLB had \$2.25 billion in outstanding loans, up 1.7 percent over the 1982 total. The FICB had \$715 million in loan volume, a 4.9 percent decrease from the previous year's total of \$750 million, and reflected a sharp 28 percent fall-off in loans to other financial institutions (OFIs).

BC gross loans outstanding at the end of 1983 totalled \$190 million, a 17.67 percent increase over the 1982 total of \$161 million.