

New Features In Dixon's Mower Line

COFFEYVILLE, Kan. — This year's lineup of Dixon® ZTR® riding lawn mowers includes two 42-inch and two 30-inch cut models, all featuring engineering improvements that increase performance while making little change in the appearance of the blue mowers.

Leader of the 1985 blue Dixon line is ZTR 424, with deluxe operating and performance features. Powered by an 11 hp Briggs and Stratton I/H engine, 424 also has headlights and an adjustable seat that has been restyled for greater comfort. Standard 11 hp model ZTR 426 features the same 2-gallon gas tank, seven cutting height adjustments (1½" to 4"), and triple blades beneath a wind-channeled deck with significant engineering changes to produce a smooth, even cut and discharge clippings without windrowing. A new grass collection system — lightweight and impeller driven — has dual bags for easier emptying.

The 30-inch cut models are specifically designed to mow where there are limited areas. A major improvement is a new

mower deck housing that incorporates state-of-the-art innovations for quality of cut and bagging ability. The new deck features a spring-loaded deflector

that swings away if hit or when moving through a standard 36" gate, then returns automatically. Model 311 has the same 11 hp engine as the 424, while the 308's 8

hp engine provides plenty of power for the average lawn. All Dixon mowers feature "The Dixon Advantage" — a patented cone-drive transaxle that permits zero tur-

ning radius "mowability" with no footwork.

For more information, contact Lawn Care Distributors, Martindale, PA 17549. Ph. 215-445-4541.

New Mower Line Introduced by Toro

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The Toro Company, whose earnings performance rebounded strongly in fiscal 1984 and the first quarter of its current fiscal year has introduced a new walk power mower line which will begin at less than

\$300. Initial orders for the new product have been "very strong," Toro president Kendrick B. Melrose said at the company's annual stockholder's meeting. He notes that because of inflation and government-mandated safety

features, the average price of a top of the line premium brand mower has risen from \$300 in 1977 to about \$550. He added that the replacement cycle for top of the line lawn mowers is approximately eight years.

Toro is currently in negotiations with a Venezuelan firm on a joint venture to manufacture lawn mowers for sale in South America. Toro will also open its first non-U.S. manufacturing facility in January in Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada. The plant will manufacture walk power mowers, single-stage snowthrowers and electric trimmers for the Canadian and European markets.

Toro is the nation's largest independent manufacturer and marketer of outdoor maintenance equipment.

Ag Transportation Conference Jan. 8-9

WASHINGTON — Federal and state officials will consider deregulation, highway costs, exports and other issues and problems related to the transportation of agricultural commodities at a conference Jan. 8 and 9 at Alexandria, Va.

The conference will aim at assisting officials from state departments of agriculture in improving their programs for

promoting the efficient and cost-effective transport of agricultural products to both domestic and foreign markets.

For more information on the

conference, contact Ronald P. Vail, Office of Transportation, Auditors Bldg., room 1405, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 447-7690.

1985 Farm Income Tax

A series of Farm Income Tax Area Meetings for 1985 will be sponsored during January by the Extension Service, Pennsylvania State University College of Agriculture.

The one-day meetings, to be held

at selected locations across Pennsylvania, will emphasize changes in the new 1984 Tax Reform Act that are significant to preparing farm tax returns. Other more general tax changes also will be covered.

All of the one-day sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration fee is \$20 per person including lunch. Details can be obtained by contacting your county agent or by contacting Extension farm management specialists Jesse Cooper and Larry Jenkins, Phone 814-865-7656.

The meeting dates and locations are: Jan. 3, Bedford; Jan. 8, Meadville; Jan. 9, Butler; Jan. 10, Indiana; Jan. 11, Dubois; Jan. 15, Quakertown; Jan. 16, Lancaster; Jan. 17, Chambersburg; Jan. 18, Lewisburg; Jan. 22, Coudersport; Jan. 23, Mansfield; Jan. 24, Tunkhannock; Jan. 5, Tamaqua.

Lebanon Co. FFA Corn Contest Held

Two Cedar Crest FFA members took top places in the FFA County Corn Contest at Cedar Crest High School recently.

Jeff Ruhl placed first in yield and Brenda Peiffer placed second in quality. Other top placers were Wes Harding from Northern Lebanon, first in quality, and Andy Baer from Annville-Cleona, second in yield.

Other Cedar Crest placings were: Brenda Peiffer, fifth in yield, and Dan and Dave Groff, third in quality and sixth in yield.

Judges were Charlie Miller and Lloyd Early from Agway. When judging the 10 ears of corn from each entry, the judges looked for bright yellow color, uniformity of ears, straight rows, large size, freedom from mold, other marks and full ears.



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