

150 Years Ago John Deere Had A Better Idea

MOLINE, Ill. — They came on horseback through the Cumberland Gap, on foot over Brad-dock's Road, on barges across the Erie Canal, on rafts down the Ohio . . . men and women with hope in their hearts, and the West in their eyes . . . a West, in the early nineteenth century, that began just beyond the Appalachians.

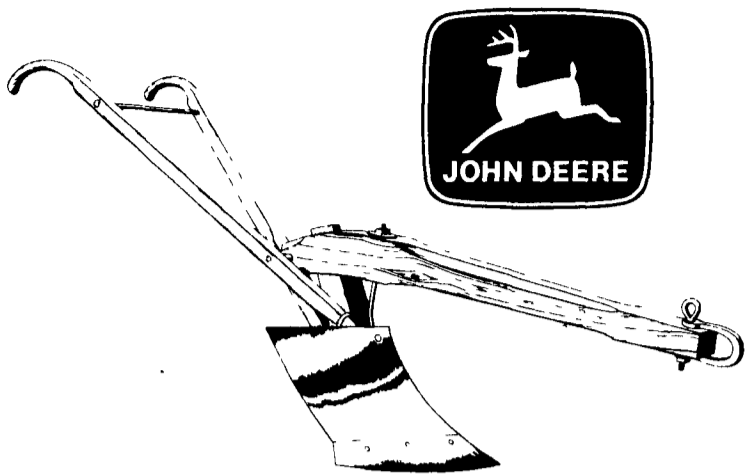
They'd left New England or the Middle Atlantic states or the South for a thousand private reasons, drawn irresistibly by the magnet of opportunity . . . the chance for a new start on cheap, abundant, virgin land . . . the chance to satisfy an adventurous spirit . . . the chance, perhaps, simply to get away from it all.

"Many are inclined to remove to new places," a Connecticut farmer wrote, "that they may have some room, thinking we live too thick."

Some settled in the Northwest Territory around the Great Lakes. Others moved on to the Mississippi Valley. In many places they found a sea of prairie grass, as tall near the river bottoms, one observer said, "as a rider on horseback."

The grass, the hundreds of wildflowers mixed with it, and the dark earth beneath offered vivid evidence of the land's agricultural promise. But first it had to be tamed for crops, a job for teams of oxen, heaving and hauling heavy prairie-breaking plows through alluvial soil, cutting matted, cord-like plant roots, some as thick as a man's finger.

Sod-busting was hard work, but it needed doing only once. A more



A Vermont blacksmith named John Deere revolutionized farming in 1837 by building the first wrought-iron moldboard plow with a steel share. Experts believe the first plow looked much like the one pictured.

frustrating problem developed later, when farmers began cultivating. If it contained any moisture, the soil clung like putty to the rough-textured wooden and cast-iron moldboards, or earth-turning plates, of the settlers' plows. Farmers carried sticks to unclog moldboards, a task which had to be repeated so often that plowing efficiency was impaired.

It was in the resolution of this problem that John Deere, a Vermont blacksmith who had emigrated to the Illinois prairie, left his mark on American agriculture. In 1837, he developed a plow with a cutting edge or share,

of steel, fused to a polished wrought-iron moldboard. Because of its smooth surface texture, kept polished by the soil it turned, and its curved shape, earth wouldn't adhere to this implement.

Thus, pioneer farmers now could plow without having to stop frequently to clean moldboards. Their productivity increased.

John Deere's better idea seems remarkably simple today, in an age when complex technological advance is a commonplace. But for its time and place it was a significant advance, and contributed importantly to opening the Midwest to agricultural development.



BUSINESS NEWS...

Stanford Offers New Corn Hybrids

DENVER, Pa. — Stanford Seed Company has introduced 6 new Hytest hybrid corns to their Hytest lineup. Each Hybrid has shown exceptional capability to outperform existing hybrids currently in the marketplace. After years of testing and evaluation by Stanford agronomists, the following hybrids made "the final cut".

HT212 - A 92-day dual purpose hybrid, tall plant with long ears that dries down extremely fast.

HT276 - A 97-day hybrid exhibits excellent plant health resulting in strong stalks, high test weight, top yields, even at higher populations.

HT454 - This 102-day hybrid really responds to intensive management, resulting in an at-

tractive plant with erect leaves, a producer of many bushels of corn, and a very high test weight.

HT588 - Although this 111-day corn performs extremely well under stress, it really shines with good fertility at medium-high populations.

HT712 - Excellent emergence, early spring vigor combine to give this 117-day hybrid an advantage over similar hybrids resulting in large blocky ears that dry rapidly.

HT797 - This tall 122-day corn exhibits excellent MDMV (virus) resistance, without sacrificing high yield potential.

For additional information, contact Stanford Seed in Denver, Pa. (215) 267-3805.

Book On Grazing

Management Available

COLCHESTER, Vt. — *Greener Pastures On Your Side Of The Fence* is a 232-page book full of practical information on using Voisin grazing management. It clearly shows a way for livestock farmers to increase the profitability of their farms.

Feeding costs account for a large part of the total expense of livestock production. Cutting feeding costs is the most logical and feasible way of increasing net farm income.

Permanent pastures on the United States are a neglected resource, producing far below their potential the way they usually are managed. American farmers generally consider pastures to be mere holding or exercise areas for livestock. They use a practice of year-round feeding of stored forage to livestock in confinement. This requires large capital investment in facilities and equipment and large amounts of purchased supplements.

In contrast, New Zealand's highly productive and profitable agriculture depends almost entirely on permanent pastures grazed according to the system defined by Andre Voisin. Farmers using Voisin grazing management obtain high yields of excellent quality forage over long periods, with small capital investment in facilities and equipment increased net income is the overall result.

In *Greener Pastures* Bill Murphy explains how to set up and use the proven Voisin grazing management system. He provides many helpful suggestions drawn from his five-year experience of using Voisin management, and from that of hundreds of other farmers now using the system in the Northeast.

The 6x9 softcover edition (ISBN 0-9617807-0-3) is available from Arriba Publishing, 213b Middle Road, Colchester, VT 05446 for \$14.95 postpaid.

Corn, Soybean Varieties Released By Asgrow

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — The Asgrow Seed Company introduces four new corn hybrids and five new soybean varieties for the 1987 growing season to complement its extensive selection of field crop seeds.

Corn hybrids **RX798** and **RX860** have both exhibited high yield and test weight potential in the Central Corn Belt. The 114-day **RX798** hybrid is characterized by medium to tall plants that produce mature ears on green stalks. **RX860**, a 116-day hybrid, produces medium-long ears that are held close to the stalk by very short shanks. **RX956W** is a Central Corn Belt single-cross, white-kernel processor hybrid of approximately 118-day maturity rating.

The other new corn hybrid, **RX989**, is a southern U.S. hybrid of

126-day maturity. **RX989** has excellent processing qualities with yields and standability often testing superior to that of Asgrow/O's Gold **RX404** the market-leading yellow processor hybrid.

Soybean introductions run from Group 0 to late Group VII maturities.

New soybean variety **A0949** is a late Group 0 soybean combining good emergence with genetic resistance to races 1-3, 6-11, 13, 15, 17, 21-24 of *Phytophthora* root rot. **A3205** is an early Group III maturity and **A3733** a mid-Group III maturity. They hold excellent emergence records and high levels of field tolerance to *Phytophthora* root rot. Seed supply is limited for both of these varieties for 1987 planting.

Mid-Group VI variety **A6785**, does well on heavy clay soils and is resistant to races 1-3, 6-11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, and 24 of *Phytophthora* root rot. **A7986**, a late Group VII variety, is tolerant to stem canker and resistant to *Phytophthora* root rot races 1-4 and 9-14. Both **A6785** and **A7986** are moderately resistant to common root knot nematode.

In addition to corn and soybean seeds, Asgrow markets a broad selection of sorghum, alfalfa and forage mix seeds.

New Grain Drill From Case IH

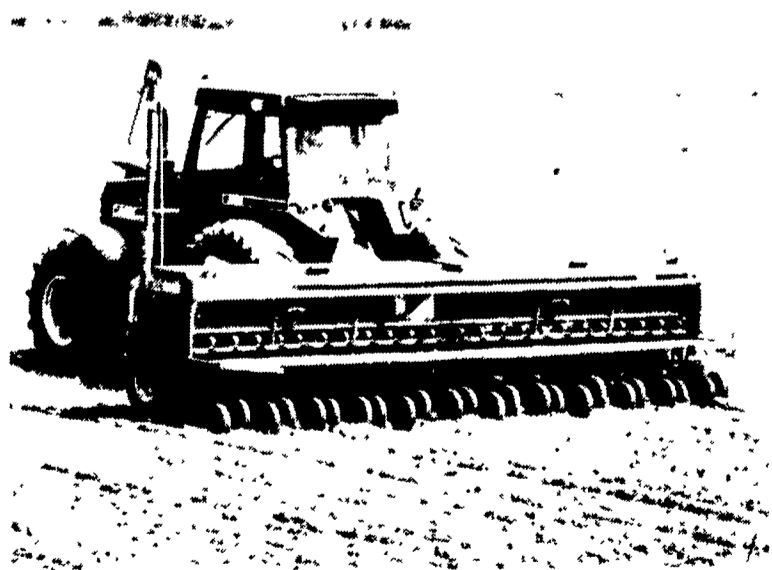
RACINE, Wisc. — The new Case IH Model 5200 mounted grain drill is designed to save farmers valuable time and offer unexcelled seeding accuracy, according to Joe Neville, Case IH product supervisor, planting and seeding.

This new grain drill is the first mounted drill for Case IH. "Mounted drills provide better maneuverability than trailing drills especially in smaller fields and on headlands," says Neville. "They also have wider widths."

Case IH all-metal feed cups are featured on the Model 5200. The feed cups offer top performance regardless of the size and type of seed. A three-position bottom with a simple lever adjustment on each cup allows smooth sowing of all sizes of wheat, soybean and kidney bean seeds. Quick-change high and low rate drive sprockets speed sowing rate changes, for greater convenience to the operator.

According to Neville, a distinct time-saving advantage of the new Model 5200 is a hand crank adjustment used to regulate down pressure on opener units. This provides proper penetration in a wide variety of soil conditions.

Front delivery seed tubes, which are featured on the Model 5200, are more accurate than rear delivery systems. Rear systems will often tumble loose soil and seed together in the furrow, while the front delivery tubes sow seed



The Model 5200 is Case IH's first mounted grain drill.

at full furrow depth.

Furrow openers can be attached and detached quickly. This eliminates wear and tear on idle openers for the operator who chooses to row-crop. Magnetic covers can be placed over the feed cups for convenient conversion from solid seeding to row-crop seeding.

Depth press wheels on the Model 5200 accurately control seeding depth. Press wheel tires are designed to prevent moist soil build-up. A standing center rib

forms a cracking slit above the seed, while soil is surrounded on both sides of the seed. This prompts seed germination and emergence.

New hydraulic-fold markers are available as an option on the 20-foot Model 5200 drill. With a choice of hydraulic or electric selectors, these hydraulic breakaway-type markers prevent the waste of seed and time due to overlaps and skips. Optional non-folding markers are available on the 15-foot version

Farm Product Buyers Protected By 'Clear Title' Legislation

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture and State recently reminded lenders and buyers that farm product purchases are now governed by provisions of the federal Food Security Act of 1985.

"Those who buy farm products in Pennsylvania have clear title unless notified in advance by a lien holder of a lien on the products," said Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Grubb.

Effective Dec. 24, the new provisions affect farm product transactions covered under the Uniform Commercial Code, Grubb said.

Under the Act, pre-notification of buyers by lenders with mortgages on farm products is required to protect secured interests unless a Central File system has been enacted at the state level.

"The Department of State's Corporation Bureau is continuing to plan for the establishment of a centralized filing system for

secured lending transactions involving farm products," according to Secretary of State Robert E. Gleason Jr.

Under a Central File system, lenders file statements showing evidence of mortgages. Farm product buyers then would have to register with the system to assure that they receive notice of liens.

"We're confident such a program at the state level will respond to and remedy a problem within the farm sector," Gleason said. "We have proposed a Central File system in the 1987-88 Commonwealth budget, and pending budget approval, a tentative implementation date has been set for July 1988," he added.



BREAKING MILK RECORDS!
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