

ITHACA, N.Y. — Buying used farm equipment can save money and result in a dependable, long-lasting line of machinery for any operator. *Used Farm Equipment: Assessing Quality, Safety, and Economics* (NRAES-25) teaches the potential purchaser how to inspect the machinery for the reliability of its components and the quality of its safety features, and how to estimate the economic soundness of the proposed acquisition. This manual, written by a cooperative extension agricultural engineer, a farm safety specialist, and an area farm management agent, offers guidelines to evaluate the machinery's mechanical condition by looking for clues to past

complications, upkeep, and operation. Several farm safety tips are highlighted in the booklet, which contains over 80 detailed illustrations.

Before looking at any machinery, buyers must consider that specific needs in terms of the equipment's affordability, dependability, and compatibility. Used equipment can be purchased from dealers, friends or neighbors, or at farm auctions, dispersal sales, or commercial auctions, but it is the responsibility of the buyer to judge the overall quality of the item for sale.

A quick visual inspection is an essential factor in detecting cover-ups; it is an important step in look-

ing for clues to possible problems with the equipment. *Used Farm Equipment* provides instructions on how to check for signs of improper repair jobs or machine maintenance. Included in the booklet are detailed sections on assessing the condition of welds, lubricants, hydraulic systems, and power transmission components, including chains and sprockets, gearboxes and chaincases, sheaves and belts, augers, and belt drives.

Tractors receive special consideration in this informative publication. Tractor design and safety, coolant systems, brakes and clutches, power steering, power take-off (PTO) guards, roll-over protective structures (ROPS), and

other engine specifications are carefully described so buyers can choose the used tractor that is best for their operations and safest for the users of the vehicle.

Used Farm Equipment offers helpful insight on how to estimate the economic liabilities of purchasing equipment by citing the acronym CROSS, which stands for *condition, reliability, options, service, and size*. Costs of owning and operating a new or used machine are compared in easy-to-understand diagrams and tables.

Especially for the small-scale operator who does not have the resources to acquire new equipment, purchasing previously-owned farm machinery can be a rewarding investment.

Copies of *Used Farm Equipment: Assessing Quality, Safety and Economics* are available from the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service for \$4.50. Volume discounts are available. For more information, contact NRAES, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, or call 607-255-7654.

Shultz And Hunter Crest Farm Top Columbia DHIA

COLUMBIA CO. — Shultz Brothers of Bloomsburg topped the Columbia County DHIA records in 1987 with 764 lbs. of butterfat. Also producing 700 lbs. of butterfat were: John Turofski from Catawissa at 756 lbs. of butterfat; Hunter Crest Farm, of Orangeville, at 726 lbs. of butterfat and Richard Kriebel of Benton, at 720 lbs. of butterfat.

Hunter Crest Farm recorded the highest herd average in milk production with 20,616 pounds. John Turofski came in second with 19,832 pounds of milk and Richard Kriebel averaged 19,089 for the year.

The Columbia County Dairy Herd Improvement Association finished its 49th year with the number of cows in the county dropping by nearly 200 from 1986 figures. However, the value of product above feed cost has risen \$100. The county's average pounds of production was 16,394 while the state average was 16,585.



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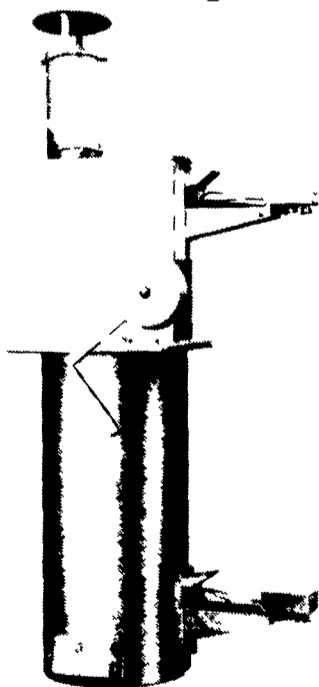
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