

Tractor Collectors Gear Up For International Cockshutt Show

JOYCE BUPP

York Co. Correspondent

YORK (York Co.) — A Cockshutt is a better investment than a CD.

That's the philosophy of Cockshutt tractor enthusiast Floyd Miller, who's been collecting and restoring antique tractors for several years.

Miller, York, is a director of the International Cockshutt/Co-op Tractor Collectors Association. In that capacity, he will chair the group's annual meeting and Cockshutt tractor show to be held September 11-13 in Westminster, Md.

That show is a featured part of the 30th annual Steam and Gas Roundup of the Mason-Dixon Historical Society and will take place on the grounds of the Carroll County Farm Museum at Westminster.

The Cockshutt association membership of 400 spans the U.S. and Canada, alternating meetings between the two countries. Begun about four years ago, the group's Westminster gathering is the first in the mid-Atlantic area. Miller expects it will be several years before another meeting is scheduled on the eastern seaboard.

An estimated 100 vintage Cockshutt and co-op tractors are expected for the national show, including several from Canadian participants. Miller hopes to have on display by its Ohio owner the only Model 580 Cockshutt known to still exist, a 1960's machine large for its time and powered by a 354 Perkins Diesel engine. A descendant of the founding Cockshutt family, William Cockshutt has been invited to attend as a

special guest.

Other features of the vintage machinery celebration include a "parts corral," toy collectors from as far away as Wisconsin, and the issuance of a limited edition Cockshutt 540 toy tractor of 1/16 scale.

According to Miller, the English-owned Cockshutt firm began in 1877 in Canada as the Brantford Plow Works, later known as the Cockshutt Plow Company. Cockshutt plows, he said played a major role in opening the Canadian west.

Before World War II, Cockshutt sold Oliver tractors, painted with the Cockshutt colors and name. Then, in 1946, they began manufacturing the Cockshutt Model 30, a two-to-three bottom plow tractor and the first on the market with a live PTO and hydraulic system. They also bought out the Ohio Cultivator Company, Bellevue, Ohio, where the Black Hawk line of corn planters, grain drills, and other equipment was produced. White-Oliver Corporation bought out Cockshutt Farm Equipment Limited in 1962.

The organization also includes collectors of the Co-op model tractor manufactured in Battle Creek, Mich. and Shelbyville, Ind. between 1935 and 1951.

"We hope to have several of these co-ops as well at the Maryland show," said Miller, who has restored both Cockshutt and co-op models to mint condition.

Miller's father, a thresherman-father who did local custom work in the Hellam area of eastern York county, once owned two Cockshutt Model 40s and a Model 30. When they sold at public sale,



Bill Cockshutt, a descendant of the owners of the Cockshutt equipment firm, has been invited to attend the National Cockshutt Show in Westminster.

Miller had not yet caught the "restoring bug" and did not keep any of the tractors of his boyhood. But his interest was rekindled after becoming a gas engine hobbyist in the early 1960s.

Cockshutts, according to Miller, were not as well known in Pennsylvania as in the midwest and Canada, and those sold were mostly in the Lebanon Valley, Lancaster, York, and Somerset county areas. Many of the larger ones, he said, went for tractor-pulling use because of the "tough rear end design."

"Ten or twenty years ago, I thought the price had topped out," said Miller. "Now they're a better investment than a bank. Most of this stuff has been pretty well hunted out, but sometimes you find them at estate sales. People don't always know what they have."

It was at an estate sale in 1980 that Floyd Miller purchased the gutted remnants of a Cockshutt Black Hawk and numerous boxes of parts. The acquisition included the remains of a shiny tractor that had once made national news when it was presented by state Farm Bureau organizations to President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a gift for use on his Gettysburg farm.

Though several more years passed until a retired Miller had

time to devote to his purchase, he restored the Cockshutt in about six months time. He displays it at numerous vintage equipment shows and hauled it back to the Eisenhower farm at Gettysburg for display during a special tribute to the late president.

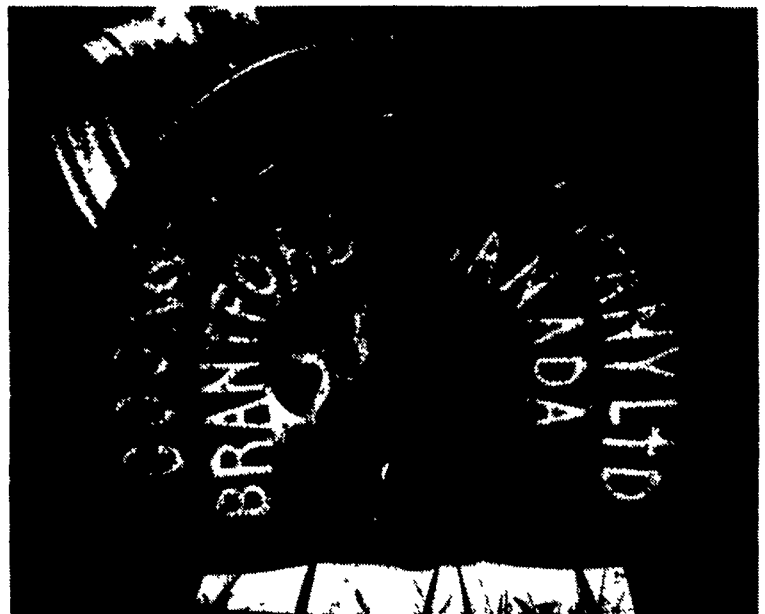
Between restoration sessions with a few special items he's trying to complete, Miller is pulling together last minute details for the

national show at the Carroll County Farm Museum grounds outside Westminster. The show will be open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on September 11, 12 and 13, including devotional services on Sunday morning.

Information on the national Cockshutt/co-op tractor organization and upcoming show is available by contacting Floyd Miller, R11, Box 613, York, PA 17406, (717) 755-6946.



This 1950 E-3 Co-op tractor has been returned to like-new condition by collector-restorer Floyd Miller.



An original late 1800's-era Cockshutt equipment seat was acquired by Floyd Miller from a Kansas collector. Miller speculates that the cast iron seat originated on a piece of horse-drawn equipment.

Control Weeds Through Natural Enemies

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Weeds can be controlled by their natural insect and disease enemies, said Dr. Phil Tipping, a Maryland Department of Agriculture scientist conducting research at a Maryland Agricultural Experiment Stations (MAES) facility.

Tipping will be demonstrating MAES research in biocontrol of weeds at the Western Maryland Reserach and Education Center's field day near Keedysville on September 10.

For example, musk thistle is at a manageable level because of recent bicontrol efforts. Biological control of the thistle included bringing beneficial insects and diseases that previously kept the weed in check in Europe and Asia to the United States.

"Biological control often is used because it can be very effective on a regional basis, which is demonstrated in the success of musk thistle control in this area," Tipping said. "Since musk thistle

has become a target of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, its population is declining in Maryland and nearby states."

Musk thistle and other weeds are a problem for Maryland farmers because they are unpalatable to livestock and crowd out more desirable pasture growth, the researcher said.

In seeking out a weed's enemies, the trick is finding those that feed specifically on the target weed, he said.

But biocontrol doesn't completely eliminate weeds—it manages the weed population.

"The cornerstone of biocontrol is that it doesn't eradicate the target pest -- it just lowers its numbers to a manageable level," Tipping said.

One of the advantages of biological control of weeds versus spraying pesticides, he said, is biocontrol's economic benefits.

"Biocontrol is very cost-effective. Look at the introduced

weed enemies as an invisible work force," he said. "And you don't have to keep paying them. You just bring them to the area and introduce them to the weed."

The payoff comes over several years because many of the weeds are perennial. Once you find a weed's enemies, you don't have to spray annually for the one weed -- the insects or disease will feed on it, easing the strain on the grower or breeder.

Tipping has worked on biological weed control for about five years. "There's not a shortage of target weeds," he said, as one weed comes under control, Tipping's research team will seek others nearby that are unpalatable to livestock.

Soon, they will tackle plumeless thistle. Tipping said they already have located one of the thistle's natural enemies, and they currently are seeking more.

The WMREC Field Day will highlight research activities at the

station that benefit the state's agriculture, environment, and natural resources.

The day will feature research wagon tours, farm equipment displays, and home economics seminars. The wagon tours will begin

departing at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until 11:30 a.m.

The 25-minute home economics seminars will start at 9 a.m. and on each half hour throughout the morning.

F.O.4 Milk Price \$15.62

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Rex F. Lothrop recently announced a Class I milk price of \$15.62 per hundredweight for September 1992.

This price is up 13 cents from August and is \$1.60 above last September's Class I price.

Mr. Lothrop announced a Class III milk price of \$12.64 per hundredweight for July 1992. The Class III price was up 27 cents from the previous month.

The September 1992 Class I price and the July 1992 Class III price are based on the July 1992

Minnesota-Wisconsin manufacturing milk price of \$12.59 per hundredweight at a 3.5 percent butterfat content.

The July 1992 butterfat price was 80.19 cents per pound, down seven-tenths of a cent from June. The July skim milk price per hundredweight was \$10.19.

The USDA reported that the wholesale price of Grade A butter at Chicago for July was 76.47 cents per pound on the mercantile exchange and the Central States Extra Grade nonfat dry milk price was \$1.15 per pound.