

Mudder Tractor From Massey Ferguson

ATLANTA, Ga.—Massey Ferguson's new MF 399 Mudder tractor is specially designed to provide high crop clearance and creep ground speeds. It is available in either a cab or footstep four-wheel-drive model.

"The MF399 Mudder tractor is well adapted to vegetable or bedded farming typically found in the western states, as well as rice field farming in the delta area of Louisiana and Arkansas," said Wilfred Boyle, director, Massey Ferguson operations. "With 95 PTO horsepower, this tractor is the ideal size to handle cultivating, planting, transplanting, and harvesting applications."

The MF 399 Mudder utilizes a standard 12x12 Synchronized Shuttle transmission with an optional creeper gear that adds four extra-slow forward speeds. The transmission with creeper gear provides ground speeds as low as .21 mph at standard PTO rpm, and a transport speed of just



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over 19 mph at rated engine rpm. This wide range of speeds provides excellent speed matching from harvesting and "pick and pack" operations to high transport speeds.

Ground clearance is 24.6 inches under the front axle and 20.1 inches under the drawbar. With these high clearances, the tractor can be operated over tall or bedded crops without damaging the plants and improving crop quality and profitability.

Select Sires Hires Detwiler

PLAIN CITY, Ohio—Paul Detwiler has been named to the newly created position of director of marketing and advertising at Select Embryos, Inc. in Plain City, Ohio.

In his new role, Detwiler's primary responsibility is market development for domestic and international embryo sales on behalf of the owner's who house their embryo donors at Select Embryos. In addition, Detwiler will be instrumental in the marketing of direct thaw and transfer embryos.

He also will develop advertising plans, conduct tours for domestic and international visitors, and promote Select

Embryo's products and services.

"Direct Thaw and Transfer is a new technology which is the future of on-farm embryo transfer," Detwiler said in a company news release. "We believe there is great market potential for embryos that are delivered to farmers through America's best sales force for transfer into their recipients at the farmer's convenience. Direct Thaw and Transfer embryos will play a major role in the future of Select Embryos," he said.

Formerly, Detwiler served as a regional sales manager and sire program consultant with NOBA. An Ohio native, he and his wife Shelly reside in Marysville, Ohio with their two young sons, Jake and Luke.

ASA Director Testifies For Biodiesel

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The American Soybean Association proposed changes in regulations for the Alternate Fuel Transportation Program that would enable biodiesel to reach its full potential as a renewable fuel.

ASA's testimony before the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy was presented by Mike Yost, a farmer from Murdock, Minn., and a member of the ASA board of directors. Favorable clarification and revision of the Alternative Fuel Program regulations to include biodiesel and biodiesel-powered alternative fueled vehicles (AFVs) is a priority for America's soybean farmers.

Yost told the panel that ASA strongly supports the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) and firmly believes that biodiesel should play an important role in the implementation of that legislation. Increased use of biodiesel as a result of implementation of EPACT can improve our environ-

ment and enhance our national energy security. Biodiesel powered AFVs offer cost effective means of compliance with the provisions of EPACT. For rural states, such as Minnesota, biodiesel offers additional opportunities for rural economic development through the sale of agricultural commodities and the construction of biodiesel production facilities.

Biodiesel is the generic term for cleaner burning, ester-based, fuels for compression ignition (diesel) engines that are derived from renewable organic oils. The primary feedstocks for biodiesel in the U.S. are vegetable oils. While the biodiesel industry is relatively new in the U.S., biodiesel has been used in Europe on a commercial basis for several years. Soybeans are the basis for a \$12 billion industry in the U.S. which includes substantial domestic as well as foreign sales of soybeans and soybean products.

Yost presented the following

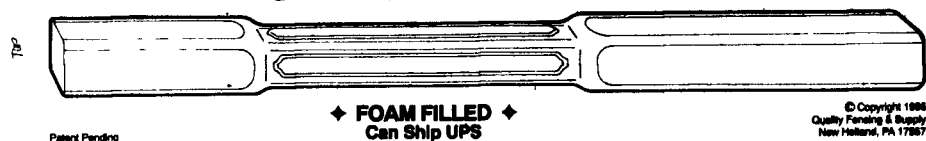
summary of specific recommendations: First, USDOE must confirm that pure biodiesel is designated as an alternative fuel. Then, as part of a separate rulemaking, USDOE should further designate a 20 percent blend of biodiesel with diesel fuel, known as B20, as separate and distinct alternative fuel. Second, USDOE must interpret its regulations to facilitate the conversion of new and existing diesel vehicles to biodiesel AFVs to meet the acquisition requirements of the regulations in such a way that states will have the maximum flexibility to utilize competitively priced biodiesel fuel blends, such as B20. Third, USDOE should allow states and alternative fuel providers to include the acquisition or conversion of

medium duty and heavy duty AFVs in their fleets to count toward the optional excess vehicle acquisition credit program.

Yost gave assurance that this kind of flexibility will not, in any way, contradict the goals of EPACT. Instead, these minor changes to the proposed regulations will give greater flexibility to states and alternative fuel providers while at the same time increasing farm income through the use of domestically produced renewable agricultural products. These changes make sense because they are beneficial to the farmers who produce the feedstocks for biodiesel, beneficial to the states and alternative fuel suppliers who will be major consumers of biodiesel, and beneficial to the nation as a whole, which will have a cleaner environment and greater energy security as a result of the increased use of biodiesel. All in all, biodiesel can and should play a major part in meeting the goals of EPACT.



"VINYL" PORCH POST



Decorative Porch Post Withstands Compressive Load

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.)—Quality Fencing and Supply has announced the availability of a new foam-injected vinyl porch post.

The post, measuring 8 foot 8 inches high, includes three sections. The top and bottom sections

are 5 inches by 5 inches and consist of 0.150 inch thick polyvinyl chloride walls. The center section measures 4 1/4 inches by 4 1/4 inches and consists of 0.165 inch thick walls. The entire post is filled with high density foam.

The post withstood a recent test that included a 2,000-pound com-

pressive load with no apparent damage, according to the company. For more information on the strong and decorative post, contact Quality Fencing and Supply, 622 North Shirk Rd., New Holland, PA 17557, (800) 633-7093 or (717) 355-7100.

Farmers Union Supports Reformulated Gas Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National Farmers Union (NFU) has become the first farm association to join with the American Corn Growers Association (ACGA), in supporting and endorsing the reformulated gasoline (RFG) program. This action was approved at the recently held NFU convention in Milwaukee.

According to NFU President Leland Swenson, "The national delegates of Farmers Union saw the many advantages that RFG holds for agriculture and the country. We are proud to join with the ACGA in leading the way for agriculture's total endorsement of the program."

In making it part of its energy and family farm section, the language reads:

a. Agriculture is one of the biggest winners with the implementation of the RFG program.

b. RFG is the major avenue for increasing the demand for oxygenates, especially ethanol and ETBE.

c. RFG is the impetus to spur on the development and commercialization of ETBE. This could result in a new market for almost 200 bushels of new corn demand per year.

d. Increased ethanol demand translates into developing and building more ethanol production facilities. Most of these will be built in rural areas creating new jobs, expanding the local tax base, and providing new markets for the

crops we grow.

e. Increased oxygenate demand will decrease foreign imports of oil and increase the demand for domestic production. This could mean lower energy cost for production agriculture.

f. The new demand for ethanol or ETBE in the RFG program will likely result in an increase in the price of corn.

g. The advantages to agriculture under RFG are as clear as the air we breathe. New corn utilization, more ethanol production facilities, development of ETBE and higher commodity prices can all result from the RFG program.

h. These advantages only exist if the RFG program remains in effect in its entirety. Any tampering with the program or the oxygen-

ates that make up the program will result in the loss of everything that agriculture has gained.

Therefore, the National Farmers Union supports the RFG program, both in Milwaukee and the United States. In order to build public confidence in the RFG, the National Farmers Union urges health effects testing on all oxygenates by the EPA.

"The ACGA is pleased to have the nation's largest progressive farm association join with us in support of the RFG program. We will take this positive message to all of agriculture and our elected officials to enlist their approval of this beneficial program," stated Gary Goldberg, president of the ACGA.

Bouton Earns AFGC Award

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Dr. Joe Bouton, best known for inventing Alfagraze, has received an award for his significant contributions and service to forage-based agriculture.

Bouton was presented the AFGC Merit Award during the annual American Forage and Grassland Council awards banquet held here in mid-March. The award is presented annually to individuals who have made "superior contributions in some phase of forage and grassland

agriculture and who have earned recognition among their colleagues for work and productivity through research, teaching, extension, production, or industrial development."

Currently professor of crop and soil services at the University of Georgia, Bouton has worked extensively in furthering the development and use of "grazing" alfalfas. A few years ago, this dedicated research resulted in the release of Alfagraze—the first alfalfa variety bred for both haying and grazing.

Bouton also devotes time to breeding fescue for adaptation outside "normal" fescue use areas. This recently resulted in the release of Georgia 5, a tall fescue adapted for use by livestock producers in the coastal plain region of the southeastern U.S.

Bouton's interest in agriculture began during his childhood on a cotton, wheat and soybean farm in Mississippi. He continued his training in agriculture at Mississippi State University where he received his bachelor's degree in agronomy in 1972, and then headed to the University of Florida where he earned a master's degree in horticulture in 1974 and his doctorate in agronomy in 1977.

Bouton is involved in teaching and research and serves as chairman of the National Alfalfa Crop Advisory Committee. He has been designated a Fellow for both the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Sciences Society of America. Earlier this year, he was chosen "Man of the Year" by Progressive Farmer magazine