

— Fall Harvest Wrap-Up —

Course Offers Tractor Renovation Tips, Special Financing

MOLINE, Ill — For many farmers, the months between harvest and planting offer time to service equipment and make any necessary repairs or upgrades. This year, the task is made easier through an innovative new program.

Now through 2000, John Deere dealers will host tractor renovation clinics. The clinics include courses on preventative maintenance and upgrading older tractors to current standards of comfort, convenience and reliability.

The "Dress Up a Deere Friend™" clinics include information useful for any row crop tractor but focus on John Deere 30, 40 and 50 Series models. "More than 400,000 of these models were produced from the early 1970s to the mid-1980s," said Jerry Burau, manager, after-market sales for John Deere. "Thousands of older tractors still provide reliable service. These clinics help owners bring older models up to modern standards for performance, safety and convenience."

Features improved over the last two decades include lighting, electrical systems, air conditioning, cab comfort, and safety features such as convenient handles and steps, Burau explained.

The clinics include programs on preventative maintenance and detailed demonstrations on rejuvenating older model tractors with upgrades such as:

- New lighting
 - Safety handles
 - Front fenders
- Larger, better steps
 - Modern air conditioning
 - New air-suspension seating

- Electrical systems, including power strip convenience outlets and 7 pin connectors

- Inside mirrors
- Rear windshield wiper
- Improved sound system, including stereo radio and new speakers

- Hydraulic control valves compatible with modern equipment

- New cab upholstery kits

"Many comfort, convenience and safety upgrades can be made by tractor owners themselves," Burau said. "The clinics provide a detailed explanation of improvements, ranging from upgraded lighting and mirrors up to ozone friendly R134A air conditioning replacement."

If extensive engine repairs are needed, dealers are able to overhaul the engine or install a RemanSelect™ engine. RemanSelect engines are completely remanufactured to exact specifications using genuine John Deere replacement parts and manufacturing processes. RemanSelect engines carry a one-year, unlimited-hour warranty and are available through John Deere dealers.

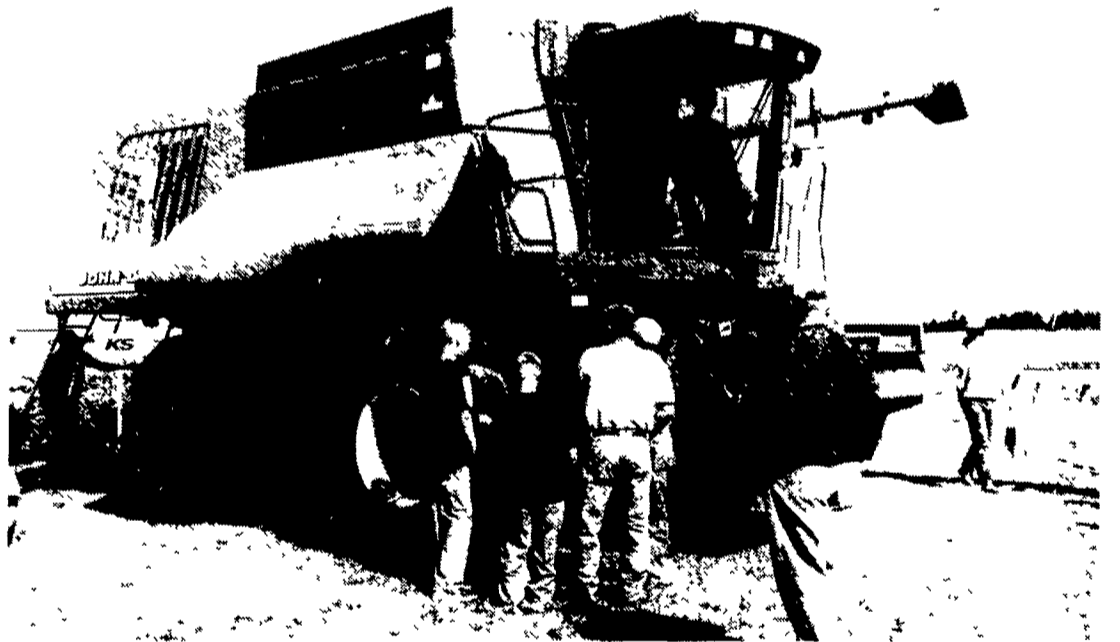
Special Financing

Owners who take part in the clinics are eligible for special tractor renovation financing from dealers who offer Farm Plan™ or AgLine™ financing plans. This special financing includes no payments and no interest through March 2000 on purchases of tractor parts.

"With the current farm economy, we offer our customers several choices depending on their operational needs," Burau said. "John Deere dealers not only



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The machines demonstrated at Husker Harvest are designed to provide more comfort and control.

provide a complete line of new and used tractors but also help farmers renovate their older tractors with tractor renovation kits. We want customers to be as happy with their older tractors now as they were the day they purchased them."

To receive more details on the "Dress Up a Deere Friend" clinics, contact your local John Deere dealer, check out the new website on www.deere.com or look directly at www.deere.com/parts/deerefriend/index.htm.

Just The Facts

As harvest winds down, the numbers begin to roll in. Here's a few statistics and projections taken from recent reports released by the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Economic Research Service.

- Soybean production is forecast to reach a record level for the second straight year at nearly 2.8 billion bushels.

- Corn yields are forecast to be the third highest on

record.

- Winter wheat yields averaged over 47 bushels per acre, a new record.

- Old crop corn stocks September 1 were up 37 percent from 1998.

- Old crop soybean stocks September 1 were up 74 percent from 1998.

- Stored wheat September 1 was at its highest level since the 1987-88 marketing year.

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Visitors react to equipment demonstrations by John Deere at Husker Harvest conducted in Grand Island, Neb.