

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher



Deere showed this 9000 Series tractor with a prototype track system at farm shows this fall.

Deere Unveils High Horsepower Track System

Here's an advance peek at a new track system Deere is developing for its 300 hp and larger 4-WD tractors.

On display at recent farm shows, the prototype tracks were installed on a Deere 9300. The new track system has more than 400 hours of field tests on it and is expected to be available next year. Featuring Goodyear rubber and a Deere-built undercarriage, the track pictured is 36 in. wide but could be wider or narrower when it goes into production, depending on field test results.

"We're using technology we developed for the 8000 series and adapting it to the 9000 series," Dale Bender, Deere product specialist, told FARM SHOW.

Disk Down Beans To Boost Market Prices?

A Maryland farmer and his neighbor this fall attempted to raise the price of soybeans by encouraging the nation's farmers to disk under a portion of their crop. The only problem was that nobody paid any attention.

"There was a lot of talk, but nobody did it,"

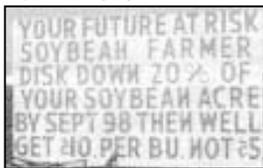
Ed Fuchs, Preston, Md., told FARM SHOW.

Fuchs and his neighbor, Myron Hoffman, were prepared to disk under 20 percent of their soybean crop to raise prices. If all farmers across the nation did the same, the price of beans would go up to \$10 per bushel, they claimed.

"If even 30 percent of the 1 million farmers in America disked under 20 percent of their crop, you'd still get a heckuva bump in price," Fuchs said. "Farmers have to help themselves rather than waiting for the government to help them."

"In 1974, I got \$3.65 per bushel of corn," Fuchs said. "This year the price has been under \$2.00. When I started farming in 1960, I bought a new Deere 4010 tractor with a five-bottom plow for \$6,700. Today, that same tractor and plow would cost \$65,000 or more."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edward Fuchs, 3297 Gallagher Rd., Preston, Md. 21655 (ph 410 673-7194).



This sign was used last summer to promote the "plow-down" idea.

Deere's "Most Copied Machine"

"The most copied machine Deere ever built" is how Deere describes the first self-propelled combine it produced more than 50 years ago. What most people don't know is that the machine nearly never saw the light of day.



Deere's first self-propelled combine is still on display at company headquarters in Moline, Ill.

George Duke, a Deere engineer at the time, had definite ideas about how the machine should be designed. The problem was that his ideas didn't jibe with Deere's.

It seems Massey-Harris had come out with a self-propelled combine two years earlier, with features Deere determined should be included in its own machine.

The Massey had the engine mounted under the belly, a holding bin off to one side and two 5-ft. wide canvas conveyors to bring grain to the threshers. Duke didn't like the design, but following orders he designed a combine for Deere with the same features.

During a trial run, the engine caught fire and a man was seriously burned.

Duke and some of his associates decided the engine should be on top to reduce risk of fire. They also decided the holding bin should go on top and that canvas conveyors should be replaced with an auger on the cutterbar.

However, Deere's chief engineer was less-than impressed and ordered Duke to stop work on the machine. Duke continued work on the machine on his own and eventually the chief engineer had a change of heart and instructed him to work full-time on the new design.

"All during the Christmas holidays, while the Battle of the Bulge was being fought in Europe, our mechanics were driving that machine around the race track, testing it," Duke recalled.

Deere invited all of its North American branch managers to a demonstration of the finished product, which resulted in orders for 1,000 combines. The company had to build a 90-acre factory to produce them.

"I knew what was right and how the thing ought to be put together," Duke said. "It was as simple as ABC to me."

He takes the success of the machine, "the most copied machine Deere ever built" according to the company, in stride.

"You have to realize," he says, "that's what they hire engineers to do." (Resource Magazine)

Heads Bent Low

A stooped old man and young man chanced to meet one day.

You'll find the heads that are empty are standing tall and high.

The young man said to the elder, in his usual braggart way:

But the heads that count in the harvest are filled and bending low.

"Why don't you walk up straight like me? That's the way to grow old:

Awaiting the reaper's sickle, their time is short they know."

It's all a form of habit - at least that's what I'm told."

And as the young man passed on by, he slowly bowed his head.

The old man gave him a knowing look, and said, "My dear young friend, have you ever examined your wheat field and noticed the heads that bend?"

No doubt he pondered more that day on the things the old man said.

If not, just look them over as the harvest time draws nigh.

(Anonymous)

Farm Tile Leasing Catching On

You may be leasing your equipment, cash-renting ground, or leasing the vehicles you drive.

But have you ever considered leasing drainage tile?

It's an option that's catching on fast among many farmers, according to Integrated Solutions, Decatur, Ill., a company

that's promoting the practice.

Leases can be structured over a two to five-year period and a 100 percent tax break is possible.

Other advantages are:

- There is no financial statement to fill out unless the amount of the lease is over \$100,000 or there are obvious credit problems. Typically, there are only two forms to fill out.

- The lease amount does not go against your line of credit at the bank.

- There is no lien against farm acreage.

- There is a buyout at the end of the lease agreement. It ranges from \$1 to 10 percent of the total cost.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Integrated Solutions, % Paul and Dixie Graff, 9710 Camp Drake Road, Fairmount, Ill. 61841 (ph 800 463-2119 or 217 427-5583; Email dapgraff@aol.com). (Excerpted from *Illinois Agrinews*)

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If you've got a hard-to-buy for farmer or rancher on your Christmas gift list this year, why not do your shopping right here?

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It's a 56-page collection of "do-it-for-fun" projects

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- Her Teeth Were Stained, But Her Heart Was Pure
- I Been Roped And Thrown By Jesus In The Holy Ghost Corral
- I Changed Her Oil, She Changed My Life
- I Flushed You From The Toilets Of My Life
- I Fell Into A Pile Of You And Got Love All Over Me
- If Love Were Oil, I'd Be A Quart Low
- If You Leave Me, Can I Come Too?
- Get Your Biscuits In The Oven And Your Buns Into The Bed
- Mama Get The Hammer (There's A Fly On Papa's Head)
- My John Deere Was Breaking Your Field, While Your Dear John Was Breaking My Heart
- My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend, And I Sure Do Miss Him
- You Were Only A Splinter As I Slid Down The Bannister Of Life
- When You Leave, Walk Out Backwards So I'll Think You're Walking In