

Multi-Seat Tractor Cab

Farmer's who've seen it are sold on a prototype multi-seat tractor cab developed at Iowa State University, Ames.

In an opinion poll conducted at the recent Iowa Farm Machinery Show, where a model of the new-style cab was displayed, 77% of approximately 120 show visitors surveyed favored the idea of extra seating capacity in tractor cabs, and many added that they felt the same about combine cabs. Most agreed that enough extra room for a simple, fold-down seat would be satisfactory, and that they'd be willing to pay extra for the added feature. The average of all cost figures given as to how much extra they'd be willing to pay was \$485.

Reasons farmers gave for wanting the extra seat included:

... "So I can talk to my children and teach them how to farm."

... "So my wife can drive the tractor while I eat lunch and visit with her."

... "So I can ride along to instruct new drivers on how to operate unfamiliar equipment."

... "To conduct business with salesmen while plowing the back forty."

The prototype multi-passenger cab was designed and built by Agricultural Engineering students enrolled in a Senior Design course. Their idea: "If people are going to be passengers on tractors and combines, let's give them a safe place to sit."

Starting with a conventional cab donated by Allis Chalmers, the students, under the direction of instructor Dr. Wes Buchele, came up with a prototype which features:

- Safe transport for two or more people.
- Low noise level.
- Doors on either side for easy exit and entry.
- Good, all-around vision.
- The gear and hydraulic control console inside the cab pivots with the driver's seat. A second set of controls outside the cab throttles and stops the engine.
- It also has hydraulic and pto controls outside the cab.

Here are key "messages to manufacturers" reflected in farmer reaction to the prototype cab:

• Nine of 10 farmers said they would buy a tractor equipped with a multi-seat cab, with 85% saying one extra fold-down seat would be sufficient.

• About 9 out of 10 farmers preferred an access door on both sides of the cab.

• About 8 out of 10 preferred being able to stop the tractor with a switch located outside the cab, and 9 out of 10 wanted outside hydraulic control levers.

There was solid support for being able to disengage the pto-shaft with a lever located outside the cab, and for an outside throttle control, light switch and brake control.



Multi-passenger cab developed by Iowa State University Agricultural Engineers comfortably seats driver and 2 or 3 passengers.

"Strip" Door Keeps Heat In, Cold Out

New "see through" doors made of vinyl strips are catching on fast in factories, warehouses and other industrial buildings. They keep heated air in and cold air out to conserve energy. When you walk or drive through the strips, they automatically flop back into place to seal the opening.

Would they work on machinery, workshop, livestock and other farm buildings?

"We haven't gotten around to investigate on-farm uses but would be glad to work with farmers and ranchers interested in doing some experimenting," Alex Wilson, of Chase Industries, told FARM SHOW. He notes that the strip-type doors are easy to custom fit to the size required. The clear, extruded vinyl strips are available 8 in. or 12 in. wide, measure .06 and .125 in. thick, respectively, and can be cut to whatever length is needed. The overlapping strips open just enough for passage of people, animals or equipment. They have

rounded edges and close automatically. The vinyl strips stay flexible in cold weather.

They can be hung to provide from 50 to 100% overlap of the individual strips, depending on how "weathertight" a seal is desired. The percent overlap also governs the noise-dampening effect of the strip-door.

Equipping a 12 by 12 ft. opening with a high quality vinyl strip-type door costs \$700 to \$1,000, depending on percent overlap, thickness and width of the strips, and other optional features.

So far as we know, the new "strip door" concept hasn't been tested with cattle, hogs or horses to determine its effectiveness as a barn door which would close automatically as animals walked through it. If you'd like to do some experimenting, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alex Wilson, Chase Industries, 8100 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45222 (513 821-3939).



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