

Smörgåsbord



Harold Johnson
Publisher and
Editorial
Director

**Come Visit Us At The
Farm Progress Show**

FARM SHOW will have a booth at the upcoming Farm Progress Show to be held Sept. 27, 28 and 29 near West Brooklyn, Illinois (15 miles south of Rochelle). We'd love to have you stop by to say "Hello," and to tell us what you like (or don't like) about FARM SHOW.

If you've got a new gadget or invention you've been thinking ought to be featured in FARM SHOW, stop by and tell us about it. We'll be on hand all three days of the show, one of the "biggest and best" in the entire world.

You'll find us and our FARM SHOW booth in the Varied Industries Tent (VIT) on Central Avenue between 8th and 9th streets.

**Deere Unveils New
4-WD Tractors**

You'll be seeing Deere's just-introduced all-new 4-WD 60 Series tractors at farm shows this fall. The 8560, 8760 and 8960 articulated tractors feature new engines and new transmissions as well as pressure-compensated closed center hydraulics and a redesigned Sound Gard cab. One of the key features of the new tractor line is a modular design which makes it possible to remove engine, transmission and



drive axle components for repair without major disassembly. All three 60 Series models have a "gudgeon" joint that allows the center, articulating hinge to "twist" as much as 15° on rough terrain. The tractors have 24-speed PowrSync transmissions for on-the-go clash-free shifting with full synchronization and a high-low range. A 1,000 rpm independent pto or a 3-pt. hitch with quick coupler can be installed at the factory or later on the farm. The full-view front windshield has no obstructions and the tractors are equipped with all-electronic instrumentation which advises the operator of scheduled maintenance and can diagnose mechanical problems.

**Lost Wager Turns
Deere Tractor Pink**

If you've ever lost a bet and had to pay the consequences, you'll be able to identify with Nebraska farmer Ed Holmann, of Stanton. He's driving a pink John Deere 4440 tractor — all because of a bet he made with his wife.

Here, excerpted from Becky Olde's report on the "lost

wager" in a recent issue of Nebraska Farmer magazine, is what happened:

Seven years ago, Ed's wife, Kay, became a Mary Kay beauty consultant. If you're familiar with the Mary Kay company, which markets cosmetics, you know that pink cars are a recognizable "symbol" of the company. Pink cars



are awarded to those ranked as directors, based on the product sales within that particular director's unit.

Ed bet Kay that she wouldn't win a pink car. He said if she did, he would paint his Deere 4440 tractor pink.

Well, Mary won the car and Ed, true to his word, transformed his tractor from a vibrant John Deere green to pale pink.

"We live right on the highway. People just drive by and stare," notes Kay. She says her husband's not all that embarrassed to drive a pink tractor. In fact, he takes pride in driving it.

"When Ed uses the tractor to haul corn and beans to town and he's waiting his turn at the elevator, people start making fun of him," Kay admits. "He just looks at them and asks, 'And what color car did your wife win?' That usually sets them straight."

Kay recently earned her third pink car — a 1989 Cadillac.

"We're Sick of Rebates"

We just wonder how gullible manufacturers think the American public is? We refer to the many rebates being offered to buyers of about any product nowadays.

We went to replace a small storage or flashlight type battery the other day, one we had been buying for about a dollar in the past. The price was now \$2.40 and a big notice on the card accompanying it proclaimed "\$1 rebate." Now to claim this rebate one had to enclose the sales slip, and the copy of the card accompanying the tiny battery. The applicant then had to "circle" the rebate part, buy a 25-cents postage stamp, furnish a mailing envelope — all to get \$1 back from a purchase. Of course the battery manufacturer knows most buyers won't bother to make a claim, so their offer is safe.

But we get tired of automobile manufacturers offering \$500 and \$1,000 rebates for the purchase of a new automobile. What does this accomplish? It mainly means the price of the car has already been raised more than it should have been in the first place or the rebate offer wouldn't be possible.

We have made up our minds that in the future we simply will not purchase any items that offer rebates. Manufacturers should be able to sell a product at a set price, a price that allows them a reasonable profit. This rebate practice has gotten out of hand. It causes inflation and allows those to make profits that shouldn't be getting them. (Reprinted from the Belleville Telescope, Belleville, Kan.)

**What Not To
Name Your Dog**

A FARM SHOW reader sent us the following clipping, with a note saying "I don't know who wrote it but it gave us the best laugh we've had in a long time. I hope you'll share it with your readers."

Everybody who has a dog calls him "Rover" or "Shep." I call mine "Sex." He's a great pal but he has caused me a great deal of embarrassment.

When I went to city hall to renew his dog license, I told the clerk I would like a license for Sex. He said, "I'd like one, too!" Then I said, "You don't understand, I've had Sex since I was 9 years old."

When I got married and went on my honeymoon, I took the dog with me. I told the motel clerk that I wanted a room for my wife and me and a special room for Sex.

He said, "You don't need a special room. As long as you pay your bill we don't care what you do." I said, "Look, you don't seem to understand. Sex keeps me awake at night."

The clerk said, "Funny — I have the same problem."

One day I entered Sex in a contest, but before the competition began, the dog ran away. Another contestant asked me why I was just standing there, looking disappointed. I told him I had planned to have Sex in the contest. He told me I should have sold my own tickets. "But you don't understand," I said, "I had hoped to have Sex on TV."

When my wife and I separated, we went to court to fight for custody of the dog. I said, "Your Honor, I had Sex before I was married." The judge said, "The courtroom isn't a confessional. Stick to the case, please." Then I told him that after I was married, Sex left me. He said, "Me, too."

Last night Sex ran off again. I spent hours looking around town for him. A cop came over to me and asked, "What are you doing in this alley at 4 o'clock in the morning?" I told him that I was looking for Sex. My case comes up Friday!

"Old Farm Magazine"

There's a new farm magazine on the scene. Called "Old Farm Magazine," it's dedicated to farm technology and ideas of the past, according to publishers Richard and Carol Hein, the same people who publish Green Magazine for enthusiasts of Deere and the long green line of farm equipment. "Our new magazine will show how agriculture has changed, and how the changes affect where we are in farming today. We'll also feature people who are keeping our rich farm heritage alive," explains Richard. Subscriptions to the new bimonthly magazine are \$11 per year (\$12 outside the U.S.).



The charter issue is just off the press. For a copy, send \$2 to: Old Farm Magazine, Box 7FS, Bee, Neb. 68314 (ph 402 643-6269).

Worth Repeating

When Thomas Edison was working on the first light bulb, he handed a finished bulb to a young boy. The boy, nervous as a young pup on his first outing, carried it upstairs, step by step. Just a moment before delivering it, he dropped it.

The entire team had to work another 24 hours to replace that intricate bulb. When Edison had finally finished, he looked around to find someone to again deliver the bulb to the second story outlet.

He then handed it to the same boy. Deep down, Edison knew that more than the bulb mattered at that moment. (Anonymous)

**Outrageous Prices
For Replacment Parts**

"I think FARM SHOW should run case histories to call attention to the outrageous prices being charged by majors for replacement parts," says reader Doug Fraser, of Canby, Ore. He sent along a copy of the bill to show the "outrageous price" of \$23.74 which he paid for a short cable used to control shifting of the Selecto Speed transmission on his 801 Ford diesel.

"I've owned this tractor for almost 20 years. I believe a fair price is in order but to price this part at \$23.74 is not in any way fair," laments Fraser. "I was a John Deere dealer and I know the company was very concerned about excessive prices for parts. Once in a while, a part would be priced very high and, when Deere was informed, usually a price reduction was in order. I think that if FARM SHOW were to call this to the attention of readers, and in turn to manufacturing companies, more sanity would return to the pricing departments of our equipment suppliers. I know the majors read FARM SHOW with interest. Your continued spotlighting of poor pricing will help all farmers who are trying to keep costs in line."

"Dry" Weather Joke

It's been so dry in some areas that churches have had trouble baptizing folks. The Baptists have started sprinkling, the Presbyterians are using a damp cloth, the Lutherans are passing out rain checks, and a Catholic priest is turning wine back into water. Brother, that's dry! (Country Parson, Ohio Farmer).