

Publisher's Notebook



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Wet Weather Horror Stories

Last spring's wet weather, the worst in a hundred years in many areas, produced a bumper crop of horror stories, including this one related by Don Muhm, farm editor, in the Des Moines (Iowa) Register:

The episode involved Iowa farmer Martin Brown who had three stuck tractors in a muddy field near Bradgate. First to get stuck was a 100 hp machine that hit a springy spot on a slope and started to spin. Brown brought in a bigger tractor which got stuck trying to "unstuck" the other tractor.

Brown then brought in his light-duty corn planter tractor and used it to try to remove the big tractor. "But it would go ahead one foot and sink down another 6 inches," Brown recalled.

Finally, a crawler-type tractor, which Brown said was "pretty busy pulling other people out," was called in. It freed the big tractor with ease.

That big tractor was then hooked up to the first stuck tractor, with neighbor Phil Ober at the controls of the immovable machine. As the tractor pull began, something snapped and the steering wheel pulled away from Oberg as he sat in the cab section of the split-apart tractor.

Another disaster struck when fire broke out in the front section but the flames were quickly extinguished.

Brown was to find out later that his insurance company would pay only for the fire loss and not for the tractor being torn apart. "They said it was pulling a load bigger than the tractor was designed for," Brown said. "So, I made two mistakes: one was getting the tractor stuck and one was putting the fire out."

When visitors began flocking to the field to see the broken tractor, Brown hung a can on the fence for donations. "I got 49 cents, two beer cans and a bolt and washer," he said.



One of five collection sites where tires of all sizes were collected during the 4-day roundup.

Tire Roundup

Like most farmers and ranchers, you no doubt have a fast-growing collection of old tires that you'd like to get rid of.

Maybe what you and your neighbors need is a "tire roundup" — like the one the folks in Chippewa County, Wis., staged a few weeks ago.

Residents of the county were given a one-time opportunity to get rid of old tires during two consecutive weekends. Five collection sites were scattered throughout the county.

"We accepted all size tires — everything from bicycle size up to huge heavy construction equipment tires," says Bill Kroll, Chippewa County's solid waste manager. "We ended up collecting right at 27,000 tires during the four day roundup."

Residents who brought in old tires paid the following rates: 25 cents each for passenger car and light truck tires up to 16 in.; \$1.50 for truck tires 17 to 22 in. in dia.; \$3 for tractor and heavy equipment tires up to 500 lbs.; and \$15 for all tires over 500 lbs.

A contract hauler was hired to deliver the 27,000 tires to a tire shredding plant.

For more information, contact Bill Kroll (ph 715 723-0331).

The Whole Load

The minister in a small Western town drove out one snowy Sunday morning to preach at a small church on the prairie. But, because of the storm, only one lonely cowboy showed up.

Uncertain about what to do, the minister asked the cowboy if he should go ahead with the service.

"Well, if I took out a load of hay to feed my cattle and only one steer showed up, I'd sure feed him," answered the cowboy.

So, the minister nodded in agreement and started the service. He sang a hymn, read some scripture, said a prayer, preached a long sermon, sang another hymn and finally ended with the benediction. Closing his Bible, he asked the cowboy how he liked the service.

The cowboy sighed, "Well, if I went out to feed my cattle and only one old steer showed up, I surely wouldn't give him the whole load!"

Did You Know That...

• **Ford's F150 pickup outsells all other pickups** along with everything else on the road - cars, trucks or vans. It's been America's top-selling single vehicle line for seven years (1983-90) and outsells Taurus and Tempo combined. Ford's two main competitors among half-ton pickups are the Chevy-GMC C/K-1500 series and Dodge's W/D-150. The Chevy is perceived as more white collar than blue whereas the Dodge is the farm truck. The Ford holds a broad stretch of middle ground between these two. It's both white and blue collar. You use it for work but feel comfortable driving it to the golf course. (Popular Mechanics)

• **The state with the highest average corn yield 1990** wasn't Iowa, Illinois or Nebraska. It was the state of Washington with 175 bu. per acre. The corn states of Nebraska, Illinois and Iowa averaged 128, 127 and 126 bu. per acre respectively, which put them in 11th, 12th and 13th place. With mostly irrigated corn, California (160 bu.) and Arizona (160 bu.) tied for second place. (Missouri Ruralist)

• **"Cattlemen who use dogs to work cattle** wind up losing cattle to coyotes because the cows think coyotes are dogs." So says South Dakota rancher Milton Trask, of Quinn. "Nature says that they should be enemies and the cows can't tell a good dog from a bad dog (coyote). I like my cows fiesty and aggressive, with a lot of spunk. They keep coyotes away." (Tri-State Neighbor)

• **Sweden's tough new animal welfare laws** do not allow sows to be left in a farrowing crate for more than one week at farrowing, do not allow pigs to be weaned under four weeks of age, and do not allow total slatted floors. Piglets must be castrated by 6 weeks of age; after that an anesthetic is required. A non-slatted area must be provided for pigs to sleep on. Litter bedding (straw) is required — wood shavings, corn cobs and the like are not sufficient. Tethering and gestation crates are prohibited. Breeding animals must have access to the outdoors in summer. There is a 300-head limit on the number of fattening pigs that can be housed per barn section. Medicine for hogs is available only by prescription through pharmacies, and vets must be called in to diagnose and prescribe treatment for sick animals. Each grower/finishing section must have a "sick pen" to accommodate 1/25 of the total number of pigs in the group. Producers have until 1994 to meet the requirements or get out of the business.

• **Wrapped big round bales store no better than unprotected bales**, according to research conducted by the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) in Canada. Round hay bales wrapped in plastic resulted in greater total feed losses (7.4%) than bales stored in a single row unprotected from the weather. The plastic wrap, which only covered the circumference of the bales, did not allow moisture to escape. As a result, considerable moisture collected in the bottom of the wrapped bales. This led to dry matter losses

of 3.7%, resulting from deterioration of hay, plus spoilage losses of 3.8%.

Hay, consisting of 60% alfalfa and the remainder Timothy and Brome, was baled in July, 1989, using an expanding-chamber baler that produced hard core bales. These non-wrapped bales were stored in different ways — horizontally, end-to-end in a single row, vertically with the bottom bale on its end and the top bale on its side, and bales protected from the weather in an enclosed building. Plastic-protected bales were wrapped with Vermeer and Unverferth bale wrappers.

Bales were left in storage for 16 months, during which time 17 in. of rain was recorded. The largest spoilage loss (averaging 9.1%) occurred with the vertical storage treatment. Eighty percent of this spoilage occurred in the bottom placed bales. The top bales did not completely cover the bottom bales, leading to considerable spoilage. In addition, it's important that bales be tied properly to prevent "mushrooming out" of the tops of the bottom-placed bales to reduce the amount of rain collected by these bales, researchers point out.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ryan Schott, Project Engineer, PAMI, P.O. Box 1060, Portage la Prairie, MB, Canada R1N 2C5 (ph 204 239-5445).



Deutz-Allis Unveils New Tractor Line

Latest new change in the fast-changing tractor industry comes from Deutz-Allis which unveiled a new line of "Agco Allis" tractors at a recent press conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Deutz-Allis was purchased from Klockner-Humboldt-Deutz (KHD) of West Germany in June 1990 by a management led buy-out that formed the new holding entity known as Allis Gleaner Company (AGCO). Company officials say that the new line of tractors, made in Italy by Same according to Deutz-Allis specifications, will strengthen their tractor line. Deutz-Allis will continue to distribute its green "DX" line of tractors featuring Deutz air-cooled engines in a range of 40 to 190 hp, as well as a line of self-propelled rotary combines including the new Series II Rotary Gleaner combines equipped with state-of-the-art "ComforTech" cabs.

The "Agco Allis" tractors include 12 new models in five series that range from 40 to 130 pto hp. Electronically, mechanically and stylistically, they're billed as "the tractors of the future."

The top of the line for the new tractors is the 8600 series which includes two models - the 8610 at 103 pto hp and the 8630 (pictured) at 130 pto hp.

Deutz-Allis recently purchased the assets of the White tractor product line from White-New Idea. The purchase includes tractor technology, trademarks, patents, production capability of tractors, parts inventories, and the assignment of all dealer contracts for the more than 600 White dealers with respect to tractors and tractor parts. According to Robert J. Ratliff, Deutz-Allis president and chief executive officer, the White business and dealer contracts will be administered separately and the White identity and color will be maintained.

The new Series II Rotary Gleaner combines are based on a greatly simplified design for easier servicing and improved reliability, according to John M. Shumejda, senior vice president, operations. "There will be much greater parts commonality, which will speed delivery of replacement parts. Many features that were options will now be standard, and almost all options will be factory-installed for greater reliability." (Bill Gergen, associate editor).