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## CARE OF THE TRACTOR

Practical Advice About Running This Farm Machine.

House the Tractor—It Must Be Kept Clean—Be Careful In Lubricating With Oils and Grease—Air Cleaning.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

In the year 1893 the Hart-Parr Co. built their first tractor. During 1910 there were about 1,300 tractors sold in the United States, and in 1920 this number was increased to 175,000. This year the sales are greater than the total for the past ten years, many dealers being sold out in the first four months of the year. These figures are a pretty fair indication that the tractor is taking its place as a farm implement. Farm implements generally have a very short life, and tractor depreciation is usually reckoned at from 20 to 25 per cent.

### Housing.

A good tractor deserves the best of protection and when not in use or stored for the winter should be in a shed that is weather tight. If it is to be left in the field over night it should be covered with a waterproof canvas to properly protect the wiring, magneto, etc.

### Cleaning.

Exposure is not by any means the only ill-treatment to which a tractor is subjected. Have you not often seen them so covered with dirt and grease that you wonder how they can carry the extra load? If the work of carrying it was all it would not be so bad, but the great trouble with these dirt accumulations is that sooner or later the grit is going to work into the bearings and get into the carburetor, with the result that you have ground-out bushings and scored cylinders. To clean off these accumulations each day will take but a few moments and pay you well. To allow them to stand for a week or so means that the heat of the engine will burn them and make their removal a very difficult matter.

### Lubricating.

Oil in a gas engine or tractor serves three purposes: 1, general lubrication; 2, compression seal in the cylinder; 3, cooling. For each part of an engine that requires oil there must be an adequate supply or that part is going to fail sooner or later. It has been said that not one man in a hundred knows every oil hole on his tractor. This is nearer the truth than may be imagined, and part of the fault lies with the manufacturer who places oil holes or grease cups in places where it would almost require a detective to find them. You must study your oiling chart, and then follow the system of oiling as laid down in your tractor manual. Give the manufacturer credit for knowing the oiling needs of his product. Oils and greases should be bought most carefully. Each manufacturer will tell you what oil to use in his particular machine. The reason different tractors call for different oils is because they differ in construction, speed and operating temperature. To make sure that you are getting the oil recommended, buy it in sealed containers.

### Mechanical Oilers.

Some tractors are equipped with mechanical oilers. In these cases fresh oil is constantly supplied to certain parts. These oilers work so well that they are often forgotten. Not long ago a tractor operator heard one of his cylinders blowing gas past the piston. On examination it was found that the piston was dry and badly scored. Further examination revealed the fact that the little pump in the oiler which should have been supplying oil to that cylinder had stopped working. The oiler was drained and washed out well with kerosene. Then it was turned out and fresh oil put into the oiler. It was again turned by hand and again that particular pump did not work. The oiler was now removed and taken apart when, after quite a careful search, a small bit of chaff was found in one of the fine oil passages. The bit of chaff would be, the thin kerosene pass but stopped the thick cylinder oil.

Equal care as to cleanliness should be observed as to greases. If grit is on your hands or whatever you are using to fill the grease cups with, you may be sure you are going to have scored bearings. In filling the cups see that there is no air left in them and then turn them down until you see grease squeezed out of the bearing. This makes sure that it is getting where it will do good. It is wasting money to buy a low grade grease because they consist mainly of a low grade soap and a large amount of water and will freeze. Cheap greases also contain acid fats and are certain to spoil the highly-finished surfaces of anti-friction bearings.

### Air Cleaning.

Do not neglect the air cleaner. If water is used, for example, it should

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## WEEDS ARE ROBBERS

They Cost Older Ontario at Least \$28,000,000 Annually.

They Are Heavy Reducers of Legitimate Crop Yields—More After Harvest Tillage Is Needed—Dandelion Control—Why a \$5,000 Bull Was Sold for \$50.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

A superficial survey of Southern Ontario shows very clearly that the weed plants have gained so much headway on very many farms as to have become the largest profit-robbing factor. Thistles, ragweed, mustard, etc., are crowding out the useful food plants, reducing yields and making work more difficult.

Too Little Farm Help and Too Many Dogs.

In the old days when labor was more plentiful and gang-ploughs for after harvest tillage were found in use on every farm, clean, weed free fields were to be seen on every hand. Farms that were models of cleanliness and the pride of their owners are no longer so. The men of the old school and the condition of abundant, willing help on the farms has gone. The presence of competing weeds does not worry the present day farmer to a point of action. Shortage of help, apathy on the part of landowners, neglect to make noxious weed bylaws operative, and the sheep-killing dog, have been the chief contributing factors favoring the wholesale weed development that is now experienced by this province.

Annual Losses Run to Millions of Dollars.

The average loss per acre on cultivated and grazing lands is difficult to determine. On the well kept farms the annual loss caused by the presence of weeds is not less than two dollars per acre. On the farms that have been poorly managed for a number of years the annual loss from weeds may be as high as ten dollars per acre. Taking the lower figure of two dollars per acre as the minimum loss, on the Southern Ontario farms that have an aggregate area of 14,000,000 cleared acres we have a loss of \$28,000,000 per year. The weed increase which has been so rapid during the past ten years will, if not checked, cause a direct loss to the Ontario farmers of \$100,000,000 per annum.

Let the Plough and the Harrow Be Kept Going.

If the noxious weed robbery that is being perpetrated on the Ontario farmer from April to October each year just because he is willing to be robbed were stopped, money for household comforts, taxes, etc., would be more plentiful. After harvest tillage, autumn ploughing and the cleaning up of the fence rows and roadsides in good time will help check the advance of weeds. The agriculture of no province is so rich that it can afford to tolerate a weed nuisance that is costing many millions each year.—L. Stevenson, Secretary Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

Every farm and country home should feed itself, and to do this it is necessary for each family to grow garden vegetables and small fruits.

All corn cribs and grain bins should be carefully inspected to see that they are rat and mouse proof. A concrete foundation for storage buildings is advisable whenever it is practicable.

be cleaned out at noon and again in the evening. It is very important to not allow it to get dry. Old style cleaners draw the air through felt pads. This type should be discarded and a more modern one put in its place. In some circumstances it is possible to ruin a tractor in two days by working it without the washer performing its functions.

The above does not pretend to cover all the points in tractor care, but does emphasize those that are most commonly neglected.—E. W. Kendall, Farm Mechanics' Dept., O. A. College, Guelph.

### DANDELION CONTROL.

Four or Five Sprayings With Iron Sulphate Will Do the Trick.

Little attention was paid to the dandelion as a weed thirty years ago, but with the clearing up of lands and removal of obstacles to the spread of the weed great increase of the nuisance is seen in grass land everywhere. The dandelion cannot succeed on land that is well cultivated, but areas of grass, whether pasture fields, roadways or lawns, are usually heavily infested. Large areas cannot well be treated unless the use of the land is such as to permit heavy expenditures. Small areas, such as lawns and portions of golf courses, may under proper management be kept free of dandelions.

Spraying with iron sulphate, four or five applications during one season, will generally free a grass area of the pest. But the treatment must be repeated every third year. The first spraying should be applied just before the first blooming period of the dandelion and followed by two others at intervals of three weeks. Two further applications should also be given during September or October. Spraying should not be done during the hot, dry period unless water can be applied to keep the grass growing vigorously. Grass areas that are sprayed usually blacken considerably after each application, but this burned appearance disappears after a few days. Areas that are being sprayed for the eradication of dandelion should be well fertilized, and grass seed should be applied to keep up the required number of grass plants to form a good turf. White clover is killed by iron sulphate spray, so cannot succeed under this method of dandelion control. The strength of solution to use is 1 1/2 pounds to one gallon of water.—L. Stevenson, Secretary Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

### Why a \$5,000 Bull Was Sold for \$50.

When a certain farmer a few years ago sold his registered Holstein bull to his local butcher no records had been made by any of the bull's daughters. Within a year eleven of the daughters freshened at the ages of two and three. Records were made of milk and butter-fat production, and to the astonishment of everybody the average milk production was 14,502 pounds and the average butter-fat production was 573 pounds.

But before these records were available the bull was dead and his hide had become leather. Because there were no records, a \$5,000 bull had been sold for \$50.

### Place for Horses to Roll.

Where horses are closely confined in stalls most of the time, they are more apt to roll in the fifth and manure than if they had been taken out and allowed to roll once a day. Letting them roll outside of stalls saves much carrying and brushing, avoids the possibility of the animal rolling where it would get fast, and adds to its health and vigor by keeping it cleaner.