

The Oil Gas Tractor—Its Possibilities—Part 2

Some Things to Consider When Purchasing a Tractor

By Louis Simpson, Ottawa

THE article published in Farm and Dairy of May 24 may induce some farmer at a future date to venture upon the purchase of a farm tractor. For this reason it is important that he should be fully informed as to the conditions that, together, when using a farm tractor, make for monetary success, and that all should be warned against conditions that together spell financial failure.

Conditions That Make for Monetary Success.

The plowing and cultivation, especially the deep plowing, of large tracts of level land, free from stumps, rocks or stones. This land need not be under one ownership.

When seed land is underdrained. When such land is laid out in large fields, especially when the fields are square or oblong.

When a proper and full complement of agricultural implements is provided or is available, or is the full power of the tractor is utilized. Such a complement is described later on. When the farmer owns a small threshing outfit, a small ensilage outfit, a grain hauling outfit, or a circular saw outfit to cut up stump, all or some of which can be operated by the power of the tractor when the tractor is not used for other purposes.

The cost of the tractor and of the outfit necessary to secure the possible financial benefit is considerable, therefore only such farmers who farm large areas of land would be justified in making the necessarily considerable investment, but there is no reason why three or four farmers, farming adjoining lands, should not jointly provide required funds or credit, and use the tractor and machinery for their mutual benefit. As the tractor and machinery can be used 24 hours per day, such a combination of the necessary human element would permit the work being done during fine weather without any cessation, operating night and day.

The complete tractor outfit is as follows, with acreage worked in 10 hours:

8-16 oil gas tractor.	
2 14-in. bottom gang plow.	8 to 10 acres
2 8-ft. double disc harrows.	38 "
2 5-ft. tooth harrows.	38 "
2 grain drills, 8 ft.	38 "
2 7-ft. mowers.	33 "
2 8-ft. binders.	38 "

Conditions That Spell Financial Failure.

When purchased by a farmer who does not possess or who is unable to purchase or hire the implements necessary to make the operation of the tractor profitable.

When purchased by a farmer who does not plow or cultivate at least 40 acres of land per year and who has no reasonable expectation of being able to plow or cultivate for hire, land belonging to his neighbors.

When purchased to operate upon land that is full of tree stumps, or is broken up with rocks, etc., without these stumps and rocks being first removed, in which operation the tractor will be found to be of great assistance.

When purchased to operate upon land broken up with barren places, swamps or soft places (that is, badly

drained land), or where the cultivatable soil is very shallow. Also where the land is very rolling and with steep inclines.

Advantages That Accrue From Tractor.

Reduced cost of plowing and of cultivation.

The possibility of using deep plowing and also deep cultivation.

The making possible the undertaking of the most arduous form of farm work (now only possible for strong men) by aged men and very young men, even by women without overtaxing their strength.

The possibility, when necessary through bad weather, of continuing to plow seed, or harvest during the night, thereby assuring the several vital operations that have to be successfully carried out by the farmer being completed so that the farmer is assured of reaping the largest possible financial return. In fact, the tractor gives such a flexibility to farm operations that it is now possible to have each of the operations completed at the right time.

To quote: "A tractor gives a man power to plow deep and to plow quick; power that is not stopped by hard frost, bad weather or flies; power that will run day and night; if necessary, and power in a concentrated form, so that one man can do as much work as two or more men with horses. Probably there is no kind of work for which the tractor has been found more satisfactory, outside of plowing, than for harvesting. The grain must be cut quick when it is just ripe, and it is then about the hottest time of the year. It is a wonderful satisfaction to cut your grain with a tractor, as you find it does not have to stop to rest, eat, or even sleep, as do horses. A tractor saves your grain after you raise it. In recent years it has been learned that the depth and time of plowing has a great deal to do with the size of the ultimate yield."

Lastly, "Most men who buy tractors find, after they have them, that they use them for many more kinds of work than they at first intended when they bought. They also learn that the extra power they have is of great advantage to them in doing their work."

Items of Interest.

According to a report which comes from Ottawa, rural free mail delivery routes in Canada, increased in number from 614 to 3,686 between Oct. 1, 1911 and March 31, 1917. The number of mail boxes served, increased from 16,015 to 165,042. In the same period 2,682 new postoffices were opened.

The York County Holstein Breeders' Club will hold their first annual picnic at Bond Lake Park on Wednesday, June 13. Prof. H. H. Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College and Mr. W. A. Clemens, secretary of the Canadian Holstein Association, will give instructive addresses and a practical demonstration on the strong and weak points of a dairy cow. A stock judging contest for men under 30 years, and sports for both men and women, will be other features of the outing.



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