

FARM AND DAIRY

More About the Light Farm Tractors

A Comparison With One Hundred Acres of Crops—By Lewis Simpson

THE previous articles upon the use of light farm tractors have created such a live interest in certain agricultural circles that the writer believes that the readers of the Farm and Dairy will welcome further information.

The investigations that were the original cause of the previous articles are being continued and much valuable information is being collected, with the hope that eventually the farmers of Eastern Canada may be able to secure the services of a light farm tractor, built specially to meet the requirements of the country they have to cultivate and of the crops they find to be the most profitable to grow.

The writer has had the privilege to read a comparison of the cost in the U. S. A. of the field work required to plow, cultivate, seed and harvest the crops off 100 acres of land, in one case using horses and in the other using an 8-hp tractor together with a reduced number of horses. The land was cropped as follows:

50 acres under corn.
30 acres under grain.
20 acres under hay.
The horses kept in the first case were six work horses and one colt. For comparison, one 8-hp tractor was used and two work horses. The time taken for each operation when using horses and when using tractor and horses is given for facility of comparison side by side.

50 Acres Corn.

	Days.
Plowing—4 horses 16 in. gang	12.50
Disking—4 horses 8-foot disc	
harrow—15 acres per day	3.33
Harvesting—3 times, 3 horses, 3 section harrow—30 acres per day	5.00
Planting—2 horses, check row planter 12 1/2 acres per day	4.00
Cultivating (4 times) 2 horses 1 row cultivator—10 acres per day	20.00
Harvesting—3 horses, corn binder, 8 acres per day	6.25

Total days of 10 hours or 1,450 H. P. hours

	Days.
Plowing—8-hp tractor and 2 14-in. plows—5.60 acres per day 10 hours	9.00
Note: If 3 14-in. plows can be used, then 8.40 acres per day, requiring 6 days.	
Disking and Harrowing—In one operation, 8-hp tractor, 8-foot disc harrow with 2 section bag following, 20 acres per day	2.50
Harrowing twice, 8-hp tractor with 3 section harrow—35 acres per day	3.00
Planting, 2 horses, check row planter, 12 1/2 acres per day	4.00
Cultivating (4 times), 2 horses 1 row cultivator, 10 acres per day	20.00
Harvesting 8-hp tractor and corn binder, 8 acres per day	6.25

Total days of 10 hours—44 3/4 30 Acres Grain.

	Days.
Disking twice, 4 horses, 8 foot harrow, 15 acres per day	4.00
Harrowing, 3 horses, 3 section harrow, 30 acres per day	1.00
Drilling, 3 horses, 12 x 8 drill, 15 acres per day	2.00
Harvesting, 4 horses, 8 foot binder, 15 acres per day	2.00

Total days of 10 hours or 320 H. P. hours

Double disking and harrowing in one operation. 8-hp tractor

with 8-foot tandem harrow and 2 sections 6 foot binder, 20 acres per day	1.50
Drilling, 8-hp tractor with 12 x 8 drill, 20 acres per day	1.50
Harvesting, 8-hp tractor with 8-foot binder, 20 acres per day	1.50

Total days of 10 hours, 4 1/2 20 Acres Hay.	4.50
Mowing, 2 horses, 5-foot mower, 10 acres per day	2.00
Raking, 2 horses, 8-foot side delivery rake, 15 acres per day ..	1.50
Loading, 2 horses, 6-foot loaders, 10 acres per day	2.00

Total days of 10 hours or 110 H. P. hours

	Days.
Mowing, 8-hp tractor with two 5-foot mowers, 20 acres per day	1.00
Raking, 3 horses, 8-foot side delivery rake, 15 acres per day ..	1.50
Loading, 8-hp tractor with windrow loaders, 13 acres per day ..	1.50

Total days of 10 hours

	Tractor & Horses, Horses.
50 acres corn	51.08 65.75
30 acres grain	9.00 4.50
20 acres hay	5.50 4.00

But in the above comparison the time allowed the horses for actual work in the field is 10 hours per day. Seldom do horses give continuous hard work for longer than 6 hours per day. Extending the time upon a 6 hours a day basis the following results:

	days.	days.
50 acres corn	85.10	60.75
30 acres grain	15.00	4.50
20 acres hay	9.16	5.00

109.26 70.25

That is, without operating the tractor more than 10 hours per day (it is often possible to operate longer hours when circumstances make it desirable) there is a saving of 39 days in the time required to plow, cultivate, seed and harrow 100 acres of land cropped as stated. This 39 days is a reduction of no less than 35 per cent. upon the time hitherto required.

It is more than probable that this saving may be enlarged because it is possible that one, if not two, of the cultivations given corn may be undertaken by using the tractor, and there are other possible economies, when tractors are available, whereas with horse traction the "possible" seems to have been already arrived at. The report closed with the following remarks that are well worthy of reproduction:

"On any farm, even with ample horses to take care of the work, seasons are sometimes against the farmer. Good spring plowing or seeding whether may be of short duration, with a result that not all the acreage planted is cultivated. Again, a day gained in the harvest is oftentimes of far greater importance than the 150 in labor saved. With a tractor on the job, you can work 24 hours a day, if it is necessary to take advantage of the weather."

It is claimed that the farmers of the U. S. A. lose millions of dollars annually because their plowing, cultivating, seeding and harvesting cannot be done just when it should be done. "There is a right time for every work, and a tractor enables the farmer to take up the work in its order, to complete it in a short time and do everything in its proper season. The

(Continued on page 8.)

November 22, 1917.



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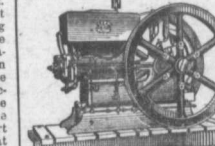
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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Peterboro.

G. C. ANDERSON, Superintendent.
Post Office Department,
Mail Service Branch,
Ottawa, 7th November, 1917.

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