

WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

Waste of Farm Machinery

By

F. M. WHITE

College of Agriculture
of the University of Wisconsin



MORE MACHINERY RUSTS OUT THAN WEARS OUT.

Although it costs nothing to build, the "Big Shed" is the most expensive place to store machinery. The life-time of practically any machine may be doubled by protecting it from the weather when not in use.

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Waste of Farm Machinery

More machinery rusts out than wears out. More machinery is thrown away on account of a few parts giving out than because of the wearing out of the entire machine.

Who pays the bill?

Who keeps the many large machinery concerns in business?

The farmer.

When other lines of business are slack or dead, there is practically no decrease in the manufacture of farm machinery, because the farmer is a steady buyer and always in the field for another machine or for some new type of farm machine.

How Waste May Be Stopped

- 1. By more careful selection.***
- 2. By buying from reliable dealers and manufacturers.***
- 3. By keeping machinery in repair.***
- 4. By sheltering machinery when not in use.***

The farmer is fortunate in being able to buy nearly all lines of farm machinery today at about the same price that he paid ten years ago. The big advance in materials, and the high cost of living, have not affected the price of machinery as it has other commodities.

Why?

Because the farmer is a steady buyer. He must always have machinery for conducting his farm operations regardless of weather conditions, supply or demand.

With \$52,956,579 invested in farm machinery in this state it is important that waste be prevented, that improvements in farm operations be studied and that better care be taken of the farm-factory equipment.

Proper selection cuts waste.—If a scorecard could be designed for the scoring of all kinds of farm machinery so that the average man might study the points of a machine in the same manner

that he does those of a cow or horse, there certainly would be some improvement in the machinery business. A man starting out to buy a plow has the possibility of choosing from the output of more than 200 different manufacturing concerns and each company manufactures a number of different styles and types of plows. There are no standards which can be recommended and no one concern manufactures the best plow.

New inventions influence selection. If improved machines will cut down the cost of production, if large machines will further cut the cost of producing a crop, it will be money saved to discard the poorer type of machinery. The labor of growing a bushel of corn has been cut from four and one-half hours to less than forty-one minutes. This is perhaps a greater reduction than it is possible to do with any other crop in the future but it will serve as an example of what may be done.

By buying from reliable dealers.—The best and only safe practice under the present conditions is to buy from reliable and long established concerns. Such firms are in a position to give the best for the money and since they are in business to stay they must maintain a rather high quality and must be ready to back up their claims.

If there is one thing that is not standardized it is general farm machinery. You cannot buy a part of one machine and expect it to fit on another machine of a different make. A good reason for buying from an old, reliable concern is that you can get repairs.

By keeping machinery in repair.—Farm machines are not all "fool proof." A high degree of mechanical skill is required to operate them successfully. Loose bolts are the one big cause of broken, and many times of lost parts, and extra draft of farm machines caused by lack of adjustment.

The time for repairs is not during the operating season. Then there may be some accidental break-downs, but the ever ready repair shop ON THE FARM should be the place to fix the machine. A repair shop in one end of the machine shed where all tools are kept, where you have the farm forge, is a most valuable part of the farm equipment. Twenty-five dollars will equip a farm shop in good shape with the blacksmithing equipment;

\$10 more will buy the necessary wood working tools; \$35 to \$40 that will return 100 per cent on your investment every year. During the winter months when there is very little doing on the average farm, you should look over your machines, see what repairs are needed and take your order to your local dealer. You can get prompt service during this slack time of the year and you will soon have the parts necessary for repairing your machine and will be all ready to start work next year.

By sheltering machinery when not in use.—Wood decays, iron rusts; wood and iron assembled together in the form of a machine act in the same manner as they do before they are made up into the finished product. You do not let your cows stay out all winter without some shelter because you have learned that the cows will not make money for you under such treatment.

The knotter on a binder is a simple piece of apparatus, which does a wonderful piece of work, and has saved millions of dollars, yet we find the "big shed" the very common place for storing the binder. It is the exceptional binder that lasts more than five or six years. Supposing we cut 100 acres per year, six days' work, totaling 36 days for the life of a machine or actually costing \$4.00 per day for the use of a binder. Increase the life of a binder to twelve years and you cut the cost one-half.

How?

By providing a machinery shed with a place for every machine and every machine in its place, a liberal application of grease to all wearing parts just as soon as you are through with the machine.

A machinery shed must not be just any old building which is no longer useful as a barn, hog house, or chicken shed; it must be especially designed for service if it is going to be used. If you must take out two or three machines to get one in or if you have to take a machine apart to store it, there is no chance of your protecting your machinery from the weather. A shed not more than 24 feet wide and long enough to accommodate your machinery, and with plenty of doors, is the best style to build. The Agricultural Engineering Department of the University of Wisconsin will be very glad to furnish, free of charge to residents of the state, plans for a practical farm machinery shed.