

AGRI-BUSINESS NEWS

Axial-Flow Combine Introduced

International Harvester last week introduced a combine which it reports harvests grain an average of 17 percent more efficiently than its previous models.

IH's new "Axial-Flow" line of combines is expected to increase markedly International Harvester's market penetration, according to Stanley F. Lancaster, vice president for North America of IH's worldwide agricultural equipment group. Industry combine sales in North America total about \$1.5 billion annually, ranking only behind tractors in sales volume.

The Axial-Flow design has been under development and test since 1963, according to Lancaster. Dozens of pre-introduction models were sold to farmers for field use over the last year "with enthusiastic user response," he said.

"Combine efficiency is heavily affected by variables like field conditions, crop type and condition and optional equipment," Lancaster said. "But IH engineers report conservatively that between 7 and 38 percent more crop can be run through Axial-Flow models than conventional combines of the same horsepower with no increase in grain loss."

Combines harvest wheat and other small grains, corn and soybeans. Conventional combines process the crop through two mechanisms: one to "thresh" or rub grain from stalk or cob, and a second to "separate" out any grain that becomes mixed with stalks or cobs during the threshing process.

The new IH design threshes and separates in one continuous swirling action by a single, large-diameter rotor. The new design has 15 fewer moving parts and is simpler to service, according to IH.

Axial-Flow models introduced today range in price from about \$45,000 to \$70,000 or about ten percent more than comparable combines.

"This breakthrough in technology and productivity comes when it is most needed by the farmer," Lancaster said.

CARD OF THANKS

Elmer and Alice Kleinke, the managers of Nyssa Manor wish to publicly express their thanks to all the people in the community who so willingly loaned their garden tools for our landscaping project, some even to the extent of bringing them to us.

Everyone who desires is cordially invited to attend the openhouse of Nyssa Manor, Sunday, October 16 between 2 and 5 p.m.



JUST INTRODUCED is the International Harvester Axial-Flow Combine, featuring a single rotor design. Under development and testing since 1963, the combine is much simpler, yet far more efficient than conventional machines,

International Sugar Agreements Brighter

Senator Frank Church said today that major obstacles that have prevented final negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement have been overcome, brightening the outlook for the economic well-being of Idaho's sugar industry.

At negotiations now underway in Geneva, Church reported, agreement has been reached in principle among sugar producing nations to stabilize the international "floor" on prices at 11 cents a pound, which translates into 13.5 cents a pound on the American market.

The Senator said that while final details still have to be worked out before a new agreement is completed, the major problem was overcome when major sugar producers, including the United States and Cuba, agreed on an international price floor. Church had raised the issue with Cuban President, Fidel Castro in Havana in August and this week met with Marcelo Fernandez Font, the Cuban Minister of Trade, in Washington.

"The United States does not import Cuban sugar," Church said. "However, because Cuban sugar is an important factor in the international market, Cuba must participate in any international agreement if world prices are to be stabilized. It's thus in the interest of both nations to seek a new agreement, and Idaho has a vital stake in the outcome, for it would mean an end to the

dumping of foreign sugar in the United States at ruinous prices." An international floor on sugar prices would mean that foreign sugar could no longer be sold in this country at prices so low they would undercut the domestic U.S. industry. A floor of 13.5 cents a pound represents the cost of production in the United States, according to the Department of Agriculture.

"Domestic growers, including those in Idaho, have faced economic disaster because foreign sugar has been dumped on the American market at prices far below what it costs to grow sugar here. One long-term solution is to negotiate an international agreement that will stabilize world prices above the cost of production," Church said.

The Idaho Senator explained that an international price of 11 cents a pound would mean that foreign sugar could not be sold here for less than 13.5 cents a pound. The difference comes from transportation costs and U.S. duties.

Church is Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Foreign Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Foreign Economic Policy, which has legislative jurisdiction over international commodity agreements, and which will have to approve any new international sugar pact.

Crop Insurance Info Given

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) policyholders in the Pacific Northwest are urged to be sure to file their insurance claim within 60 days from the date they harvested their damaged crop or by the end of the insurance period, whichever is earlier.

Spokane Regional Director Leroy F. Knox stated today that under the terms of FCIC's all-risk crop insurance contract this provision must be adhered to for growers to reap the full benefits of their insurance.

Preliminary loss estimates reveal that Washington, Oregon, Idaho and northern Utah growers served by the Spokane Regional Office will receive record loss payments this year, primarily due to drought. With farmers paying slightly over \$3 million in insurance premiums for 1977, the early loss estimate is \$15 million. However, with growers still harvesting in scattered areas and loss claims still coming



The sphinx moth has compound eyes, with each eye composed of hundreds of seeing units.

Agriculture Withholding Exemption Increased

Income earned by agricultural workers exempt from state withholding tax has been increased from \$150 to \$300 effective October 4. This means that employers of farm workers will not have to withhold income taxes for any employee earning less than \$300 during any one year, says John J. Lobbell, director of the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Lobbell says the change was adopted by the 1977 Legislature. The new law also increases the withheld amount for agricultural employees from one percent to two percent of an employee's

earnings. Withholding two percent of an employee's earnings is in lieu of the employer using the tax table or standard withholding formula. Employers paying with holding taxes to the department after October 4 must follow the requirements set out in the new law, Lobbell says.

For those persons who need to know the meaning of "agricultural workers," Lobbell says the law defines these workers as persons "involved in the planting, cultivating or harvesting of seasonal agricultural crops."

Small Black Bug Grazes Ranges Just as Cattle

A small bug with a variety of names is causing big trouble for ranchers in eastern Oregon and other Western States.

Ranchers refer to the insect as the black grass bug, wheatgrass bug or Labops, but scientifically, the quarter-inch pest is known as Labops hesperius Uhler.

James A. Kamm, USDA-Agricultural Research Service entomologist at Oregon State University, and graduate students J.R. Fuxa and J. G. Todd recently completed a four-year study of the black grass bug and its impact on the range-land seeded to wheatgrass in eastern Oregon. Results of the project were reported in Oregon's Agricultural Prog-

ress, quarterly magazine published by the Agricultural Experiment Station at OSU. "The bugs were on the range long before the cattle and they graze the range just as cattle do. And, ironically, almost anything ranchers do to make wheatgrass better for cows also makes it better for the insects."

It is the ranchers' task to see that cattle beat the bugs to available forage. The individual rancher must decide how to use the information available since the practice used will depend on the type of range on the ranch," Kamm said.

Black grass bugs live in areas from timberline to the very dry areas where sagebrush has been removed and the range is reseeded to a highly productive wheatgrass. Female bugs lay their eggs in hollow seed stalks produced in the previous season to protect the eggs from the rigors of winter. Eggs overwinter in the seed stalks and hatch in late March. Adults emerge from the intermediate nymph stage in late May or early June, lay eggs in hollow grass stalks and the

cycle begins again.

Kamm said the task for ranchers is to see to it that cattle eat all seed stalks of grass each year to force bugs to lay eggs in unprotected places. Survival of eggs is drastically reduced and, consequently, ranchers have fewer bugs on the range the following year. Grazing reduced populations of bugs the following year by 56 to 58 percent. Also the researchers found during their study that taking a hay crop, in areas where that was possible, also reduced bug populations.

The most important thing ranchers should remember, Kamm said, is to keep old plant growth to a minimum.

"It is very undesirable to allow old plant growth to accumulate because cows won't eat it, the vigor of the stand is reduced and it provides winter protection and habitat that favor increased bug populations," he said.

"Rangeland is an important and valuable resource but does not have a high cash value on a per-acre basis," Kamm said. "In most cases, it just isn't practical to consider high-cost insecticides."

Parquat, a herbicide that can be used as a chemical seasoning agent on range, was also tested for the effect on Labops. It reduced populations by 98 percent by prematurely curing grasses and starving the bugs. Those that survived laid 76 percent fewer eggs. However, parquat has not been approved for chemical curing of grasses.

Field burring also was tested successfully by one rancher, but Kamm said political and environmental considerations may rule out that option, and the best solution—insect resistant grasses for new seedlings on the range—have not yet been developed.

So for now, the battle of the bugs will continue and, with skill and planning, Kamm said, ranchers can win the game.

Livestockmen Need To Vote


"Only 46 of the Vale District's 235 licensed livestockmen took advantage of the opportunity to nominate a representative to the Vale District Advisory Board," Vale Assistant District Manager Bob Papworth said today.

"I am disappointed that more stockmen did not participate in the nomination of candidates for Advisory Board Representatives. The livestock industry worked hard to get an advisory board included in the Federal Land Management Act of 1976 and to get enough signatures to qualify for a charter," he said. "I only hope that they work as hard to get their members to vote for representatives."

Ballots are being mailed to all licensed livestock opera-

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