

Photos Courtesy of Belne Manufacturing Co. Ltd. and Manufarm Specialties Limited of Canada.

A computer-controlled chemical applicator with divided hopper, above, and easy-to-install rotary hoe replacement spoons, right, were among the many money-saving products shown at Husker Harvest Days.

## Weather ideal Ag exhibition prospers

By Dan Stehlik  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Husker Harvest Days, the largest agriculture exhibition in Nebraska and one of the largest in the United States, opened near Grand Island Tuesday with the best opening day in the seven years it's been held. Not only was attendance exceptional, but the weather ideal.

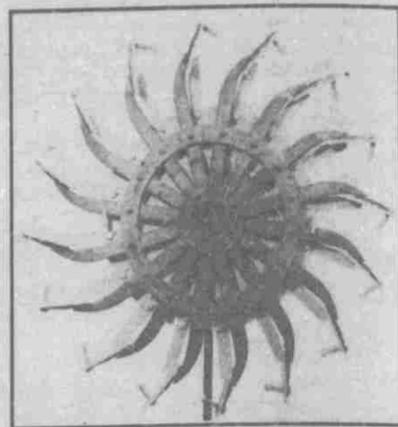
According to Les Sheffield, co-chairman of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Harvest Days ad-hoc committee, nearly 75,000 people attended on the first day, and it is speculated a quarter of a million people attend the three-day event. More than 400 exhibits on storage structures, material handling equipment, tillage and power implements, computer adaptabilities, irrigation systems, crop varieties, chemical and fertilizer technologies and on-site harvesting and tillage demonstrations were featured at the 150-acre site west of Grand Island.

Sally Schiff of the Nebraska Farmer magazine, co-organizer with the Agriculture Institute of Nebraska, said the number of displays of livestock products, handling equipment and breed association had increased. Also, she

said, minimum tillage seemed to be a growing area of interest. International Harvester chose this occasion to unveil a new tractor.

Although not available in Nebraska until after tests at the tractor testing lab on UNL's East Campus, the 70 series tractor features 18 progressive forward gears, on-the-go shifting and is the only four-wheel-drive tractor with a synchronized transmission.

Also new this year were displays by 15 Canadian companies.



## Farm leaders sponsor equipment safety programs

By Gene Gentrup  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

"Manage for Better Safety and Health" is the theme of this year's National Farm Safety Week Sept. 16 through Sept. 22.

Farm safety leaders from across the country will sponsor farm safety programs.

The National Safety Council estimated that agricultural work-related accidents caused about 1,900 deaths and 190,000 disabling injuries in the United States in 1983.

Rollin Schnieder, UNL agricultural safety specialist, said county extension agents will provide programs across Nebraska to help farmers become more aware of the importance of farm safety.

Farm equipment usually is not at fault when a farming accident occurs. Farm accidents are a "people prob-

lem," Schnieder said.

"Nearly 95 percent of all farm accidents occur when a farmer is doing something he should not be doing," he said.

Schnieder said that although farm-related deaths in Nebraska decreased from 55 to 30 last year, additional cautions must be taken. He cited bad weather as a significant problem.

"When planting is late or harvest comes late, farmers tend to rush things and that's when accidents are more likely to occur," he said.

Part of the reduction in farm accidents is a result of the invention of rollover protective structures installed on tractors, Schnieder said. The structures prevent farmers from being crushed if their tractors roll over.

Although this invention has proven effective, Schnieder said more farmers must take advantage of this protective equipment.

Schnieder said seven people have died in Nebraska this year from being crushed while repairing a tractor. Schnieder said the most common reported accident occurs when farmers lose their hands or feet from an auger.

"They just start pushing corn or grain into the auger and then get their hands caught," he said.

Schnieder said safety specialists recommend that farmers buy tractors with some type of cab or canopy. The request is in response to a rise in reported skin cancer cases among farmers.

A National Cancer Institute study that focused on the occupations of nearly 4,000 skin cancer patients showed that 36 percent were farmers and another 6 percent were farm workers.

Schnieder said tractor manufacturers are not required to install sun shelters in tractors but many companies are making them standard equipment.

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## Panel to study trade policies

A national agricultural commission recently was approved to study U.S. agricultural trade policies and make recommendations to congressional agricultural committees.

President Reagan last month approved a bill establishing the National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy.

John Amick, legislative assistant to Nebraska Rep. Doug Bereuter, said the commission will consist of 23 members appointed by Reagan. They will include members of Congress, representatives from American agribusiness and other exporters and producers of agricultural com-

modities. Amick said Bereuter is expected to be appointed to the commission.

Amick said the commission will conduct a general overview of trade policies affecting American agriculture in the last decade including grain embargos, trade bills and the commodity credit corporation.

Amick said the commission will submit to Congress an interim report for recommendations on agricultural export policy by March 31, 1985.

"The fear is that the United States is drifting to more and more protection of its trade policies," Amick said.

Amick said the result is a "retaliation" by foreign countries to reject American agricultural exports and take their business elsewhere.

He said when Congress cut the amount of Chinese textile imports, the Chinese cut \$500,000 of American wheat imports.

Amick cited another example where Japan, America's No. 1 customer for U.S. beef, wanted to buy even more. But when additional Japanese imports were rejected, so was the additional purchase of beef.

"These countries tend to retaliate more on our agriculture industry because they can go to other markets," Amick said.

## DPT vaccine to be in short supply

By Gene Gentrup  
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

A vaccine used to combat three major children's diseases will be in short supply for the next four to five months, a spokesman from Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Health Division said Tuesday.

Carole Douglas, chief of the Public Health Nursing Division in Lancaster County, said the vaccine "DPT" is used to fight the diseases diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, usually in children under 6 years of age.

The shortage of the DPT vaccine, also referred to as the "3-in-1" vaccine, results from a decision by Wyeth Laboratories to stop producing the vaccine. The company is one of two major U.S. distributors who market the product.

The shortage is less severe in Nebraska than in other states because Nebraska receives DPT from Lederle Laboratories, as well as Wyeth. Many other states had relied solely on Wyeth.

Douglas said Wyeth made its decision in response to the rising number of reported side effects to the vaccine because of improper vaccination. She said 1,200 national cases in urban areas were reported as of Sept. 1. Poor immunization is eminent there, she said.

Eleven cases have been reported in Nebraska so far this year.

Although Lederle has "picked up the slack" of the business Wyeth left behind, it will take some time before it can efficiently supply its customers, Douglas said.

The system will need to be

strengthened to adjust to the increase in production, she said.

In addition to gearing up for added production, Douglas said it will take six to eight months before the Food and Drug Administration approves the new system.

The dependence on one manufacturer, she said, should also increase the cost of the vaccine, and physicians will need to charge more for immunizations.

Douglas said the state supplies the vaccine free to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and immunizations also are free. She said the County Health Department encourages doctors to hold off immunizations for a few months if possible. An abundant supply of DPT vaccine should be available by that time, she said.

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