

Editor's Notebook



Mark Newhall
Editor & Publisher

Farmers were all over the "new" McCormick tractors at a Canadian farm show this fall.



McCormick Tractors Are Back

I got my first look at the "new" McCormick tractors this fall at the Outdoor Farm Show near Woodstock, Ontario. The tractors have been available in Canada since July 1st, 2001 and should soon be available to U.S. farmers.

They're being built at a former Case plant in Doncaster, England, which New Holland was forced by regulators to sell when it took over Case-IH. The factory was purchased by an AGCO subsidiary which decided to bring back the McCormick name. It's a complicated deal because the Doncaster plant made Case-IH Maxxum tractors so the new McCormick tractors are very similar to the Maxxums made back in Racine, Wis. What's more, Case-IH will reportedly supply parts to McCormick dealers. However, officials say, the tractors will eventually be redesigned.

Tractors now available in Canada range from 60 to 170 hp with plans for models up to 200 hp. In the UK, a McCormick combine and a line of balers have also been introduced. These are made by Laverda, another AGCO subsidiary.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Landini Canada Inc., 120 Harry Walker Parkway North, Newmarket, Ont. L3Y 7B2 Canada (ph 905 868-8350; Website: www.mccormick-intl.com).

Take Us To Your Barber

We need your help! The most challenging aspect of publishing a magazine like FARM SHOW is getting the word out. Here's an idea: When you're done reading this copy of FARM SHOW, instead of tossing it out, why not leave it in a public place where others might find it? Your barbershop, doctor's office, equipment dealership, favorite restaurant, or anywhere else you think people might enjoy it. If you don't want to part with your copy, just send us the name and address of those local establishments (FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044) and we'll send them a couple of free issues. Thanks!

New Way To Get Farm Workers

We got a call the other day from a foreign-sounding fellow who said he runs a business that can make life easier for U.S. farmers. "We make it simple for U.S. farmers to bring skilled workers over from Eastern Europe," says Bogdan A. Chugunov, a Ukrainian immigrant who came to the U.S. three years ago.

Shortly after his arrival, Chugunov chanced to meet a rural employer from Iowa who complained about the difficulty of finding workers in that state. He regretted that he might be forced to consider illegal immigrants from Mexico because he could not find people to work.

Chugunov decided to set up a company that would match educated young workers from his native Ukraine with rural employers in the U.S. He has found a receptive audience with farmers and factory owners who don't want to break federal law by hiring undocumented workers.

If you're looking for farm workers, Chugunov will provide appropriately skilled employees for the \$125 immigration fee plus one week salary, payable after the immigrant's first month of work. With a special work visa, workers may stay for up to 3 years. If a worker doesn't work out for any reason, the person can be replaced immediately.

Chugunov says many young workers in the Ukraine are highly intelligent and highly motivated. He doesn't know yet how the terrorist attacks in New York will affect immigrant law.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bogdan A. Chugunov, Carte Blanche World, 1953 86th Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214 (ph 718 265-9091; fax 718 382-7948; E-mail: cartecean@yahoo.com).

Get Cash For Timber Frame Barns

Long-time FARM SHOW readers probably remember reading about Ken Andre, the man who's spent years traveling across North America taking down old barns for farmers and ranchers.

Ken called recently to tell us about his new venture. He buys up timber frame barns, disassembles them, and then reconstructs them elsewhere, for use as homes, office buildings, or other structures. "In most cases, I'm looking for barns that are over 100 years old, have straight gable roofs, and are built with big hand-hewn beams measuring 10 by 10 in. or more. The barns must be standing straight and they must have been well-maintained," he notes.

Andre will travel almost anywhere to get a barn. Most structures become available because of spreading urban development or because of widening of roads. Other times the barns are just too expensive to maintain. "When I first sit down with people, they get very excited that their barn might be used for something special elsewhere. I recently worked with a family that had a 150-year-old barn. We took it down and reassembled it hundreds of miles away as an office building. When it was finished, the family went to see how it looked. They were thrilled to see the reconstructed building and enjoyed the idea that the barn might now be around for another 150 years."

Andre says many people don't know what they have in an old barn. And people who are aware of how special the buildings are don't know how to capitalize on their value. "In many cases, an old barn can be worth thousands of dollars. Plus, we save the farmer the expense of taking down a big old barn."

Andre generally takes just the frame of the barn but he cleans up the rest, even burying the concrete foundation where necessary. When he's done with a job, the area is totally cleaned up and the farmer has some money in his pocket. "In many cases, it would cost thousands to have a big barn taken down," he notes.

If you have a timber frame barn that you think would qualify, call Ken at 219 879-2199. He's usually somewhere out on the road so you'll have to leave a message. Or, you can write to: Magnificent "Old Barn" Frameworks, 4327 Franklin, Michigan City, Ind. 46360.

Alfalfa Sprouts Are Dangerous?

Contrary to popular opinion, alfalfa sprouts can be dangerous to your health, says Dr. Janet C. Mohle-Boetani of the California Department of Health's Division of Communicable Disease Control. "Seeds can be contaminated before sprouting, and no method can eliminate all contamination from seeds." After studying multiple outbreaks of salmonella

and one outbreak of E-coli in California, researchers found that alfalfa and clover sprouts were responsible for half, sickening nearly 23,000 people. Washing them doesn't help, they warn, since "bacteria on the seed surface can become internalized during sprouting."

Answering Machine Messages

- Hi. John's answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator. Please speak very slowly and I'll stick your message to myself with one of my magnets.
- This is not an answering machine. This is a telepathic thought-recording device. After the tone, think about your name, your reason for calling, and a number where I can reach you, and I'll think about returning your call.
- Hi. I'm probably home. I'm just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave a message and if I don't call back, it's you.
- Hi. This is Dave. Please leave a message as soon as possible and I'll get back to you at the sound of the tone.
- Hi. This is George. I'm sorry I can't answer the phone right now. Leave a message and then wait by your phone until I call you back.

Liberty Quotes

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; But he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated.

Thomas Paine

When the government fears the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.

Thomas Jefferson

America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good, it will cease to be great.

Alexis De Toqueville

John Wesley's Rules Of Life

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
In all the lives you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.

(Founder of the Methodist church, 1703-91)

The World's Funniest Joke

British scientists are looking for the funniest joke in the world. The "Laugh Lab" expects to collect thousands of jokes over the next year in an effort to examine the psychology of humor. Anyone can participate by going to the project's website - www.laughlab.co.uk. You can contribute new jokes or rate the ones that have already been submitted. During the year, scientists will work with professional comedians and volunteer subjects, whose brains will be monitored scientifically as they listen to the highest-rated jokes, delivered with perfect timing. The winning joke will be announced, to great fanfare, late next year.

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their 6-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

One summer evening, during a violent thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her small boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked, with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice. "The big sissy."