

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher

Galveston, Texas, to Cozumel, Mexico, on January 29. Prices begin at \$1,189.



Photo Courtesy of The Bahamas Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources.

Guests for the cruise enjoyed a tour of Maillis Farm in Nassau, Bahamas.

Rob Saik, an agriculture entrepreneur and founder of AGvisorPRO, summarized his experience.

"I've been connected to agriculture my entire career, and if there's one thing I've learned, it's the power of peer networking. Farm Cruise created the perfect blend of getaway and growth as a unique opportunity for producers to relax, recharge, and still talk farming in meaningful ways."

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New Holland TR70 (above) compared to the current CR11 (below) highlights how far combines have come in the last 50 years.



50 Years of Twin Rotor Combines

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

In 1975, New Holland introduced the TR70, its first twin rotor threshing and separating system. Over the last 50 years, that single model has expanded into a complete lineup, with more than 70,000 TR and CR New Holland combines sold.

Many changes have occurred as tank capacity increased from 158 bushels to 567 bushels with the CR11. The unloading rate improved from one bushel every 1.5 seconds to six bushels per second. Compare the TR70's 145-hp engine with its newer, larger model's 775-hp.

Pricing has changed a bit as well. The TR70 would cost \$45,619 in 2025 dollars. The CR11 exceeds \$1,000,000.

Cruise With A Focus On Farming

If you're a fan of cruises, a company is now offering packages with a farm focus. "Farm Cruise" had its first sailing aboard the Royal Caribbean Liberty of the Seas ship in February 2025.

Over 200 guests from six states and three Canadian provinces gathered for a four-day trip from Fort Lauderdale to the Bahamas.

The event was sponsored by Whet Travel, a 21-year-old company specializing in event travel and ranked the fourth-fastest-growing travel company in the U.S. by Travel Magazine.

Guests on the cruise enjoyed activities such as a tour of Maillis Farm in Nassau, a Farmer's Tan Contest, a Hay-larious T-Shirt Contest, karaoke, and other fun events. There was also a Floating Farm Conference featuring influencer-led sessions on ag storytelling, video content and financial outlooks.

The second Farm Cruise is scheduled to depart from

Murray Ward, Grand Rapids, Minn., sent us a nice note with a clipping he found in his great-grandfather's personal papers:

The Plight Of A Farmer

Down on the farm 'bout half past four, I slip on my pants and sneak out the door;

Out to the yard I run like the dickens, to milk ten cows and feed the chickens.

Clean out the barn, curry Nancy and Jiggs, separate the cream and slop for the pigs.

Work for two hours then eat like a Turk, and by heck! I'm ready for a full days work.

Then I grease the wagon and put on the rack, throw a jug of water in an old grain sack.

Hitch up the horses, hustle down the lane—must get the hay in for it looks like rain.

Look over yonder! Sure as I'm born, cattle on the rampage and hogs in the corn.

Start across the medder, run a mile or two, heaving like I'm wind-broke, get wet clear through.

Get back to the horses, then for recompense.

Nancy get a-straddle of the barbed wire fence.

Joints all aching and muscles in a jerk. I'm fit as a fiddle for a full day's work.

Work all summer 'til winter is nigh, then figure up the book and have a sigh.

Worked all year, didn't make a thing; got less cash now than I had last spring.

Now some people tell us that there ain't no hell, but they've never farmed, so how can they tell?

When spring rolls 'round, I take another chance, while fringe grows longer on my old gray pants.

Give my 'spenders a hitch, my belt another jerk. And by heck, I'm ready for a full days work.

Liberty Quotes

"Quality is like buying oats; if you want good, clean oats, you have to pay a fair price. If you want oats already run through the horse—Well, that's a little cheaper." *Manny Gammage*

"A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it." *G.K. Chesterton*

"Men love liberty because it protects them from the control and humiliation by others, thus affording them the possibility of dignity. They loathe liberty because it throws them back on their own abilities and resources, thus confronting them with the possibility of insignificance." *Thomas Szasz*

"And the so-called sovereigns, in these different governments, are simply the heads, or chiefs, of different bands of robbers and murderers." *Lysander Spooner*

"It is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favor of vegetarianism while the wolf remains of a different opinion." *William Ralph Inge*

"A right is not what someone gives you; it's what no one can take from you." *Ramsey Clark*

"It's not the business of the law to make anyone good or reverent or moral or clean or upright." *Murray N. Rothbard*

"I was not born to be forced. I will breathe after my own fashion. Let us see who is the strongest." *Henry David Thoreau*

Ole was riding a train back when he was in the Army. When the train got to the first stop, a general boarded and Ole immediately stood up.

The general told Ole, "At ease, soldier, sit down." When the train reached its second stop, Ole again immediately stood up, and the General once again told him, "At ease, soldier, sit down."

When the train reached its third stop, Ole again immediately stood up. This time, the General looked at him and said, "You don't need to stand at attention every time we reach a stop."

Ole told the General, "I've been tryin to get off dis train for da last tree stops."

Little Ole's fourth-grade teacher asked the class a question. "If you put your hand in your right pocket and have 75 cents, and you put your hand in your left pocket and have 25 cents, what would you have?"

Little Ole raised his hand and replied, "I'd have somebody else's pants on."

Ole was trying to prove to his wife, Lena, that women talk more than men. He showed her a study which indicated that men use about 10,000 words per day, whereas women use 20,000 words per day.

Lena thought about this for a while. She then told Ole that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say.

Ole looked stunned and responded, "Vhat?"

Phytoform uses machine learning to apply gene editing, enhancing corn's resistance to disease.

Ag Companies Partner On Corn Disease

By Bruce Derksen, Contributing Editor

UK-based agri-biotech innovator Phytoform (Vol. 49, No. 3) and global agricultural technology leader Corteva are joining forces to explore AI's role in improving corn's natural disease resistance.

Phytoform's CRE.AI.TIVE platform, which utilizes machine learning, will be used to apply gene editing to enhance corn's resistance to disease challenges.

Regarding Corteva's role in the partnership, CRE.AI.TIVE will analyze millions of possible variations in plant DNA control regions to identify those most effective at boosting resistance to two common corn diseases. The two companies have not yet revealed the names of these diseases.

"We're thrilled to have signed this agreement with Corteva," says Dr. Will Pelton, CEO and co-founder of Phytoform. "By accelerating what nature can achieve through our shared technologies, we're taking steps to make global food production more sustainable and secure for one of the world's most important crops."

Pelton explains that Corteva has these genes in its germ-plasm.

"That's exactly where we can help, and without creating GMO traits. They can fine-tune their existing genome to activate those genes and confer that disease resistance."

The partnership with Corteva enables Phytoform to address this widely grown species.

"We can work across many different species," Pelton says. "It means a lot in terms of the impact we can have."

"This work shows how AI and biology can come together to build a more climate-resilient food system," adds Dr. Nicolas Kral, Phytoform Chief Technology Officer and co-founder. "We're not just fixing plants; we're future-proofing agriculture."

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