

Smörgasbord



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Publisher and
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Director

**Dandy Directory
Of Farm Shows**

Where can I get a directory of major farm shows throughout the U.S. and Canada? Many readers ask us that question and we've got the answer. Century Communications puts out a directory and it's a dandy. What's more, a limited number of copies are available on a "first come, first serve" basis.

The just-published directory, inserted into the July, 1984 issue of Century's Agri-Marketing magazine, gives a rundown on some 200 different farm and agriculture trade shows, expositions and fairs. For each, it lists the date, location and contact address, and the number of exhibitors and visitors at "last year's" show.

If you'd like a copy, send your check for \$5.00 to: FARM SHOW Followup, c/o Century Communications, Suite G, 5520 Touhy Ave., Skokie, Ill. 60077 (ph 312 676-4060). Make your check payable to Century Communications.

Here, excerpted from the directory, are some of the major farm shows to be held in 1985:

Ag Expo Jan. 15-17, Spokane, Wa.; **Ag Fresno**, Jan. 8-10, Fresno, Cal.; **American Pork Congress**, Mar. 5-7, Indianapolis, Ind.; **Big Iron Farm Show**, Sept. 11-13, Fargo, N. Dak.; **California Farm Equipment Show**, Feb. 12-14, Tulare; **California Ag Expo**, Jan. 15-17, Sacramento; **Canada Western Agribition**, Nov. 30-Dec. 6, Regina; **Canada Farm Show**, Jan. 29-Feb. 1, Toronto; **Empire Farm Days**, Aug. 13-15, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N.Y.; **Farm Progress Show**, Oct. 1-3, Knightstown, Ind.; **Farm Store Merchandising Trade Show**, July 10-12, Des Moines, Iowa; **Farmfest**, Aug. 7-9, Lake Crystal, Minn.

Husker Harvest Days, Sept. 17-19, Grand Island, Neb.; **Montana Agri-Trade Exposition**, Feb. 21-23, Billings; **International Plowing Matches and Farm Machinery Show**, Sept. 17-21, St. Thomas, Ont.; **National Custom Applicators Expo**, Sept. 10-12, Ankeny, Iowa; **National Farm Machinery Show**, Feb. 13-16, Louisville, Ky.; **National Western Machinery and Stock Show**, Jan. 9-20, Denver, Colo.; **Northern Farm Show**, Jan. 17-19, Minneapolis, Minn.; **Northwest Agricultural Show**, Jan. 29-31, Portland, Ore.; **Ohio State Farm Science Review**, Sept. 24-26, Columbus; **Oklahoma Farm Show**, April 19-21, Oklahoma City; **Pennsylvania Farm Show**, Jan. 13-18, Harrisburg; **St. Louis Farm Show**, Dec. 7-9, St. Louis, Mo.; **Southern Farm Show**, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Raleigh, N.C.; **Stockton Ag Expo**, Jan. 15-17, Stockton, Cal.; **Southwest Farm Show**, Mar. 8-10, Ft. Worth, Texas; **Sunbelt Ag Expo**, Oct. 15-17, Moultrie, Ga.; **3-I Show**, April 25-28, Garden City, Kan.; **Triumph of Agriculture**, Mar. 11-13, Omaha, Neb.; **Western Farm Show**, Feb. 24-26, Kansas City, Mo.; **Western Canada Farm Progress Show**, June 19-22, Regina, Sask.; **Western Fair Farm Show**, Mar. 5-8, London, Ont.; **Wisconsin Farm Progress Days**, July 16-18, Win-

nebago County, Wis.; **World Dairy Expo**, Oct. 2-6, Madison, Wis.

If you're planning a trip abroad in the months ahead, you may want to take in a farm show or two along the way. Here's the schedule of some of the bigger, better shows:

Australian National Field Days, Nov. 11-14, Orange, NSW; **International Ag Fair**, March 22-28, Verona, Italy; **International EIMA Exhibition**, Nov., Bologna, Italy; **International Ag Machinery Fair**, March 22-28 in Zaragoza, Spain; **New Zealand Ag Fieldays**, June 13-15, Mystery Creek Hamilton; **Royal Highland Show**, June, Edinburgh, Scotland; **Royal International Ag Show**, July 1-4, Warwickshire, England; **Royal Smithfield Show**, Dec. 2-5, London; **SIMA International Agricultural Show**, March 3-10, Paris, France.

"Weight Watcher" silverware — Here, for weight watchers, is a gift to help keep them on their diet. The pieces are made from used silverware and a "secret process" for curling the tines and ends without breaking or cracking. Individual pieces are 75 cents each, plus \$1 per order for postage and handling.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Hage, Box 2, Hanska, Minn. 56041 (ph 507 439-6911).



**Lightning Starts
Parked Tractor**

Can a tractor left in gear and struck by lightning, start up and take off entirely on its own — even without the ignition turned off?

"You bet," answers retired Kansas farmer James Porter, of Riverton, who speaks from personal experience.

One day last summer, he watched in utter amazement as lightning started up his parked 1952 Ford 8N tractor during a severe thunderstorm. What's more, it happened twice within a 30 minute period.

Seconds after the first lightning strike, James looked out the window just as his driverless tractor was backing through a fence and heading across an open field.

He ran outside and caught the tractor, taking it out of gear and turning off the engine. He then restarted the engine and drove the tractor back to headquarters where he parked it outside, with the attached 3-pt. grader blade resting on the ground.

About 30 minutes later, a loud crash of lightning sent him scurrying to the window. "Come quick," he called to his wife.

"Here was the tractor, it's engine running, moving toward the house," James told FARM SHOW. He ran outside and, luckily, got the tractor stopped before it ran into anything.

In checking with several local mechanics about the freak incidents, James was told that lightning could indeed start an older model tractor with positive ground, and with a piece of metal touching earth.

Caterpillar farm tractor — Caterpillar Tractor Co. has produced engines for Steiger tractors for years but the company is now planning to introduce its own farm tractor in late 1985 or early 1986, according to reports leaking out of its recent nationwide dealer meetings. One farmer, who's seen the tractor

but prefers to remain anonymous, calls it "totally revolutionary" and "unlike anything you've ever seen" and says there are already at least six prototype machines now in testing around the country. The farmer says he's "put in his order" for one of the tractors, which is fitted with an all-new rubber tracked drive system that provides "super in-field traction with less compaction" but allows the tractor to be driven down the road, unlike conventional metal tracks. Another farmer, who told FARM SHOW he'd test-driven one of the tractors, says the ride is "so much smoother than a conventional wheeled tractor you can't believe it," a feature which allows it to work at higher speeds in the field. At 270 hp., the tractor is reportedly comparable in pulling power to a 340 hp. Steiger. It's fitted with a conventional 3-pt. hitch and pto. FARM SHOW contacted Caterpillar but company officials declined comment. (Mark Newhall, Editor.)

Could Someone Save You?

What if you or someone else was caught in a machine? Would your wife, youngsters or others in the family know how to turn off the power? And would they know, without hesitation what to do next?

For safety's sake, Ordie Hogsett, University of Illinois extension safety specialist, suggests taking your wife — and whomever else would most likely be first on the scene — outside "right now" to point out, demonstrate and practice key operations to be performed in case of an emergency.

Here's Hogsett's suggested "check list of skills" which could save a life — maybe yours — during this year's harvest season:

- Where and how to turn off the ignition on gas-powered equipment.
- How to operate the fuel shut-off on diesel equipment.
- How to disengage the power takeoff (PTO).
- How to drive forward and in reverse.
- How to operate the lights.
- Location of fire extinguisher and how to operate it.
- Location of electrical power lines in relation to movement of equipment.
- How to disconnect electric power.
- How to raise and lower a tractor loader and bucket.
- How to operate hydraulic control levers.
- How to turn off augers and elevators.
- How to raise the combine head and how to use the safety bar.
- How to turn on fans to get air movement in manure pits.
- Location of water tanks in case of an anhydrous ammonia accident.
- How to turn off the grain drier and automatic grain cycling equipment.
- How to contact rescue or emergency personnel (are numbers handy?).
- How to get emergency vehicles into various parts of the farmstead.

Creative vengeance — We heard the other day about a New Zealander who was infuriated with his local bank and banker. The irate customer came up with a creative but vengeful way to vent his anger.

First, he rented a safety deposit box in the bank, knowing that it couldn't be opened by the bank without his, the renter's, consent. The angry customer then placed a dead fish in his deposit box and locked it.

Within a few days, a rancid odor permeated the entire bank. Exterminators were called in but were unable to locate the source of the problem. Customers, employees and the banker himself had to endure the suffocating smell until it finally quit.