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RUST PREVENTIVE COMPOUNDS

Extension Circular 458

Clyde Walker

May 1945

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RUST PREVENTIVE COMPOUNDS

by
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Prevention of rust on farm machinery is important because it saves time and labor for the farmer, as well as money.

Even the most important farm machines are used for only a few days or weeks per year. During the ten or eleven months that the machines are idle, they usually stand outside or are housed in open sheds. Time and labor spent scouring rusty parts and replacing broken parts weakened by rust can be saved by the use of scientifically compounded rust preventives.

In connection with the prevention of corrosion on aeronautical and automotive parts and equipment used by the armed forces, the Government has encouraged the development of several types of protective materials. Some of these rust preventives are well adapted for use on farm implements.

The rust preventive compounds that have been recently placed on the market by some concerns offer the farmer a method of preventing rust on his machinery which is far superior to crank-case oil, transmission oil, or grease, or other petroleum products which have been commonly used in the past. At present rust preventives are available in two forms. One is suitable for applying with a brush or dauber; the other can be applied with either a spray gun or a brush, as convenient.

One Mid-west concern has set up the following specifications for a satisfactory rust preventive that may be used for the protection of farm machinery. Their product is available locally at the retail stores of one of the mail order houses.

1. The coating must be easy to apply by brushing, spraying, or dipping.
2. The rust preventive must dry quickly and, after evaporation of the solvent, a firm coating should remain.
3. The rust preventive must give adequate protection to farm machinery for at least one year.
4. The rust preventive must be effective when it is applied over corroded surfaces.
5. The rust preventive should penetrate and loosen existing rust and leave a sufficient coating to keep new rust from forming.
6. The coating must not only be tenacious but also sufficiently elastic to permit expansion and contraction of the metal under heat (as high as 160° F.) and cold (as low as -40° F.) without the coating cracking, chipping, peeling or crumbling away.

7. The rust preventive must be compatible with any oil or grease that may be used as a lubricant.
8. The rust preventive must be quickly removed by scouring or cleaning with kerosene or distillate.

Rust preventives now on the market meet most of these requirements to a reasonable degree. Another important point is that they afford protection even when applied to a moist surface. The farmer who uses a rust preventive with this characteristic can protect his machinery even when the preventive is applied to a plow moldboard or other surface dampened by a shower.

A number of concerns have developed rust preventive compounds, but in several instances the entire output is taken by the military services. At the present time one of the oil companies is distributing a rust preventive compound in this area which is designed for application with a brush.

Either of the above products is so superior to ordinary lubricating materials for rust prevention that Oregon farmers will find it worth-while to give them a trial. Your county agent can tell you where they can be purchased locally. The postal regulations prohibit listing names of firms and products in this circular.