

IMPROVED HARVESTING METHODS

EQUIPMENT SURVEY NOTES

INCREASED TRACTION FOR WHEELED TRACTORS

A standard wheel-type tractor equipped with detachable crawler tracks has been demonstrated in Ohio. It was developed in Canada for pulling pulpwood sleighs in winter, and proved efficient when operating on soft ground.

Special brackets attached to the rear-axle housing support front idler wheels between the front and rear tractor wheels (fig. 1). An endless snowmobile type of track passes around the idler and rear driving wheel without interfering with the steering mechanism. Coil springs between the idler wheels and the mounting brackets provide necessary flexibility and track tension. Properly tensioned tracks do not come off even when using independent wheel braking for very sharp turns.

A brief test was made on a freshly bulldozed area. The tractor pulling a small logging sulky easily skidded heavy hardwood logs over the soft ground.

Tracks and idler assembly are manufactured in kit form.

E. W. Fobes
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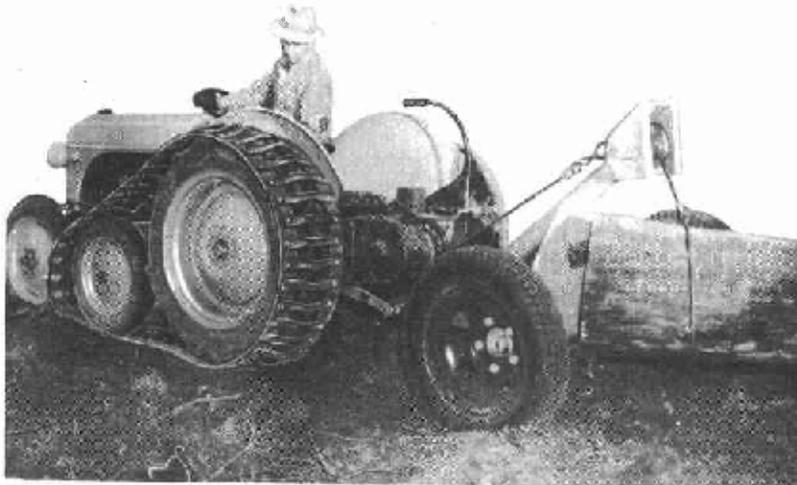


Figure 1.--Crawler track attachment for wheel tractor showing idler wheel and flexibility of tracks.

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