

FARM POWER AND MECHANICS

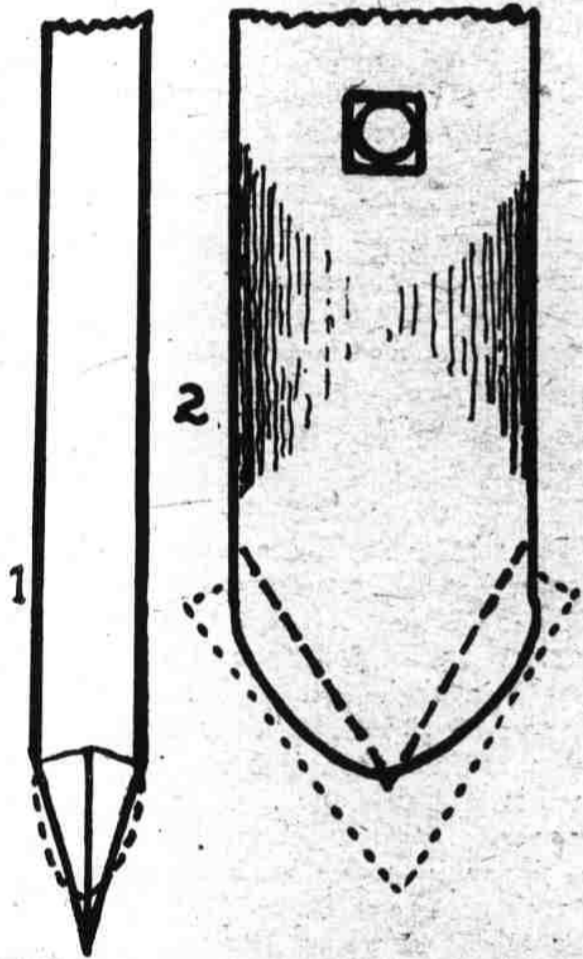
Sharpening Farm Tools

SHARP tools go a long way toward making good workmen, and with the present high price of farm labor and the value of time, one cannot afford to work with dull tools. We hope the following suggestions will be of help.

Cultivator Hoes.—Cultivator hoes are sharpened by heating and then hammering into the desired shape. Some of the iron used in these hoes is inferior and will not work well unless heated to a white heat. Care should be taken, however, not to burn the metal. The best job may be done by having an unused hoe for a model, shaping the old hoe as nearly like the new one as possible. They should not be hammered too thin, or they will bend easily. Hoes should also have a good curve so they will take the ground well. The curved hoe is also less easily bent. When hoes have become very blunt at the end, the corner should be cut off so that they may be drawn to a point. The drawing shows the outline of a new hoe, how it wears down with use, and how the corners must be cut off to re-sharpen.

Disks.—Disks are sharpened by grinding with an emery wheel. A power driven wheel is best, but a hand driven wheel will do the work. To get the best job, the disks should be mounted on some sort of standard so that they may be turned throughout the process of grinding. A smooth and even finish cannot be given unless they are held firmly and evenly to the wheel.

Hand Hoes.—Hand hoes should be sharpened by grinding with an emery wheel. If there is not such a wheel on the farm, they may be sharpened by filing. Some farmers bevel hoes one way and some another. With a file, the bevel may be given either the inside or the outside of the hoe. With an emery wheel, it is much easier to grind the bevel outside.



1—HARROW SPIKE. 2—CULTIVATOR HOE

Harrow Spikes.—To sharpen harrow spikes, simply heat to a white color and draw to a point, forging so that there will be four sharp corners as shown in the drawing. Allow to cool naturally.

Mowing Machine Sickles.—Sharpen with a grinder made for the purpose. One of these grinding machines will save its cost in a very short time. The stone is beveled so that it will grind two blade sides at one time. See that the ledger plates are not worn. No blade will cut well if this is the case. Lawn mowers are either sharpened by grindstone, emery wheel, or file. Keep the bevel the same as when new.

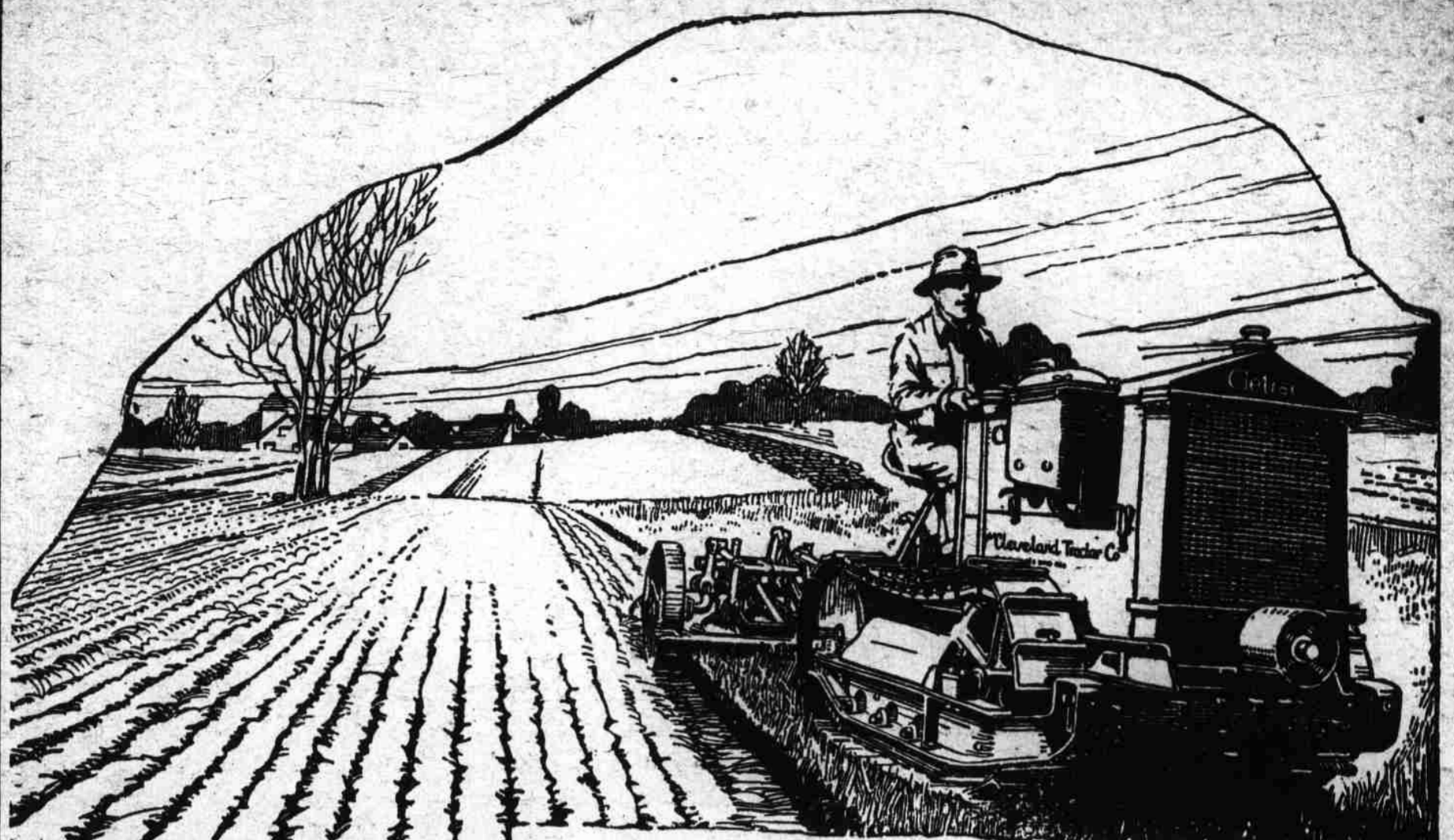
Scythes.—Sharpe either by grinding or by filing. Grind or file very little on the lower side—just enough to remove the "wire edge". Whet with a good sandstone between grindings.

Sweeps.—The wings should be forged to a cutting edge when they have become dull. It is sometimes necessary to weld on a new "nose" when this is badly worn.

A Use for Old Plow Lines

TO MAKE use of plow lines that have given out—worn in two where the rub occurs—cut in pieces (the sound parts) the length of hamestrings, tie a knot in one end and wrap the other end with coarse spool thread or wrapping twine. I haven't bought a hamestring for the past eight or ten years, using instead pieces of plow line, thus saving the price of one or more pair of hamestrings a year. One can now get a whole pair of plowlines (11 yards) for 75 cents, while the same length of hamestring leather would cost \$5 or more. But even this can be saved by using the best parts of worn plow lines.
R. M. McD.

Finnick: "When a man pays attention to a woman it is generally a sign that he wants to marry her." **Sinnick:** "Yes, and when he doesn't pay any attention to a woman, it is usually a sign that he has married her."
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