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BULLETIN #23 - "Farm Equipment 'Ash' Maintenance"

(The following advice is provided by Gary M. Hyde, Ph.D., and James M. Ebeling, Washington State University, and also includes material from the International Harvester Company. It is directed to farmers and those operating field equipment. It does not speak specifically to individual pieces of equipment but does contain information that should be helpful for a variety of equipment.

For more information on off-field vehicle maintenance, see Technical Information Bulletin #2b-"Driving and Vehicle Maintenance in Heavy Ash Areas." TIB #6 also will be helpful.)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ASH

The ash consists of pumiceous glass; feldspar, hypersthene, and magnetite crystals; and lithic fragments (igneous rock). These minerals are made up of calcium, sodium, aluminum, magnesium, iron, silicon, and oxygen, just as our soils are.

These materials are abrasive and may be corrosive to untreated or painted metals due to the sulfuric acid and fluorides and chloride salts. It is recommended that all vehicles be thoroughly cleaned, inside and out. Vacuum or air-clean vehicle prior to a thorough rinsing with fresh water.

FIELD EQUIPMENT ASH MAINTENANCE

AIR CLEANER FILTERS

Information regarding the filters will be emphasized in this bulletin because some of the most expensive repairs may result if the abrasive ash gets inside engines.

Air cleaner filters in good condition should remove any harmful particles. New air filters are designed to screen out particles