



Optimal Equipment *for* Beginning Farmers

GROUND WORK: *Building Capacity for Tractor and Farm Mechanization Education*

By Richard Wiswall

farmer, farm consultant and author of the *Organic Farmer's Business Handbook*.

Equipment for produce farms up to 3 acres:

Bare minimum (1 acre or less):

- Shovel, rake, oscillating hoe, wheel barrow, (wheel hoe), hoses, hand sprayer
- Earthway seeder
- Pick up truck
- Troybuilt rototiller
- Small greenhouse
- Digital platform scale (20 lb)

Scaling up:

- 35 – 50 hp 2WD tractor
- 3 PTH rototiller
- 3 PTH mini chisels
- 3 PTH cultivators
- Walk in cooler
- Wash and pack station

Equipment for 3-9+ acres

All of the above, plus:

- Shop tools, chainsaw, mowers, trimmers, welder, handtrucks, box stapler, labels
- 35 – 50 HP tractor: 2WD, or 4WD, with loader
- 3 PTH rototiller
- Disks 5 – 8' wide
- 3 PTH Cultivator
- Better push seeder
- 3 PTH Mini chisel
- Flame weeder
- Barrel washer/brush washer
- 200 lb plus platform scale
- Wash station (packhouse)
- Walk in cooler
- Bush Hog mower
- Irrigation system
- Manure spreader
- Spinner spreader
- Portable electric fencing
- Multiple greenhouses
- Cultivating tractor (Allis G, Farmall Cub or A, IH 140, Kubota L245H)
- Basket weeder, shovels
- Tine weeder
- Bed lifter
- Bedformer
- 2nd tractor 40-60HP
- Chain harrow, S tine harrow
- 3PTH transplanter
- 3 PTH sprayer

For more information, visit Ground Work at <http://blog.uvm.edu/groundwk/>

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