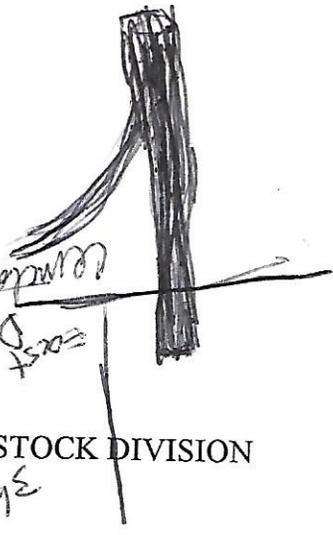


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ROBERTS MACHINE



TO: LARRY RICHWINE - NTPA TECH SERVICES

FROM: DOUG ROBERTS - ROBERTS MACHINE

RE: NEED FOR COMPONENT TRACTORS IN SUPER STOCK DIVISION

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 1997

After having been involved in the pre-commitment program for the past 2 years, I feel I have no realistic chance of being a points champion, mainly because of the brand of tractor I choose to pull. As everyone is well aware of, consistency is one of the main ingredients to being a points champion.

After spending the first part of the 1995 season getting the engine to run, we have been struggling to get power to the rear tires. During the 1995 pre-commitment program, I went to every event, even though the tractor wouldn't run until we broke the transmission case at Ft. Recovery II and couldn't repair it in time for Essex Junction, VT. We then went to Inwood, Ontario, Canada the next weekend and broke the rear-end. After that it has been a case of fixing the weakest link, breakdown, fix that problem, breakdown, fix that problem, etc., etc. Now we have reached the point where our last problem can't be fixed as the rules read today.

During the 1996 pre-commitment program we missed 5 events due to breakage (Davenport, Arcola, Monroe, last day of Ft. Recovery II and Essex Junction). Since we built the tractor we have broke about every part from the engine on back. Here is a list of components broke and the cost to fix them.

Transmission (33 gears/9 shafts)	13 times (9 in 1996)	\$ 9800.00
Sun Pinions	7 times	1400.00
Differential	2 times	1000.00
Ring & Pinion	1 time	900.00
Planetary Carrier	1 time	200.00
Clutch Housing	2 times (2 in 1996)	700.00
Axle Housing	3 times (3 in 1996)	1100.00
Transmission Case	5 times (4 in 1996)	<u>2300.00</u>
		\$17500.00