

## Soybean Association Told Railroads Need Government

A fundamental re-evaluation now underway will put railroads back into prominence but only with government help, according to Alan S. Boyd, president of the Illinois Gulf Central Railroad and featured speaker at the American Soybean Association annual meeting.

Boyd told his audience that present trends towards bigger railcars, more modern facilities and efficient operations can increase railroads' capacity

seven times.

"However, to accomplish this, legislation is needed that is aimed at restructuring Eastern roads into viable systems under private operation. To me, that means Congress must relax economic regulation of railroads, provide low-interest loans for track work, equitable taxation, revised entry and exit requirements, funds for grade separations and crossing protection.

"Railroad problems are the result, in large part, of a regulatory system set up to control the U. S. railroad monopoly. In its time, the control was needed. But, after promoting competition it set out to create, the regulatory system created excess capacity, inefficient capital allocation to reproduce regulated capacity and threatened to destroy the nation's railroads in the Northeast. Congress is faced with a crisis that is based upon the spreading inability of railroads to survive the archaic economic regulation to which it alone, of all transportation modes, is subject,"

Boyd also reviewed recent developments such as longer and wider trains and closed hopper cars that will help move agricultural commodities.

### Botulism: What It Is and How to Prevent It

Lately botulism has been big news. As a result, many consumers want to know more about the organism. The Food and Drug Administration supplies these facts.

First of all, botulinum poisoning is extremely rare. Although the organism is common in the environment, it is usually harmless because it cannot grow and therefore produce toxin in the presence of oxygen.

If, however, the bacteria get into an airless container without being destroyed by proper cooking, they can multiply and become deadly.

Modern methods of commercial canning have greatly reduced the threat of botulism from those products. Since 1925, there have been only four reported botulism deaths in this country associated with commercially canned foods.

In recent years, most instances of botulism have been found in home canning when the preparer doesn't cook the food a long enough time or at a high enough temperature to destroy the organism. Since 1925, about 700 deaths from

## Machine Reduces Harvest Losses

Research at the University of Illinois shows that a floating cutterbar combined with an air blanket will reduce soybean harvest loss 43 percent when compared to today's equipment, according to one leading agricultural engineer.

W. Ralph Nave, USDA agricultural engineer working at this Illinois university, told American Soybean Association convention delegates that his design provides a blanket of air just back of a floating cutterbar. The air blanket assists in movement of plant material into the combine header.

"Although soybeans have become the leading U. S. cash crop, they are still planted, harvested and dried with equipment designed largely for other crops. The average soybean farmer loses about 10 percent of his soybeans in the fields and another 30 percent is damaged."

At the same time, Nave said very little research has been done in drying, handling and storage of soybeans.

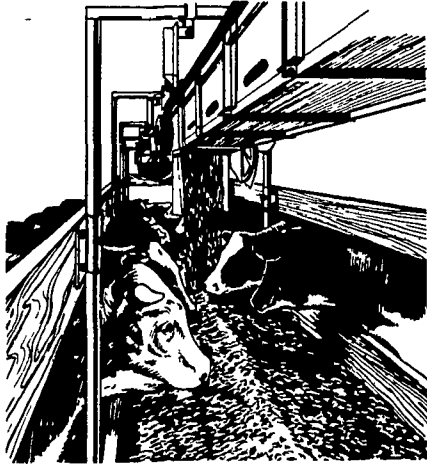
"Many grain drying methods adapt to soybeans with some restrictions on heat use and handling. Ohio State University work indicates the key in avoiding seed coat cracking is to

keep drying air above 40 percent humidity."

Unheated air can be used on either seed or commercial soybeans if weather conditions are favorable. In general, air conditions should be above 60 degrees Fahrenheit and humidity below 75 percent, he added. Safe storage moisture content for soybeans is 11 percent.

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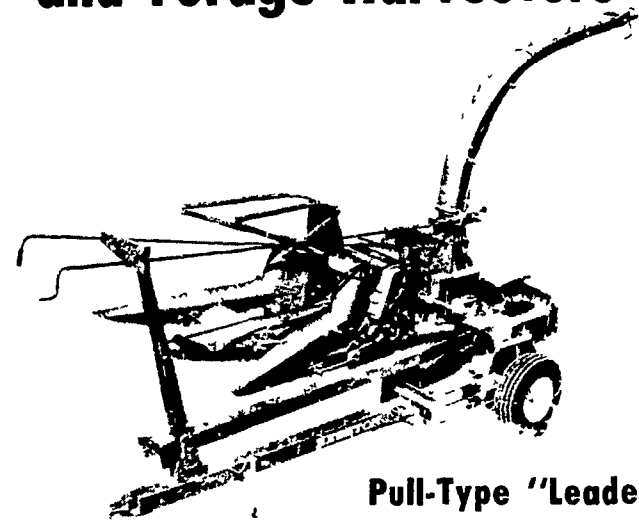
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