

# WILL THE TRAIN MEET THE GRAIN?



All across the country the season's grain harvest is moving to market. A major bottleneck, however, is the critical shortage at country grain elevators of rail cars to move the grain.

When cars aren't available, artificial scarcities of grain result which can drive prices up. That can mean higher prices for many items like bakery products, cereal, and even meat and poultry.

To help ease this problem, the U.S. Department of Agriculture in late September started a monitoring system to pinpoint areas of the country that are having problems getting rail cars.

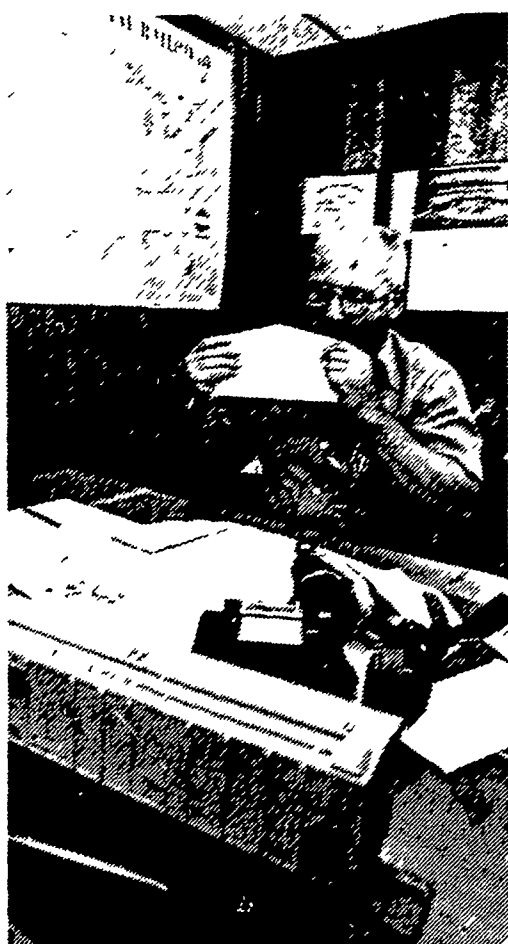
Operators of country grain elevators received questionnaires from USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service asking them to list the amount of grain awaiting shipment, grain on hand in the elevator—and on the

ground, if any; and anticipated receipts and shipments within the next two weeks. Reports by the warehousemen are voluntary and are submitted weekly only when there's a car shortage.

USDA then feeds the information into a computer that produces geographic lists. They spell out just what areas need more cars and tell how severe the shortages are.

The lists are then passed on for further action to agencies that have some control over the situation, such as the Interstate Commerce Commission, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Association of American Railroads.

Hopefully, this attempt at national coordination will mean steadier supplies of grain to feeders and processors.



After experiencing trouble getting rail cars, a country elevator operator seals his weekly questionnaire (1073K1576-27) before mailing it to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. There it and scores of others from across the country is opened (1073K1607-5) and computer-processed into lists (1073K1607-27) that pinpoint general areas of the country where cars are scarce. Hopefully this information can help get the rail cars rolling (1073K1569-19) toward where they're most needed.

Rail Car  
Monitoring  
Seeks an  
Answer

GRAIN  
LOADING  
ONLY

WHEN EMPTY RETURN  
TO N&W RY CO

VIA REVERSE ROUTE

