

Agriculture 1975

Keeping Warm At A Cost That's Cool



"Osgood! Just turn your side of the blanket on and get back where you belong!"

Want to reduce the cost of heating your home this winter? Of course you do! Early this year the cost of home heating reached heights undreamed of in the affluent Sixties — and for the cold season ahead they're certain to be even higher. So the practical homemaker will make a list NOW of ways to keep those costs down.

The first step is to make sure your house is properly insulated. Next, close off any room that's not in use. Then check to see that storm doors and windows are in good order. Carpets also keep the house warmer, and by lowering your thermostat from 73 to 68 degrees you'll effect a fuel reduction and savings of 15%.

You can further reduce those fuel bills by using an automatic electric blanket by Fieldcrest. Yes, an automatic blanket. Its reliable warmth will let you turn your home heating unit all the way down to 60 degrees during winter

nights — thus saving 13% more fuel during an average eight hours of sleeping time. (The average cost of electricity used by an automatic blanket is less than three cents a night.)

Furthermore, it provides a comfortable, convenient kind of warmth — which is why over 30 million people in the U.S. use them. A thermostat heat control responds to changes in room temperature, thus automatically regulating the blanket to give you the amount of warmth you want all night long.

Because the automatic blanket is lightweight you can use it all year around representing a considerable saving in monetary outlay — to say nothing of closet space! Plus an automatic is made from synthetic fibers which makes them completely machine washable as well as moth and mildew proof, and all automatics made by Fieldcrest are listed by Under

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sell their own birds. He sees a very good year for that kind of operation.

Fertilizer - Pesticide Outlook
William Brubaker, president of the Pennsylvania Inland Fertilizer Association, told us that fertilizer supplies will continue tight, especially nitrogen. "I wouldn't be surprised to see nitrogen

selling for 45- to 50-cents a pound in the spring," said Brubaker, who is also president of Lancaster's Organic Plant Foods. "The top on liquid nitrogen last year was 30 cents f.o.b. the storage tank. Just a few years ago, the same material sold for 12 to 18-cents, and that was applied."

Brubaker said farmers would be well-advised to talk their needs over with their supplier as early as possible. Prices for phosphorous and potash should continue firm at their present levels, which are up over the preceding year's prices, but Brubaker expects the tight supply situation for these materials to ease up somewhat.

There will be some shortages of better insecticides, especially those for rootworm control, Brubaker predicted. "And the market isn't exactly flooded with the better corn herbicides," he added.

Seed Supplies Adequate

"We're optimistic that seed prices will only be slightly higher than last year," we were told by Floyd Imes, Manheim. Imes is president of the Pennsylvania Foundation Seed Cooperative, and seed plant manager for Agway's Manheim operation.

"Dealers should be able to give farmers as much seed as they need, but they might not have the selection of varieties that some buyers would want. We have a good supply of seed oats. The wheat and barley seed orders have already been filled, of course, and we experienced a good supply situation there."

It Pays to Know Your Banker

"Lenders will continue to take care of their present farm customers," we were



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told by Robert Bucher, Commonwealth National Bank's farm loan officer. "But there's not going to be much of a scramble after new business in 1975."

Bucher expects interest rates for short term farm loans to continue around the 10 percent mark, but he doesn't see them going any higher. There's no sign of interest rates going back down to six percent, he said. Not ever.

Lower Farm Equipment Prices

"Farmers might have trouble early in the year getting equipment orders filled, but after that things should loosen up a little. Prices might even start going down, possibly in the spring," said Robert Hartford, executive director of the Pennsylvania Farm and

Power Equipment Association, Phoenixville. Hartford said the supply situation will continue tight, however, on larger tractors, mostly because manufacturers can't get component parts.

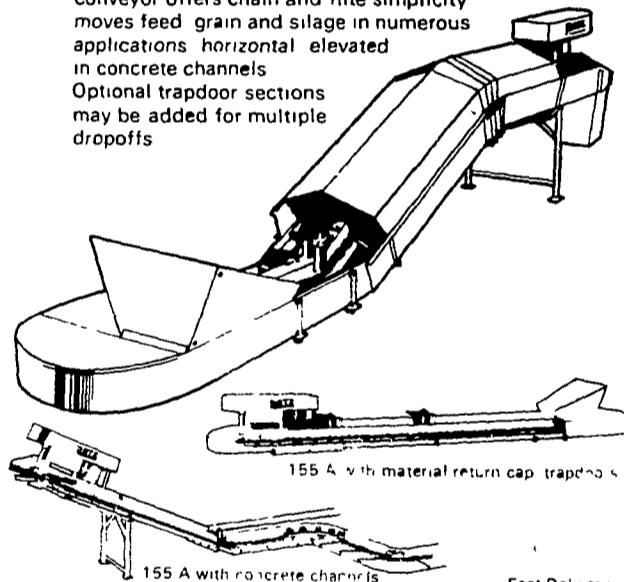
"Used prices should stay up even though new equipment will be easier to get," Hartford said. "Dealers are pretty well sold out of used equipment because that's all they had to sell this year. So I don't expect used prices to come down."

Parts availability has been a big problem for many dealers in the past year. "I hope our problems with parts are over," Hartford said. "Some parts will be plentiful, some won't be. But all parts this year should be easier to get."

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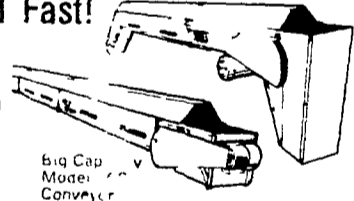
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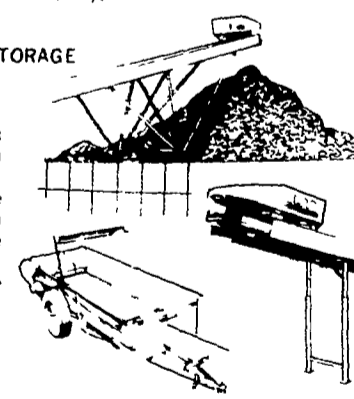
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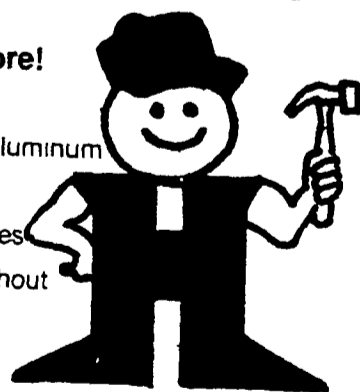


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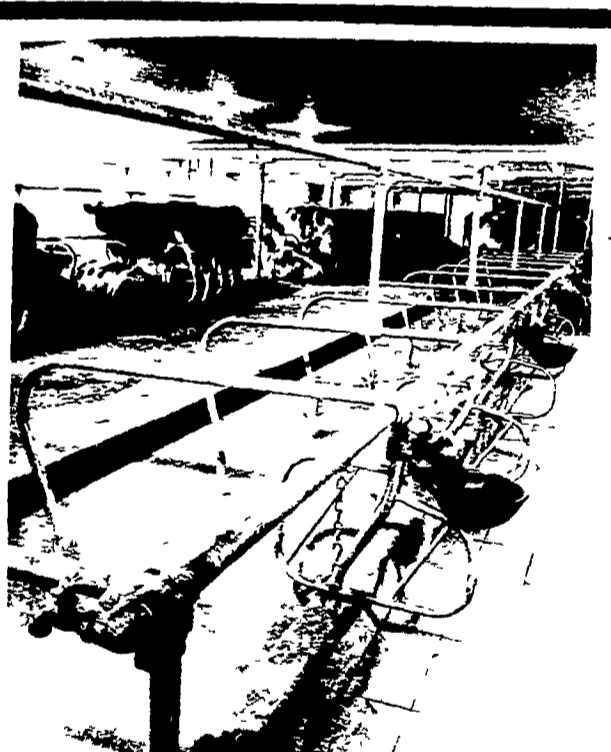
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