

# Kuhfuss

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burden on the taxpayer and adds to the cost of doing business. These increased business costs are passed on to the consumer in higher prices."

Discussing world food aid, Kuhfuss said that it was apparent that the United States cannot by itself feed a hungry world with every increasing population growth.

"The affluent nations must bear their fair share of world food aid," Kuhfuss said.

"The responsibility of this country in food aid is a

national responsibility. Farmers and ranchers should, and do, share this responsibility as taxpayers. But they should not be expected to produce food for aid programs without a fair return for the product any more than workers and management should be asked to accept lower wages or lower prices for industrial commodities that go to aid recipients.

"Farmers and ranchers realize that we all have an obligation to our fellowmen in times of adversity and famine conditions such as exist today in Bangladesh,

Central Africa, and other drought stricken areas," Kuhfuss said.

"While our nation has been fortunate in never having experienced a food famine, our agricultural producers know the feeling of helplessness that comes as they see crops and livestock destroyed by drought of floods. Because of the diversity and wide geographical range of U.S. farm production, we have been able to overcome the effects of bad weather in scattered areas."

Kuhfuss pointed out that the nation's farmers, in the past several decades, produced a surplus of commodities which has enabled the United States to extend food aid valued at \$40 billion to other countries since the beginning of World War II, and 84 percent of all food aid extended from 1965 to 1972.

Kuhfuss also said that reducing U.S. meat consumption to provide more grain for international food needs would add little to world supplies and would seriously disrupt the efficient and productive operations of American agriculture since cattle are efficient users of grasses and forage from millions of acres of land not suitable for grain production. Only one-third of the total poundage of meat comes from grain, Kuhfuss said. The remaining two-thirds is produced from otherwise unusable forage crops.

To meet emergency food needs throughout the world, Kuhfuss said Farm Bureau

favors the establishment of an International Monetary Food Fund supported by all the nations of the world. To meet disaster needs, funds could be withdrawn from the Fund to purchase needed supplies from any nation where it is available.

Discussing Farm Bureau's accomplishments, Kuhfuss said Farm Bureau believes in cooperative buying and selling for its members.

"Our affiliated Farm Bureau Service Company purchased for farmers more than \$34 million in tires, batteries and a limited number of other needs and saved farmers more than \$8 million in 1974."

The American Agricultural Marketing Association, an affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation, now provides service to 45 state Farm Bureau affiliated marketing associations in 40 states. Producers of approximately 50 different commodities receive marketing services from these 45 AAMA affiliated associations.

"The AAMA sold nearly 6 million hens for poultrymen in 1974. Fruit and vegetable operations have been a productive part of the AAMA's program for 15 years. The livestock program, although hindered by an unusually depressed feeder cattle market the past year continues to offer services to assist participating state associations in direct marketing programs.

"The commodity and legislative interests of members are being better served through the Farm Bureau Speedline, a new telecommunications system, which provides prompt two-way communications and enables State Farm Bureaus and the Federation to be more effective in their operations.

"The American Agricultural Insurance Company's insurance

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, Jan. 11, 1975—51

problems are being settled and the company will continue to serve the reinsurance needs for the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies.

"Farm Bureau membership is at a new record high—2,393,731 member families in 49 states and Puerto Rico. We have had an increase in membership every year for the past 14 years and more than a 100,000-member-family gain in each of the past four years. Four out of five farmers who belong to a general farm organization belong to Farm Bureau.

"Let us not lose sight of the principle that farmers must

speak for farmers—not politicians or agribusiness, or social clubs or a select group of columnists, or any other non-farm group. We need their understanding support, but let us not relinquish the right of farmers to speak for farmers.

"It has been a great year for Farm Bureau, as well as a time of change. We are not satisfied with our accomplishments, but we are pleased. The future is brighter for agriculture than many other segments of our economy. There is a new appreciation for food in the world. Food and fiber production is our business."

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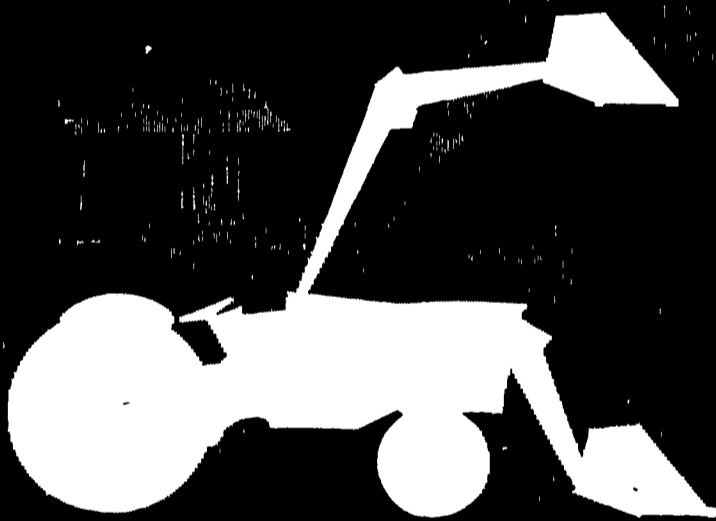


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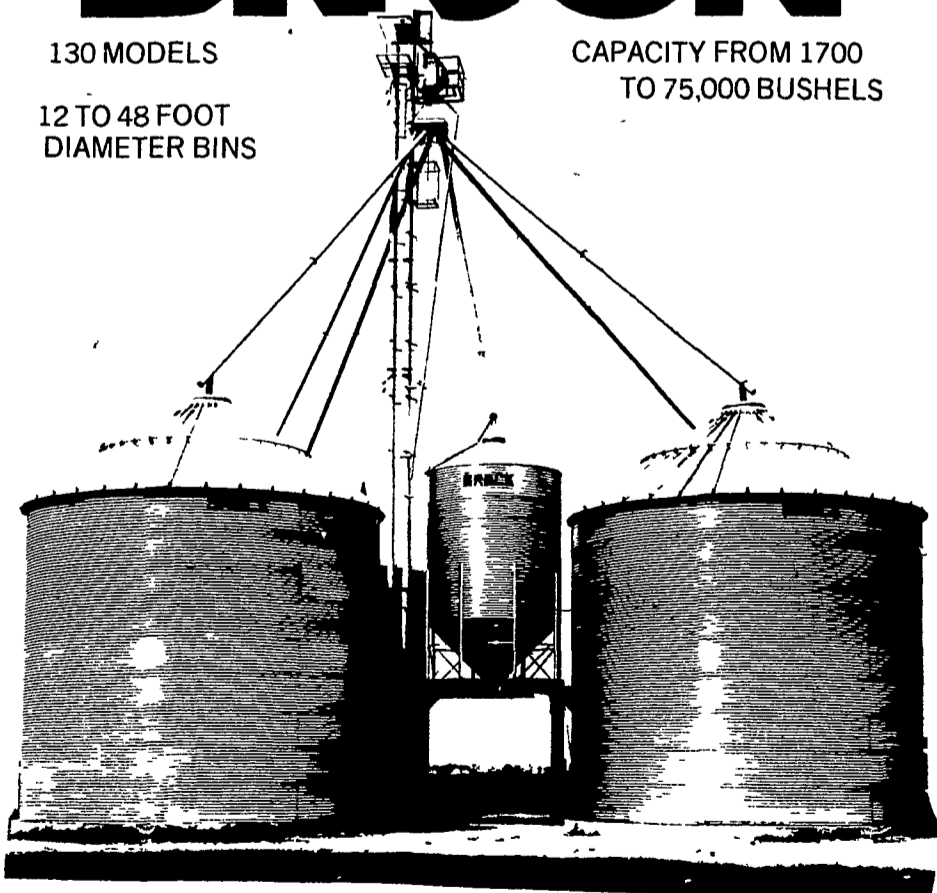
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