

## Co-op group supports grain sale to Russia

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 17 - The nation's grain cooperatives today commended Secretary of Agriculture Butz on his handling of the sensitive issue of another major U.S. grain sale to the Soviet Union.

In a letter to Secretary Butz, Glen D. Hofer, vice president, grain division,

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, said that grain cooperatives are campaigning to increase public awareness of the positive aspects of such a trade.

The NCFC grain spokesman noted that U.S. grain sales to Russia of some 10 to 20 million tons were well within our capability and should be welcome news

to the U.S. public as well as to the farm community.

Hofer added that with prospects of 2 billion bushels of wheat and 6 billion bushels of corn this year, the U.S. should have plenty of grain to meet domestic needs and still have ample stocks to compete aggressively in the world market with Canada, Australia and other major grain-producing countries.

"Given the sensitivity of world grain prices to the supply-demand balance," Hofer said, "it's obvious that substantial export sales must continue if U.S. farm prices are to balance production costs."

### Reduce Impact of Oil Imports

The farmer cooperative official emphasized that consumers and the media shouldn't lose sight of the fact that agricultural exports have helped reduce the impact of increasingly expensive oil imports.

In 1973, he said, agricultural trade of \$17.7 billion outpaced oil imports of approximately \$15 billion. This helped result in a U.S. trade surplus of about \$1.2 billion. Last year, agricultural exports of \$22 billion kept \$25 billion in oil imports from becoming a trade deficit disaster.

Hofer also noted that in order to keep productive capacity viable, a reasonable return on agricultural investment is essential. "This means that export sales must be made," he said.

"Over 50 percent of our wheat, and about 25 percent of our corn must find a home in foreign markets," Hofer

added. "Otherwise, the price structure which furnishes the American farmer with his only incentive to produce, will fall to non-profit or loss levels."

The grain division of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives represents the major grain marketing cooperatives of the U.S., with total annual sales of 1.7 billion bushels.

## Tractor pull slated for Cecil Fair

Cecil County Fair's expanded tractor pull promises excitement galore!

Wednesday, July 30's pull, starting at 7:00 p.m., will begin the show with field stock, modified, open, and superstocks competing for cash and trophies for winners of each class; plus \$200 for the winner (tractor and driver) from Cecil County of the largest 2 wheel drive class and \$50 for the winner (out of county) of the largest 2-wheel class.

The action will continue on Thursday, July 31 at 7:00 p.m. with garden and 4-wheel drive tractors. Cash and trophies for winners for each class will be presented, plus \$100 for the winner (tractor and driver) from Cecil County of the 4-wheel drive class.

The tractor pulls are produced by the Cecil County Young Farmers with Towson P.C.A. furnishing trophies and the extra \$350 cash prizes donated by Swede Swenson of Lewisville Supply, downtown Lewisville.

## Crafts display set for Allentown

"The Crafts Affair" is a brand new feature at this year's Allentown Fair, July 31 - Aug. 9. Located between the Bier Garten and the Free Stage at the east end of the grounds, a pavilion will house 25 booths at which skilled artisans will display their talents 11:30 a.m. to midnight daily throughout the fair.

"Many have exhibited in shows throughout the East, including the Kutztown Folk Festival, and are members of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen," according to William Savacool, show coordinator, who also manages the Village Center Shoppes in Trexlertown where some of the fair exhibitors show their awares.

Among the craftsmen who have signed for "The Craft Affair" are: Mary Jane Haaf, sewing patchwork toys, bonnets, aprons and Raggedy Ann dolls; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mahorsky, of Nazareth, copper and brass sculpture in abstract and realistic designs; Evelyn Sornisky of Telford, making stained glass lampshades and unusual window hangings.

George and Pauline Kline, Hamburg, noted Pennsylvania Dutch artists and designers specializing in hand-painted benches, chairs, milk cans and wall

plaques; Joanne Skilton of Emmaus, working with macrame and sand terrariums; Kathy Brashears, Applehead and bottle dolls; Mary Herring, Slatington, cermacis, painted stones and dried flowers.

Patricia Kuhns, Trexlertown, stained-glass artist, creating wedding bells for newlyweds and storks for new babies; Paul Dautruch, Reading, working in copper, brass and tin to make pole lights, sconces and pitchers; Maur and Doe Levan will recreate the Village Ice Cream Parlour with all the old delights; Patty Frantz, Allentown, creating sand terrariums.

Mergery Zeller, Emmaus, and her daughters create silver, trunket and stained glass jewelry and plaster of Paris epoxied plaques; Eleanor Ficek, Allentown, hand-crafted decoupage plaques and wall hangings; John and June Best, Pleasantville, N.J., candle-makers; Walter Squyres, Orwigsburg, broommaker; Bill Treon and Tom Doering, silver and gemstone jewelry; E. Stratton McCloskey Jr., sculpting glass miniatures.

There are still a few spots open for the "Crafts Affair," Savacool said. Any interested craftsmen may call him at 395-3658.

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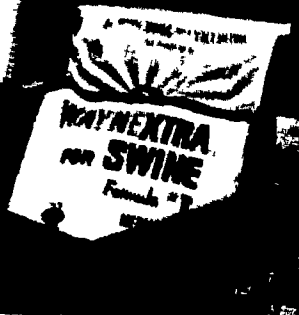
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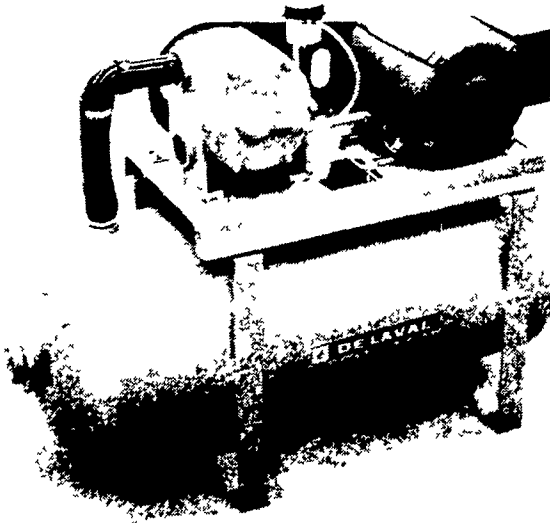
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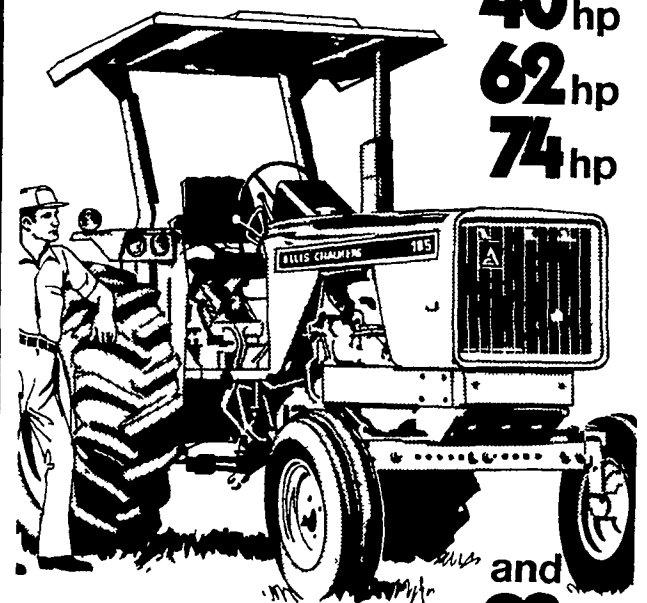
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