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## Soviet crop estimate down

# Butz hails grain deal

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz last week hailed the new Russian grain agreement as beneficial to consumers and farmers. The agreement, which guarantees a Soviet purchase of six to eight million metric tons of wheat and corn during the next five years, "will let farmers know at planting time that they can count on that export market," the Secretary noted.

Agreement is also "a real

plus for U.S. consumers," the Secretary said, noting that if final details can be worked out "consumers will be getting 10 million tons of petroleum a year from a new source."

USDA has again reduced its estimate of 1975 grain production in the Soviet Union. It's now seen at 160 million metric tons. That's down 10 million tons from the Oct. 9 estimate, 35 million tons below its 1974 output, and 55 million tons below its 1975 target.

Meanwhile, the Department also last week confirmed three further sales, totaling 1.2 million tons of corn, to the Soviet Union. These sales — first since lifting on Oct. 20 a moratorium on U.S. grain and soybean sales to the Soviet Union. The new contracts bring reported

U.S. feed grain sales to the U.S.S.R. from 1975 crops to a total of 6.8 million tons — 5.7 million tons of corn and 1.1 million tons of barley — and total sales of all U.S. 1975 crop grains to the Soviets to 11.5 million tons. Sales to the Soviets under the new 5-year agreement won't begin until October of 1976.

## Contest winners named

First place in the quartet class went to a Berks County group from the Bernville Grange. They were Mrs. Dorothy Umbenhauer, Mrs. Stella Snyder, Mrs. Lillian Mengel and Mrs. Verna Spangler.

A comedy act by a group from the Schnecksville Grange in the Lehigh-Northampton county Pomona Grange, was first in the other acts class. In the group were Keith Grim, Sue and Sally Moyer, Joanne Schneck and Mark and David Shankweiler.

In the square dance competition, first place was won by a Washington County group composed of Kathy Engle, Linda Johnston, Robin Eckelberger, Kevin Patch, Donald Morgan, Nickie Weaver and Craig Wallace.

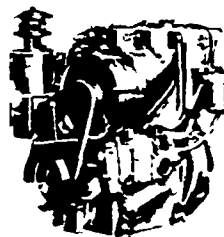
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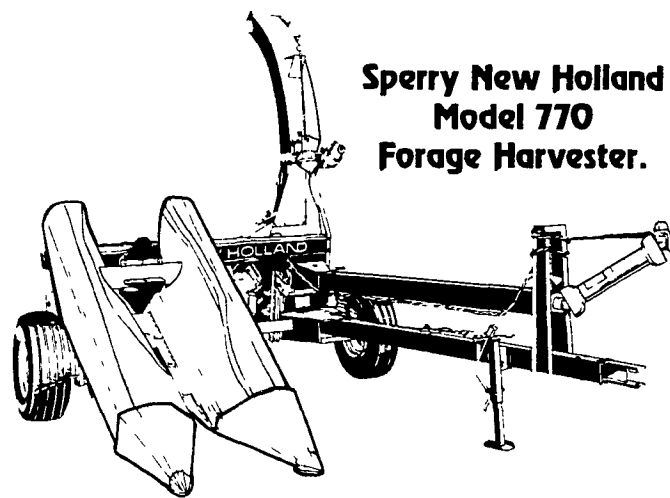
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