

Ag official says grain agreement essential

"The only person in the food production chain whose neck is out all the way is the farmer. That's why the Russian grain agreement is so essential," Kenneth E. Frick, Administrator of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), told Pennsylvania ASCS officials gathered for a

meeting recently in Champion, Pennsylvania. "The certainty of Russian purchases will be a plus for both the farmer and the consumer," Frick said, "because it will promote efficient agricultural production. The U.S.S.R. has become a guaranteed market the farmer can plan and plant for."

Continuing on the conference theme of International Trade - The Key to Prosperity, Edward D. Hews, Director of the ASCS Eastern Region, emphasized the need to get food moving into export channels. "Over the next 25 years world population will double," he said. "It is essential for American agriculture to meet the challenge of a hungry world by likewise increasing production and focusing on the world market."

Torgerson named director

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz recently announced the appointment of Dr. Randall E. Torgerson as administrator of Farmer Cooperative Service (FCS). Dr. Torgerson had been serving as staff economist to the administrator of Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, since January 1974 on a special assignment from the University of Missouri. He succeeds Dr. Ronald D. Knutson, who resigned in August to become professor of agricultural policy and

Both Frick and Hews termed rural development and conservation important in achieving efficient crop production. Frick said - government cost-share funds are spent to improve and correct conservation deficiencies in rural areas.

Conference participants (farmer-elected ASC county committeemen, county office staffers and State personnel) also attended workshops covering the current trends in conservation, crop disaster insurance and farm markets.

Paul H. Keeney, Chairman of the Berks County ASC Committee; Mark S. Balthaser and Donald E. Lutz, committee members; Henry E. Bohn, Sr., ASCS County Executive Director; and Dianne F. Younker & Janice E. Miller, program assistants, attended the two-day conference.

marketing at Texas A&M University.

As administrator of FCS, Dr. Torgerson will direct the research and technical assistance efforts of 60 agricultural economists and cooperative specialists. FCS programs are designed to increase the efficiency of the nation's 7,700 farmer-owned cooperatives involved in the production and marketing of the nation's food and fiber. These cooperatives have about 6 million members (many farmers are a member of more than one cooperative) and have a combined annual business volume in excess of \$22 billion.

Dr. Torgerson is the author of numerous articles and two books related to farmer cooperatives. As an associate professor at the University of Missouri - Columbia, he taught cooperative business organizations, management programs of cooperative firms, and economics of collective action in agriculture.


He served as executive secretary of the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives, 1969-73, and as executive secretary of the Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership, University of Missouri, 1971-74. His father, Truman Torgerson, is general manager of Lake to Lake Dairy Cooperative, Manitowoc, Wis., a cooperative whose annual sales approach \$60 million.

Dr. Torgerson, 36, native of Wisconsin, earned a bachelor degree from the

University of Minnesota and master's and doctor's degrees from the University of Wisconsin, all in agricultural economics. He attended the Swedish Center for Cooperative Development in 1962-63 and was a Fulbright Graduate Fellow at the Agricultural College of Norway in 1965-66.

His book, "Producer Power at the Bargaining Table: A Case Study of Legislative Life of S.109," was winner of the 1970 Curators' Publication Award at the University of Missouri. He also authored "Farm Bargaining," a description of this farmer activity in Norway and Sweden.

He is married to the former Susan Grace Grundahl. They have one son, Knut Everett, age 3.

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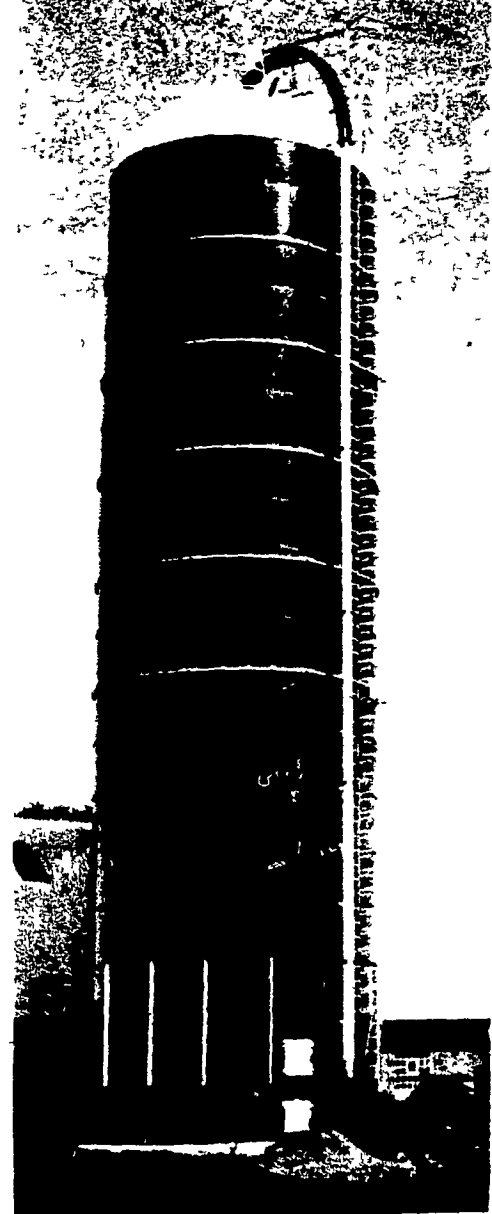
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