

The familiar story

"GIVE US A MARKET and remunerating prices and we can raise an amount of produce that will astonish the world."

Does this sound like something a modern-day mechanized farmer might say as he makes his cropping plans in the 1970's?

Actually the statement was made well over a century ago by a farmer in Scottsville, N.Y.

Grain stocks way up

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The world is in the 1978-79 crop year with near record grain stocks. Wheat stocks, while down about 10 per cent from 1977-78, are still ample and course grains stand at their highest level since 1970. Stocks continue heavily concentrated in the U.S., the Agriculture Department revealed last week, adding that this country holds nearly two-fifth of both world wheat and course grain stocks.

With world-wide weather expected to be favorable, another sizeable buildup in already substantial world grain stocks could occur, USDA officials say. However, unfavorable weather could draw those stocks down to levels comparable to those of 1973-75.

It illustrates that incentive was always a major consideration in the minds of farmers in planning their agricultural production levels.

The New York State farmer went on to say that he was gratified to see a better system of farming taking the place of the old, careless and slovely method previously followed in Western New York.

"This is to be attributed chiefly to the liberal prices obtained for our produce for the last few years, thereby producing in the farmer a stimulus to exertion, which he does not often feel when prices are so low as barely to pay the cost of production," he said.

His comments were echoed by another farmer from Dorchester County, Md.

"The last 10 years have been marked by decided reformation in the farming

operations of this country," he wrote.

He cited how the most primitive agricultural implements have been replaced by equipment, such as the dragharrow. Manuring was then looked upon as an idle loss of time and money, he said.

"But now, how things have changed. Every farmer is striving to outstrip his neighbor in the largest yield of crops, in manuring and in all the improvements in farm machinery." Today, as the American farmer is again called upon to play an ever larger role in helping to feed a hungry world, these words of a century and a quarter ago are more timely than ever.

As back in the 1850's, the farmer is ready to do the job that needs to be done. All he needs is the incentive in the form of a fair and unbalanced return for his increased effort.

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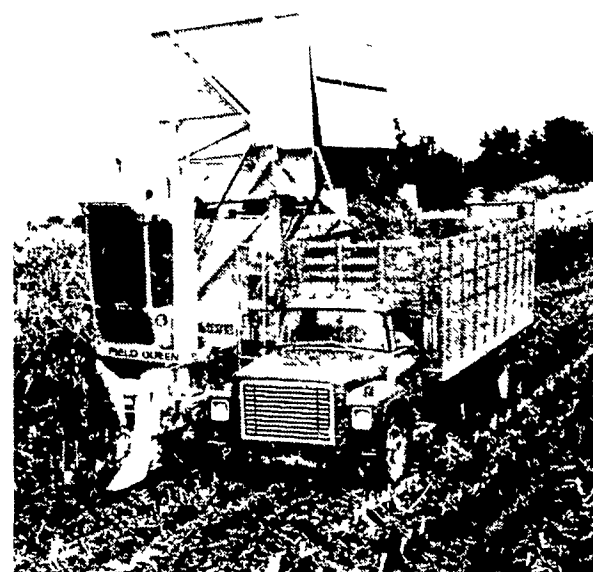
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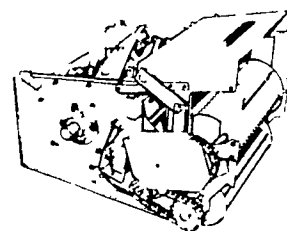


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