

1979 wheat set-aside at 20 pct

NEWARK, Del. - The 1979 wheat program contains the same 20 per cent set-aside requirement as the 1978

program, according to Joe Penuel, of the Delaware Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Farmers complying with the program will be eligible for a wheat loan of \$2.35 a bushel, and a target price of

\$3.40 per bushel. Both figures are the same as they were in the 1978 program.

Program participants who reduce their 1979 wheat acreage for grain by 15 per cent from the 1978 wheat acreage will be eligible for target-price coverage on 100 per cent of the 1979 wheat acreage for grain. The 1978 wheat acreage will be the acreage harvested as grain, plus credit on 1978 participating farms for underplanted acreage, set-aside, and wheat grazing and hay acreage for payment.

Unlike the 1978 program, the 1979 program does not provide payments for grazing out or haying of

planted acreage. However, producers may graze their 1979 set-aside acreage for a six-month period.

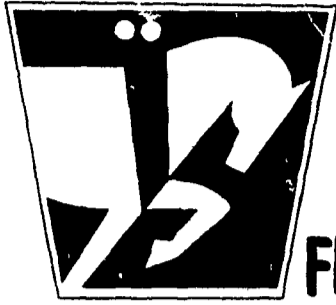
The wheat reserve commitment will continue in the 1979 program. This includes the farmer-owned reserve and the special emergency reserve for food aid commitments.

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland called the program "a stabilizing measure designed to benefit both producers and consumers." If farmers use the 1979 program as well as they did this year, we believe the farm wheat prices will be maintained. The program is designed to be anti-inflationary. Without the set-aside in 1979, U.S. wheat

stocks would be well above needs, farm prices would be considerably lower, government payments would be higher, and wheat export earnings would decrease, Bergland said.

The 20 per cent set-aside means that for every 100 acres of wheat planted for harvest as grain, 20 acres must be set aside.

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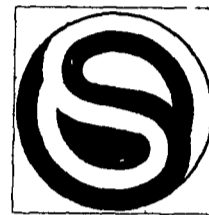
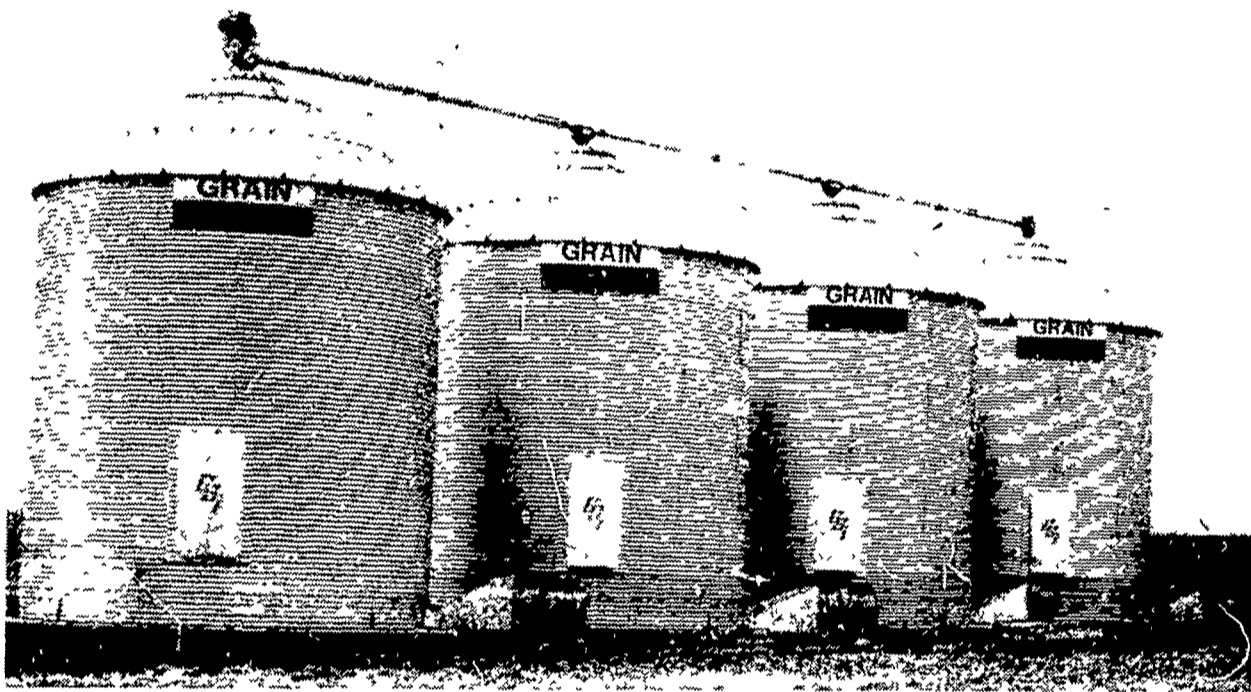
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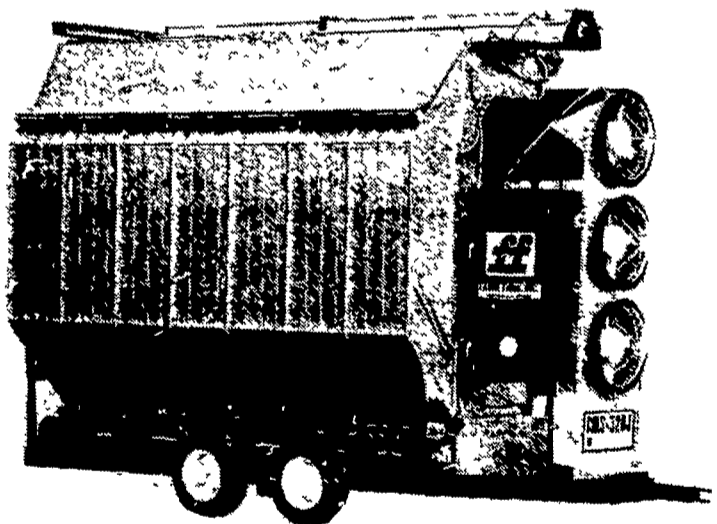
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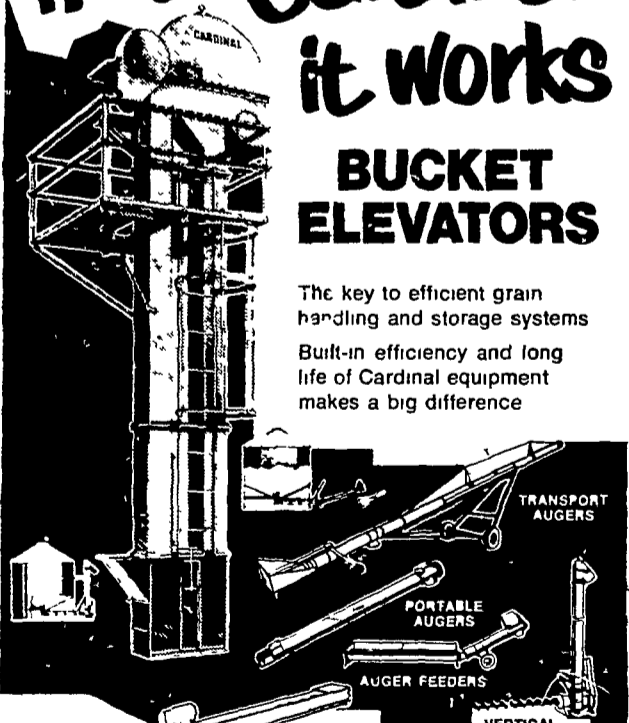
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