

Future trade with China looks good

CHICAGO, Ill. - Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland told farm editors meeting here that his recent trip to the People's Republic of China reinforces the government's decision for a moderate feed grain set-aside program.

Noting PRC purchases to date of 5.8 million tons of wheat and corn, almost 360,000 bales of cotton, and some soybeans and soybean oil, Bergland said, he believed the PRC is likely to

become a regular and significant purchaser of U.S. grains and cotton.

Bergland said, when he met with China's leaders, "they told me they want to significantly modernize their labor-intensive agricultural system.

"These plans could have a tremendous impact on the United States," Bergland said, "because China is very interested in our high technology methods for feed

manufacturing, and broiler and poultry production.

"We know that an annual one pound per capita increase in the consumption of chicken would mean China would have to grow or buy an additional 32 million bushels of corn and soybeans each year. We also know that one pound per person increase in pork consumption would create a demand for an additional 75 million bushels of corn and soybeans annually," Bergland said.

1979 feed grain program," the secretary said.

"A set-aside and diversion program, exceeding 20 per cent could threaten our ability to be a dependable exporter, Bergland said. "It could irreparably damage our domestic livestock industry, and it could jeopardize our commitment to fight inflation.

"The 1979 program offers farmers a package of tools to provide economic insurance," Bergland said. "Used properly, farmers will be able to maintain prices and farm income, and the U.S. have necessary feed grains supplies at fair prices for domestic livestock producers and for sales to other countries."

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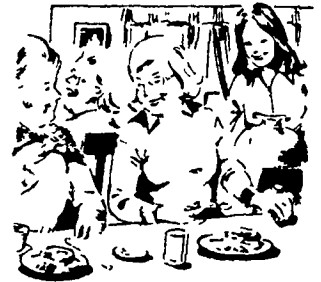
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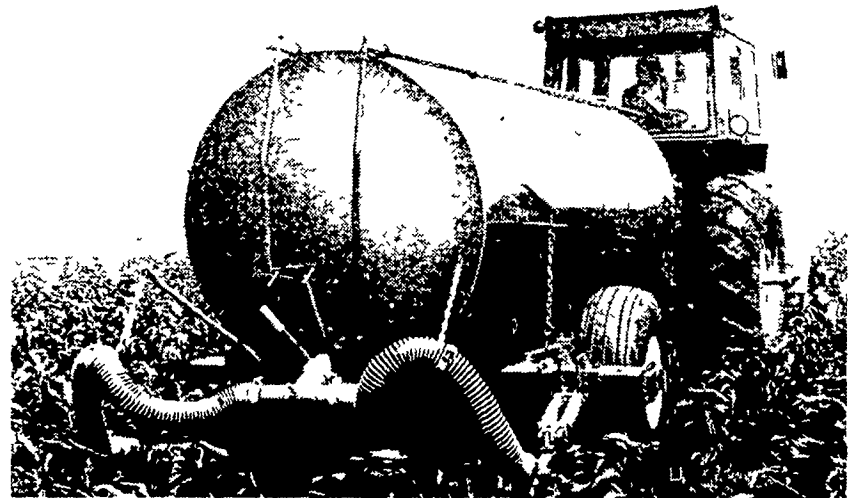
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