

Australian women to attend Agri-Women convention

HERSHEY — The fifth annual American Agri-Women Convention will take on an international flavor with the attendance of 26 Australian women interested in forming a similar group. According to Lynn Johnson, Australian dairy farmer and tour coordinator, "The first National Conference for Australian Rural Women was held last August. After participating in and reading about the outcome of the Conference I have realized that rural women in Australia lack a

united voice and the clout to implement the many recommendations put forward at the Conference."

As a result, she is endeavoring to gather together women who are vitally interested in agriculture in Australia, but who lack a united voice. Twenty-six of them will attend the AAW '80 Convention in Hershey, PA, November 10-13, then participate in a Washington DC tour immediately following the close of meetings.

Impressed with the degree of involvement of farm women in this country, not only on the farm, but as promoters and lobbyists, Mrs. Johnson feels here women could benefit from their experiences.

Of special interest on the program will be the Washington-On-The-Line segment November 11 featuring three agricultural attaches from foreign embassies on the special Agricultural Council of American telephone hook-up

for questions and answers by convention delegates.

Robert Swift, Minister of the Australian Embassy will be on the line covering subjects of international trade of Australian beef, grain and other pertinent issues. He will be joined in the program by Luiz Felipe Lampreia, Minister Counselor Deputy Chief of Mission Brazilian Embassy, and Eric Denig, Royal Netherlands Embassy.

Questions will be screened from various AAW affiliates and members before hand to facilitate timing and edited to cover as many areas as possible in the twenty minutes allotted each attache.

Washington editor of THE PACKER and THE DROVERS Larry Waterfield will moderate the unique format and himself cover relations with agriculture trade interests with Mexico.

Luncheon speaker that day will be Eileen Nutting, Agriculture Advisory Committee, Michigan Department of Agriculture, who will deal with "The Double Burden of Soviet Farm Women." A fruit and vegetable farmer herself, Mrs. Nutting is presently a graduate student enrolled in a PhD program in Rural Sociology at Michigan State University. Her topic is the result of research here and in the Soviet Union comparing Soviet and American farm women.

The Great Debate segment of AAW convention program begun last year in San Diego

will make its comeback with this resolve: That Food Should Be Used As A Foreign Policy Tool. Moderator June Hadley has lined up debaters from Cargill, Dreyfus, USDA for an evenhanded treatment of the topic with lively clash.

All women interested in

the future Survival Success in the '80's' of agriculture, whether or not they are presently members of AAW are encouraged to attend this convention. Write Beth Cooper, RD 1, Dotterer Road, Lenhartsville, PA 19534 for registration information.

Comment sought on conservation proposals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a public meeting here November 5 to discuss proposed administrative changes for USDA conservation and environmental programs, Ray Fitzgerald, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said today.

Fitzgerald said the meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in room 2-W of USDA's administration building.

Fitzgerald said discussions at the morning session will be on the agricultural conservation program, forestry incentives, water bank and the rural clean water programs.

Agricultural conservation program assistance is offered to encourage eligible farmers to voluntarily perform soil and water conservation, energy conservation and pollution abatement measures, Fitzgerald said. He said program funds are used to share the cost of such work with farmers who could not or would not perform conservation practices to the extent needed without the benefit of federal assistance.

To continue to encourage program participation by low-income farmers, county committees may approve for these producers cost sharing over 75 percent but not in excess of 80 percent for annual agreements, Fitzgerald said.

Because of space

limitation, persons desiring to attend the meeting should make reservations with John R. Henry. Phone: 202/447-7333.



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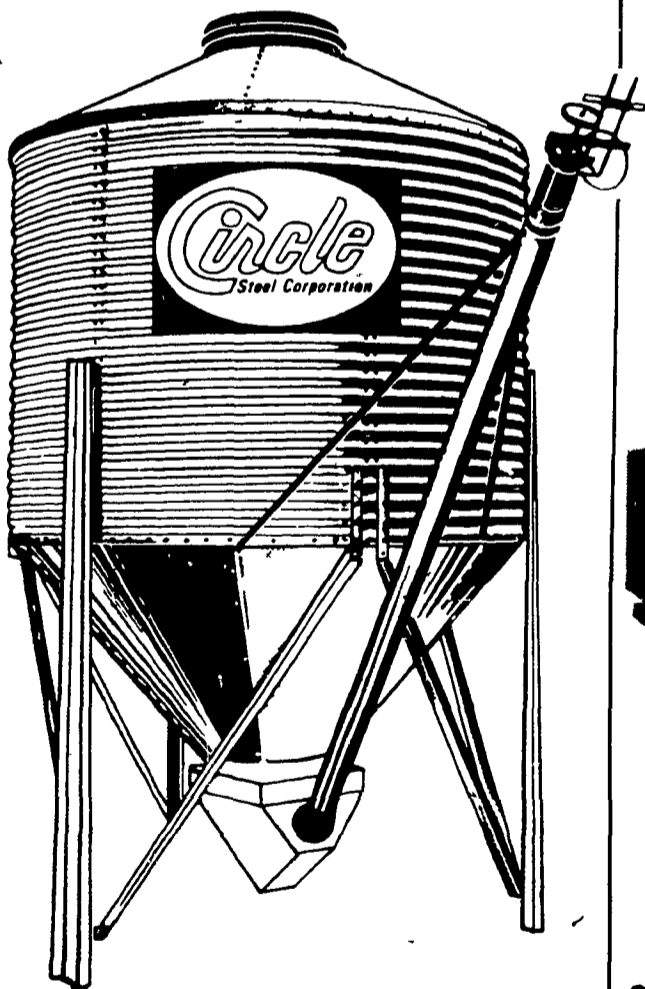
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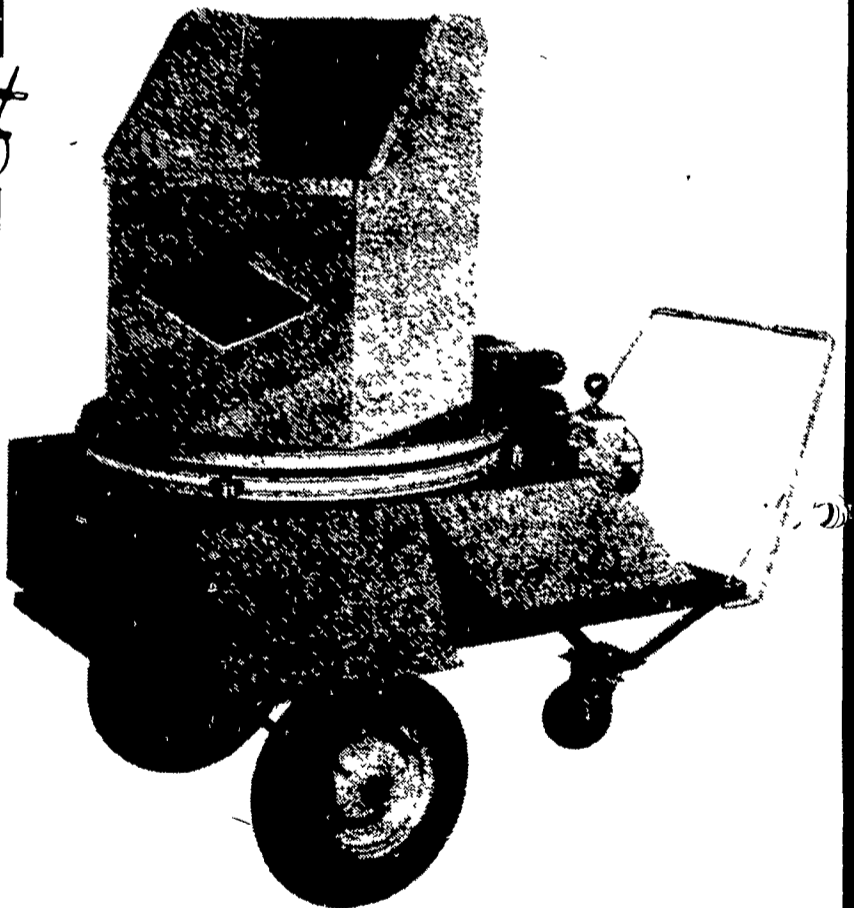
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