



## SNOW TIRE SPECIALS

### POLYESTER SNOW TIRES

	Sale	FET
A78-13	28.00	1.63
C78-14	30.00	1.98
E78-14	33.00	2.04
F78-14	35.00	2.15
G78-14	36.00	2.19
H78-14	35.00	2.89
J78-14	29.00	2.93
G78-15	36.00	2.43
H78 15	39.75	2.92
L78-15	41.00	3.43



**FREE MOUNTING & BALANCING ON TIRES**

### RADIAL SNOW TIRES

P185/75R13 BR78-13	44.00	2.08
P195/75R14 DR78-14		
ER78-14	49.50	2.49
P205/75R14 FR78-14	52.50	2.67
P215/75R14 GR78-14	55.00	2.80
P225/75R14 HR78-14		
JR78-14	56.75	3.10
P225/75R15 GR78-15	56.75	2.95
P225/75R15 HR78-15	58.00	3.09
JR78-15		
P235/75R15 LR78-15	59.75	3.36



### All Season STEEL BELTED RADIAL WHITEWALLS

★ LEGAL ON SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTE FOR MUD & SNOW TIRES

Size	P. Metric Size	Tires	F.E.T.
AR78X13	P155/80R13	36.50	\$1 96
BR78X13	P165/80R13	38.95	\$2 09
DR78X14	P185/75R14	43.80	\$2 29
ER78X14	P195/75R14	44.59	\$2 34
FR78X14	P205/75R14	45.90	\$2 59
GR78X14	P215/75R14	45.98	\$2 69
FR78X15	P205/75R15	43.50	\$2 68
GR78X15	P215/75R15	46.00	\$2 74
HR78X15	P225/75R15	52.00	\$3 16
LR78X15	P235/75R15	55.00	\$3 17



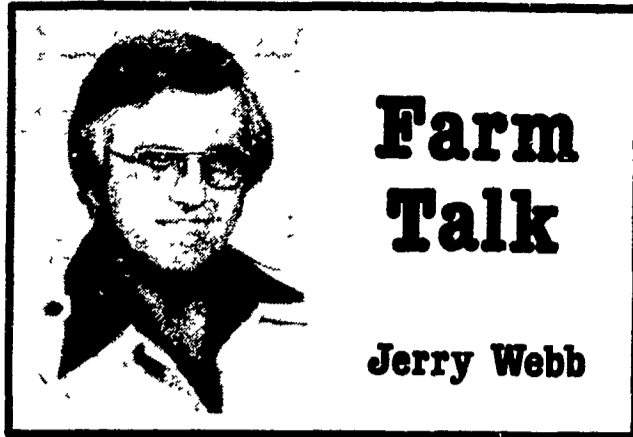
Hours Mon and Fri 7 30 to 9 00.  
Tues, Wed., Thurs - 7 30 to 5 00.  
Closed Saturday



OFFICIAL INSPECTION STATION

### HURST TIRE SERVICE

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1 Mile West of Blue Ball On Rt 322



## Farm Talk

Jerry Webb

There's an old agricultural adage that says farmland prices will continue to increase because we aren't making anymore land.

That philosophy has taken farmers to the point where they're willing to pay \$6000 or more per acre for selected parcels of prime farmland. And everybody seems to be wondering how farmers can pay so much for land and still make money.

A number of factors are at work suggesting that farmland prices, at least in the foreseeable future, may not continue to spiral as they have over the past decade. Maybe farmers have reached the limit of what they can pay based on existing economic circumstances.

It may be almost true that we aren't making any more land these days, but we are doing some things to make the same land go further and that's having an effect. Look at the double and triple cropping that goes on in this part of the country com-

pared with only a few years ago. Look what irrigation has done to productivity.

Consider the impact of the demise of animal agriculture as we used to know it. Back in the old days, every farmer had a considerable acreage of pastureland. But now with no more horses, with confinement swine and beef production, and with changes in the dairy industry, pasture acreage is almost nonexistent. That means more crop acres.

Add to that all of the land that has been cleared and drained and otherwise brought into farm production, and you realize that the agricultural base has grown over the past several decades. Through their ingenuity and necessity, farmers have in effect created more farmland.

While they were doing that, however, inflation has been beating hard at their heels. And so the hoped for effect of a large productive

unit has been wiped out by the high cost of farming.

So what about the future? Can farmers continue to pay more for land than they're already paying? By the same token, can they pay higher land rents?

Some agricultural economists feel that farmers have been pushed about as far as they can go in this regard. That the cost-price squeeze is catching up to them in a way that will force them to back off from the high land costs.

Consider this data from Illinois studies conducted in 1979. That year the average corn yield for 1000 farmers in the survey was 128 bushels per acre. The average for soybeans was 38 bushels per acre. They received an average \$2.46 a bushel for corn and \$6.38 a bushel for soybeans.

Figuring actual costs of production, the economists point out that it cost those farmers \$228 per acre to grow the corn and \$161 per acre for the soybeans. That's not counting the cost of land.

So, the average return above costs, excluding the land, were \$87 per acre for corn and \$85 for soybeans. But that was last year, and farmers have seen dramatic increases in their cost of production for 1980. Granted, price per bushel is a little better, but at least in this area yields are going to be off.

That means the cost-price squeeze could be even worse.

Using Illinois conditions economists figure the income prospects for this year to be even more dismal than 1979, with an average return above non-land costs at \$64 an acre for both corn and soybeans. That's a decline of about a third since last year. And they project 1981 at about that same level.

What that says in reality is a farmer who is renting land would have only about 60 or 65 dollars per acre available to pay for the land and still break even, based on Illinois production figures and cost estimates. If that's the case, a lot of Illinois farmers are going to be hurting because their land rent costs typically run much higher than that.

What the Illinois economists, and others for that matter, are suggesting is that the cost-price squeeze is such that unless farmers get relief in some other areas, they're going to have to pay lower land rental rates and lower land purchase prices, because in the long run they simply cannot produce at below-cost figures.

The Illinois economists are projecting, based on the substantial survey, what a lot of farmers and agricultural economists across the country have been saying — that land prices and land rents are just too high. Every spring reports abound of what farmers are paying for land — reports

(Turn to Page C32)

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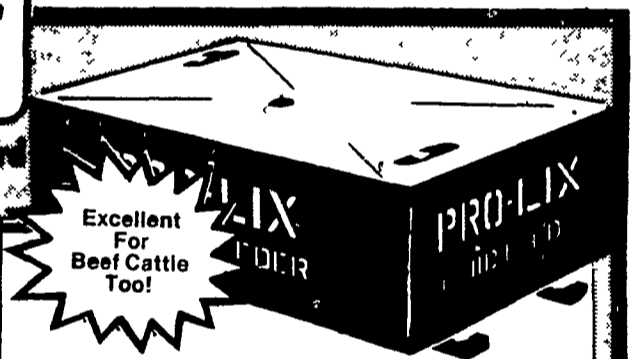
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