

# Commodity prices still under downward pressure

LITITZ — U.S. commodity prices have remained under pressure in recent weeks because of developments affecting both supply and demand.

Average farm prices slipped 0.4 percent in February - the second consecutive monthly decline — reflecting lower prices for wheat, soybeans, and cattle.

Markets have been weak in response to generally favorable crop developments in the Southern Hemisphere, some improvement in U.S. soil moisture conditions, continued large domestic meat supplies, and lagging demand for agricultural products caused partly by sluggish economic activity and high interest rates both here and abroad.

Export activity for corn and soybeans has been sluggish recently, as buyers appear to be remaining hand-to-mouth in an

attempt to minimize inventory costs and obtain the market benefits of large Southern Hemisphere crops. Both movement and sales may pick up as the crops come into better focus and uncertainties in Eastern Europe are clarified.

U.S. farm income and food price levels during the first quarter are likely to be lower than earlier expected. Commodity prices in coming months will be increasingly affected by crop prospects in Northern Hemisphere countries — particularly the United States, where plantings are likely to expand but yields will be highly dependent on rainfall.

Some price strength should be provided by the tightening world supplies of feed grains, oilseeds, and cotton.

Livestock prices should strengthen as producers reduce

output in response to a squeeze on returns. In spite of recent declines, average U.S. farm prices have remained 10 percent above a year ago.

Export prospects for U.S. farm products in fiscal 1981 have dimmed in recent months. Exports are projected at a record \$47 billion — 16 percent above last year's \$40.5 billion, but \$1.5 billion below the previous estimate (November 1980). Exports in the first quarter of fiscal 1981 (October-December) were above a year ago, but below expectations.

Much of the decline is due to price weakness for soybeans and products caused by generally favorable crop developments in South America, a strengthening dollar, and sluggish demand for soybeans and products in Western Europe.

Pesticide supplies should be

ample during 1981. Basic manufacturers' overall supplies are reported to be four percent greater than last season — with herbicide supplies up eight percent, insecticide supplies down three percent, and fungicide supplies about the same as a year ago. Prices are expected to average about 10 percent above last year.

The U.S. transportation system moved record volumes of grain,

fresh fruits and vegetables, and processed foods in 1980, while its capacity continued to expand. A substantial increase in the inventory of suitable rail and barge equipment is forming a buffer against local service disruptions. Nevertheless, spot shortages of equipment can still be expected during peak seasons in 1981. Railway labor contracts are up for renewal, but it is too early to forecast the course of negotiations.



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## WIC BEDDING CHOPPER

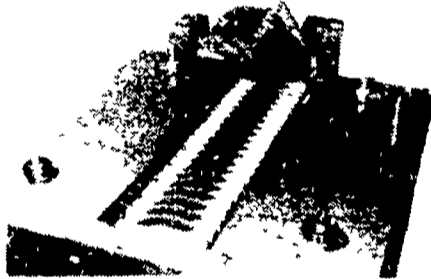
**No Competitor Can Beat The WIC CHOPPER For Performance And Cost**

The Wic bedding chopper chops straw, hay or corn fodder and spreads it uniformly under your cows, all in a single operation. When you use chopped bedding, you save on straw and your cows stay much cleaner. On top of that, cleaning up is a breeze...

All models of Wic's bedding-chopper have four rows of knives, insuring a better spreading action.

Wic has also forseen an adjustable grill, in 5 positions, to avoid overloading the motor while using different bedding such as damp straw, old hay, etc.

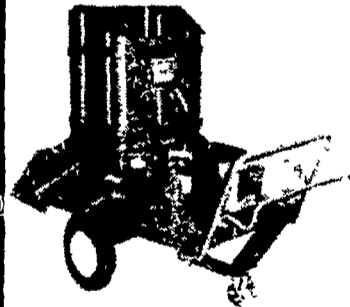
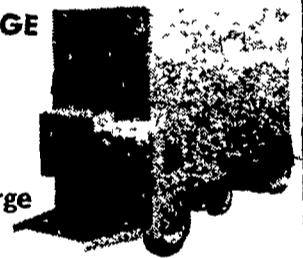
With a simple adjustment that either speeds up or reduces the rotation of the tub, you can cut the bedding to the desired length. Wic the futuristic chopper now!



**FRAME** steel monocoque paint  
**BARREL** plastic 3/16" thick  
**WHEELS** 2 pneumatic of 16"  
**WHEELS** 1 swiveling  
**BRAKE** on wheel swiveling  
**CAPACITY** 1-bale/50 seconds approx  
**DIMENSIONS** width 31" (80 cm) (with out handle) length 45" (115 cm)  
**DIMENSIONS** height 55" (140 cm)  
**WEIGHT** 440 lb (200 kg)

**WIC MOTORIZED SILAGE WAGON WITH HYDROSTATIC SPEED CONTROL**

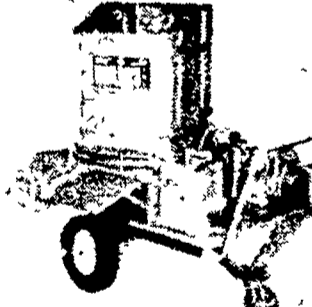
- ★ Regular Feed Discharge or 40" High Feed Discharge
- ★ Electric or Gas Operated



**ELECTRIC BEDDING CHOPPER**

Wic also makes an electric 200 volt a.c. chopper or a 24 volt d.c. battery operated chopper including an automatic charger. These two models are equipped in the factory with a manual starter panel and are protected by fuses to diminish risk of accidents.

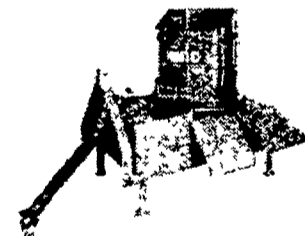
Very quiet, these bedding choppers are mostly used on small or medium sized farms. As well as being mobile, the 220 volt a.c. model can be installed stationary. Motor: 220 volt a.c. 3 hp 24 volt d.c. 2 1/2 hp



**GAS BEDDING CHOPPER**

The gas powered bedding chopper is the most popular on the market. Its operation is simple and it handles easily. Equipped with a Honda 4 stroke gas engine, the Wic bedding chopper insures maximum output while in use.

Motor: 5 7 or 10 hp 4 stroke Honda  
Starter: 5 hp manual and 7 and 10 hp manual or electric start



**POWER TAKE OFF BEDDING CHOPPER**

Wic has perfected a three point hitch PTO chopper activated by the power of your tractor. Easy to install, it is ideal for free stalls, or in strawberry fields for mulching purposes.

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