



## On being a farm wife - And other hazards

Joyce Bupp

Across the land, an army of combines is gobbling through millions of acres of grain-heavy corn and soybeans. Indeed, for much of the country, it promises to be a bin-bustin' yield, a harvest of blessed bounty, almost beyond belief.

And on countless family farms across the nation, another harvest possibility looms.

A harvest of bankruptcies. A noted economist has predicted

that the whole farm economy is teetering on the verge of disaster, rapidly approaching the bleak years of the "Great Depression."

Any farm wife who handles the family-business checking account doesn't need an economist to enlighten her on the state of farm finances. All she needs to do is try to balance the checkbook.

"I just about cry when I take the milk check to the bank," confided one friend during a recent sharing

of economic woes.

While the government basically sets farm commodity prices, it then turns around and plays fast and loose with world market demands for our products.

We kitchen-table economists figure that Washington not only holds all the aces in the high stakes game of international commodity trading, they're also playing hands that make farmers come out looking like the jokers.

For instance, domestic meat producers and consumers alike labor under added costs of regulations and inspections at several levels of processing, 66 million pounds of recently imported boxed "beef" turned out to be kangaroo meat.

Needless to say, we kitchen-table economists getting hoppin' mad over that indignity.

When grain growers respond to pleas to plant fence-row to fence-row, ostensibly to feed the world, they instead fed the bank accounts of other nations who stepped in to fill the void created by the grain embargo, likely reselling some of the grain they'd purchased from our ports.

Again, recently, rather than sell butter at world market prices (about \$1.10 per pound) to the Soviets, Washington whizzes instead gave it to New Zealand at the bargain-basement price of something over 70 cents per pound. Guess where the Soviets will get their butter?

An added kicker was that New Zealand also can veto our butter sales to other world market buyers for a stretch of time.

Makes lots of sense, huh?

My naive kitchen-table-economy mind figures it would be better to sell our neighbors food on the world market, than to continue massive shipments of our advanced technologies, which they can in turn use as a threat in the escalating saber-shaking arms race.

Butter to the Soviets? Or massive farm bankruptcies?

Which would really do the most harm to this nation in the long run?

# Farm Business News

## York Calcium Chips developed for poultry

YORK — A new source of supplemental calcium for laying flocks, "York Calcium Chips," are now being produced by York Stone & Supply Company for poultrymen throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland.

York Calcium Chips were developed as an economical replacement for oyster shells. Having a calcium level of 39 percent and a magnesium level of less than one percent, these soft limestone chips provide a slow release of calcium into the bloodstream as the eggshell is being formed.

Information released by the University of Maryland (Bulletin No. 377), Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station (Bulletin No. 291) and an analysis of multiple research papers by David A. Roland Sr., Auburn University, conclude that dietary calcium for eggshell formation may be equally effective when derived from high-quality limestone or standard oyster shells.

For the past year, York Stone & Supply Company has been conducting feeding trials with several commercial poultrymen to develop a product that mixes uniformly with the feed, is accepted by the laying flock and maintains eggshell quality equal to results being experienced with the supplemental feeding of oyster shells.

York Calcium Chips are the result of this work. As a secondary benefit, the larger "chips" remain in the gizzard of the birds and act as grit or "teeth" to increase the grinding action on more fibrous feedstuffs.

York Calcium Chips are available in bulk and 50-pound packages. For more information on York Calcium Chips, see your local feed supplier or contact York Stone & Supply Company, Roosevelt Avenue at Fahs Street, P.O. Box 1948, York, Pa. 17405.

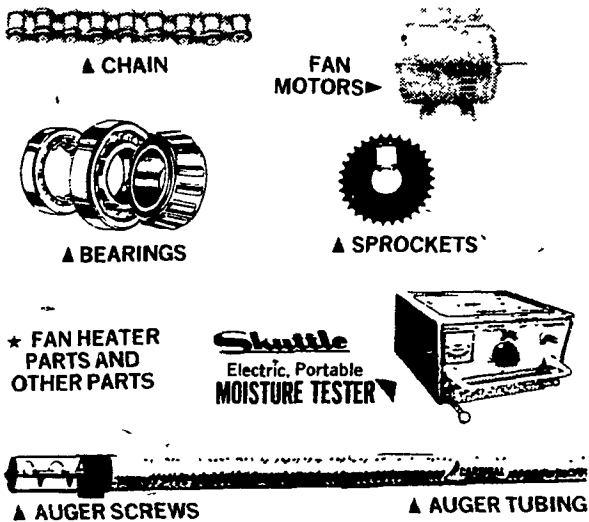


### Suggested Readings

## CA's fruitfly program

LANCASTER — USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has issued a seven-page report on the California Mediterranean fruit fly program. The report is available by writing APHIS Information Division, Rm. 1148-S, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20205.

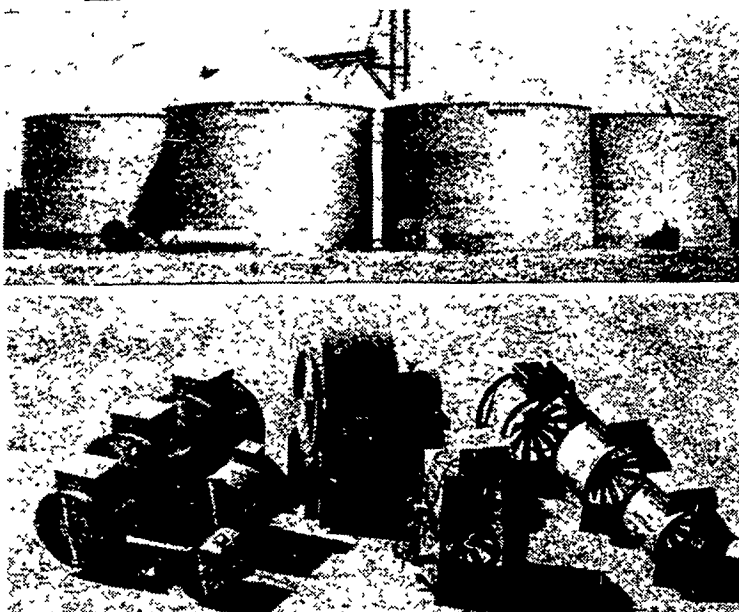
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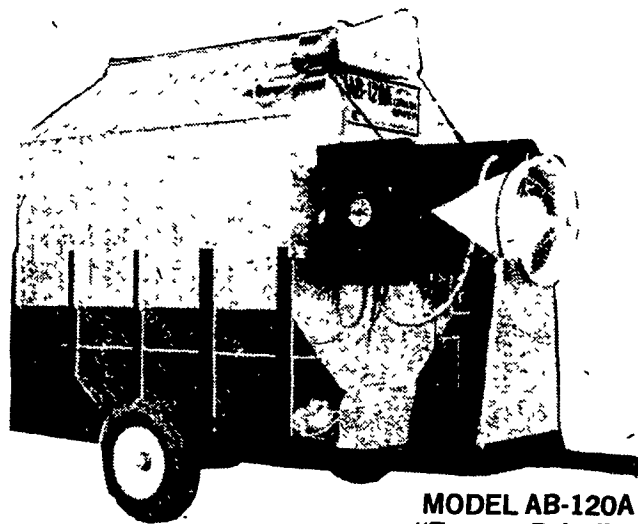
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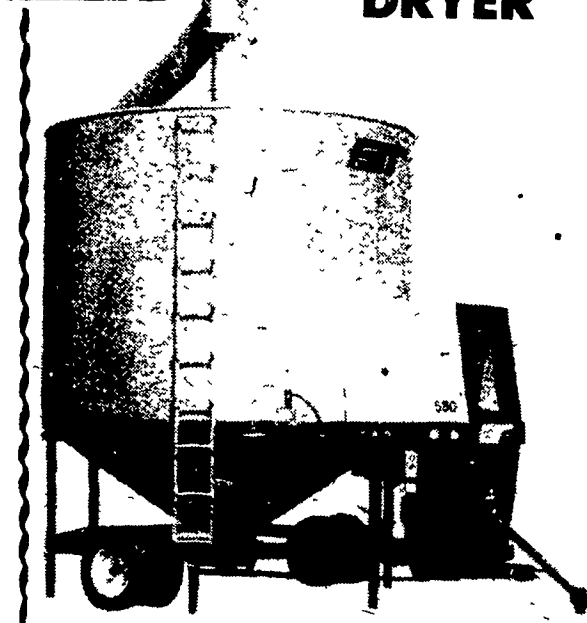
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