

## Block reviews trade issues with Canadian ag minister

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block and Canadian Agriculture Minister John Wise today agreed on several agricultural trade and policy matters at the first meeting since they arranged last fall to meet on a

semi-annual basis.

Major items of agreement included:

- Joint efforts at improving agricultural trade relations by encouraging the formation of a U.S.-Canadian horticultural industry advisory group to identify

the problem areas and recommend ways of reducing trade frictions.

- A commitment to do what is necessary to improve market access, and reduce trade distortions such as export subsidies.

"Agricultural trade between

Canada and the United States is valued at nearly \$6 billion a year in Canadian funds, or about \$4.5 billion in U.S. currency," Wise said. "Our growing bilateral trade and our respective interests as major agricultural suppliers to the world market make it very important that we meet on a regular basis and maintain our awareness of the situation on both sides of the border."

The two agricultural leaders agreed to meet again this fall, noting that the semi-annual meetings are beneficial for agriculture in both countries. "These meetings give us an opportunity to exchange views on our

respective domestic farm policy developments, to address bilateral trade irritants, and to identify ways of furthering our mutual interests in strengthening the world agricultural trade system," Block said.

Other subjects discussed were the U.S. countervailing duty investigation into Canadian hog and pork exports to the United States, the U.S. import quotas on certain products containing sugar, Canada's Western Grain Transportation Act, cross-border trade in potatoes and other horticultural products, health matters in livestock trade, and the status of the 1985 U.S. farm bill.

## State grain stocks up 73%

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's corn, oats, wheat and barley stocks on April 1 totaled 97.7 million bushels, up 73 percent from 1984, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Stocks on farms, at 85.9 million bushels, were up 80 percent from last year and off-farm stocks at 11.8 million bushels were up 39 percent.

Pennsylvania corn stored in all positions on April 1 totaled 84.6 million bushels, up 86 percent from last year's level of 45.4 million bushels. Oats held in all positions amounted to 8.0 million bushels, up 24 percent from the 6.5 million bushels on hand a year earlier. Wheat stocks in all positions

totalled 4.26 million bushels, up 17 percent from last year's level of 3.63 million bushels.

Pennsylvania barley in all storage positions, at 886,000 bushels, increased five percent from a year ago. Soybean stocks on farms at 2.26 million bushels were almost three times more than last year's total of 766,000 bushels.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on April 1 totaled 3.96 billion bushels, 22 percent more than the 1984 level of 3.25 billion bushels. Oats in all storage positions totaled 256 million bushels, down five percent from April 1 a year ago. Barley stored in all positions totaled 319 million bushels, 19 percent more than the 269 million bushels on a hand a year ago.

All wheat stored in all positions on April 1 totaled 1.67 billion bushels, five percent less than the 1.76 billion bushels on hand a year earlier. Soybeans in all positions totaled 898 million bushels, up 14 percent from last year.

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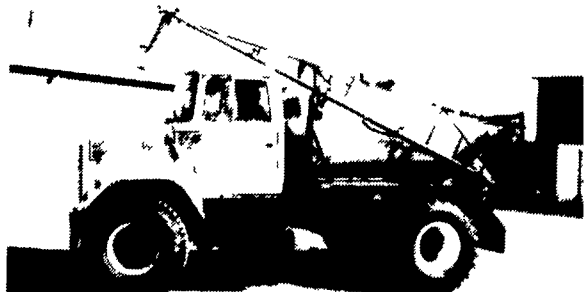
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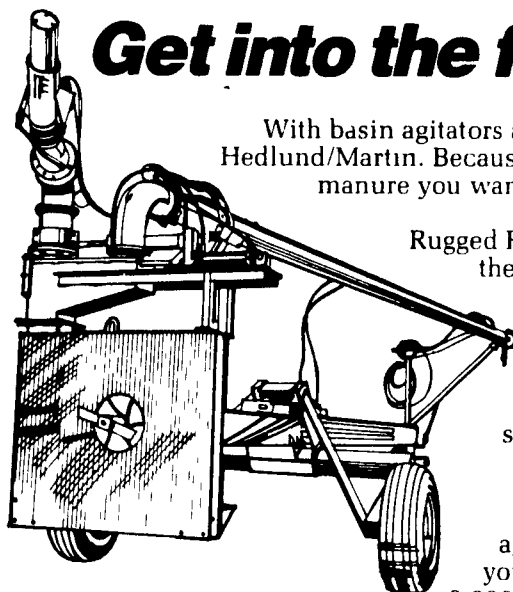
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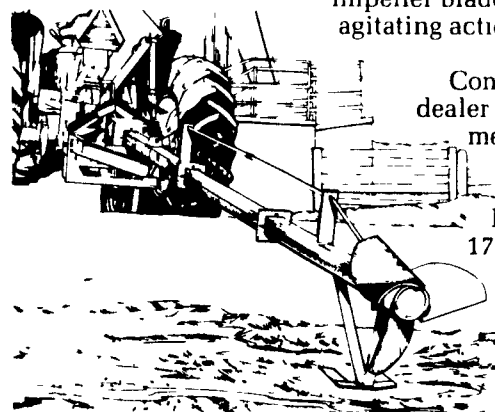


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