

Simplicity Key NCGA Priority

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Law-makers received one, clear unanimous message from farmers during the farm bill debate: "Make the program simpler, quicker, and with much

less red tape!" "The new farm program is definitely simpler than it has been in the past," said Tom Grau, a former president of the NCDF and now director of the

Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Iowa. "When producers walk in to the FSA office, it is taking less time, there are fewer forms, and they are able to get the job done quicker."

To enroll in the new farm program, producers need to complete a production flexibility contract, an update of their farm operating plan for payment eligibility review, and highly erodible land and wetland conservation certification. In return, the FSA gives farmers a production flexibility worksheet that shows estimated payment ranges on each

enrolled commodity for the 1996 through 2002 crop years on each farm.

While this might sound like a mouthful, Lynn Laible, NCDF vice president from Magnolia, Ill., said it only took him about 45 minutes to complete the sign-up process.

Jim Mitchell, a NCGA director from Plain City, Ohio said he spent about 60 percent of the time he had in the past

Tim Burrack of Arlington, Iowa, also completed the process in record time. He attributes his quick trip to fewer detailed questions about his operation.

Perhaps Mike Shuter, NCGA director from Frankton, Ind., put it best. "It wasn't any more complicated than it was last year," he said. "I'm more worried about getting stuff in the ground."



CORN TALK

Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page 1)

- Tuesday, December 10
Ag Service School, Williamsport.
- Wednesday, December 11
Ag Service School, Carlisle.
- Thursday, December 12
Ag Service School, Reading.
- Friday, December 13
Ag Service School, Lancaster.
- 1997 Events
- Monday, January 20
Crop Management Association

- meeting, State College.
- Tuesday, January 21
Lime, Fertilizer, and Pesticide Conference, State College.
- Friday, February 7
Pa. Corn Growers and Pennsylvania Soybean Board Joint Conference, Holiday Inn, Grantville.
- Tuesday, February 11
Silage: Field To Feedbunk Conference, Hershey.



CORN TALK NEWS

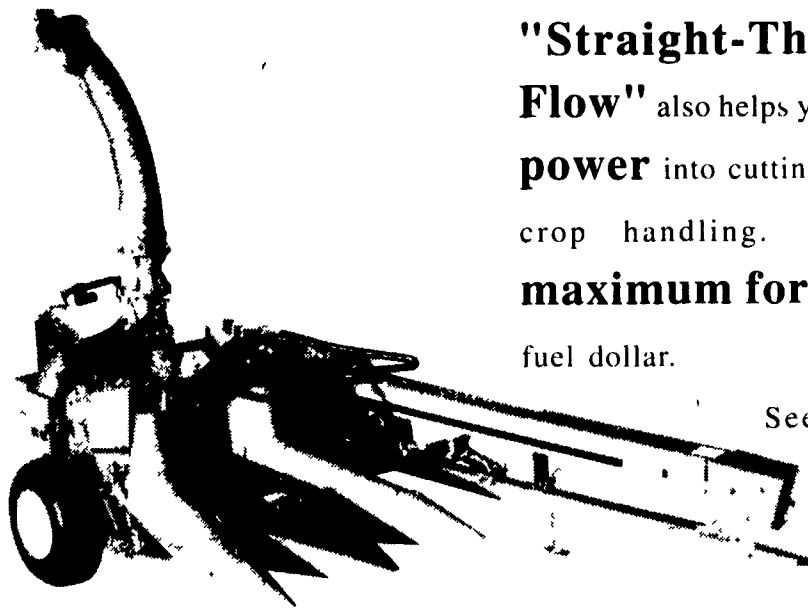
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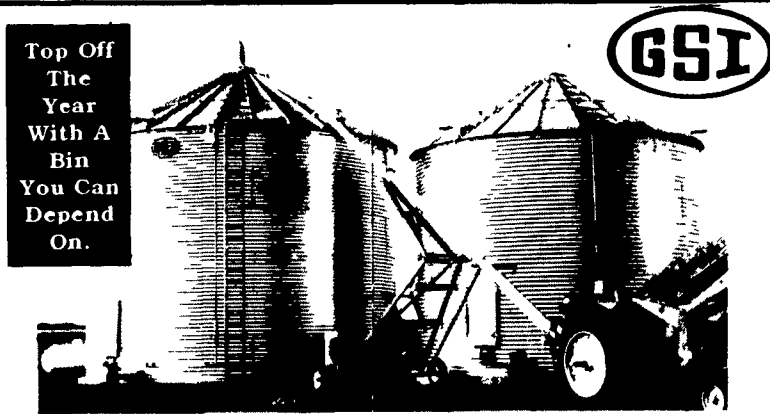


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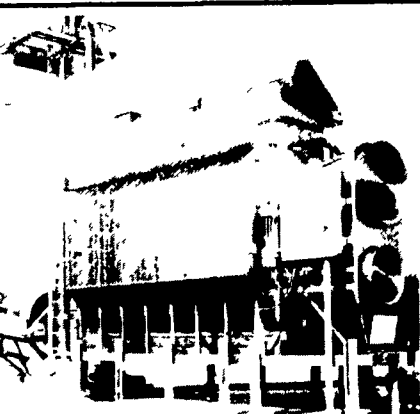
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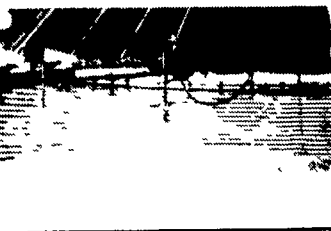
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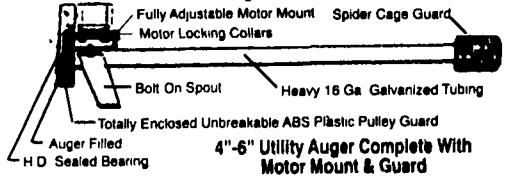
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