

## Farmer cont'd from f1

trol chemical distribution.

As well, this year yielded a cool and damp summer. Some harvesters that were late to the punch this year had a difficult time of it as wet and sometimes soggy fields were waiting to mire heavy equipment.

Lower temperatures affected corn and soybean, reducing their yield per acre.

And if nature didn't cause some problems for Joe average farmer, then man could have.

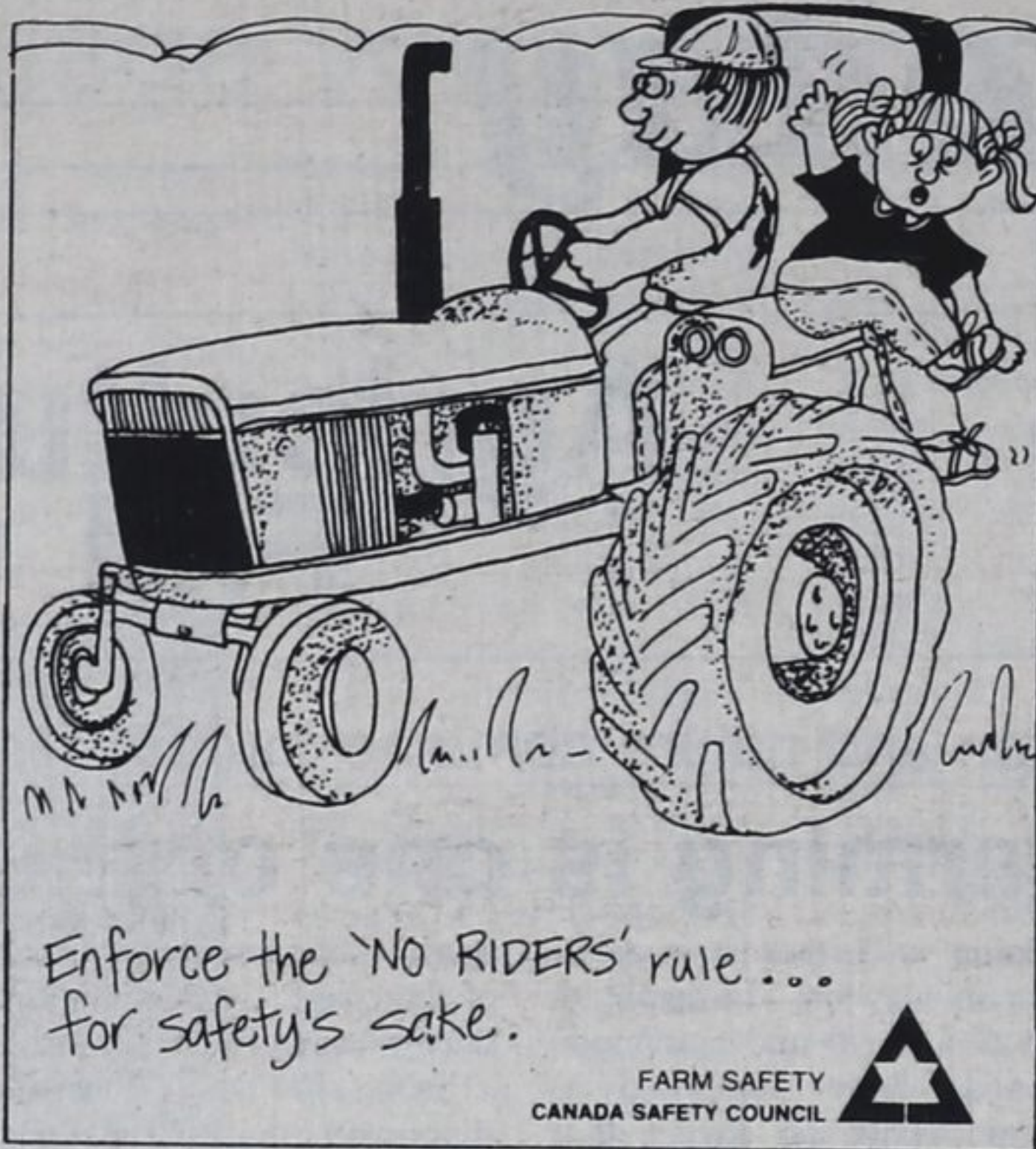
With the provincial and federal governments trying to

bring down spending, financial relief for the agriculture industry seemed a way off.

The federal government is reviewing the role of the Farm Credit Corporation and hopes to present a revised definition of the part it will play in the farming finance area by the end of this month.

Said federal ag. minister John Wise of the FCC review, "FCC staff are initiating a con-

cont'd on f3



## Sorry one rider only please

Farm machines are designed for one rider only - the operator.

Yet time and time again children and youth are permitted to ride on farm machines - with tragic results. The small thrill a child gets from a tractor ride is a stiff price to pay for the nightmare that can

so easily result.

A sudden bump can throw a passenger from the fender into the path of the rear wheel; a fall from the drawbar can cause him to be crushed by trailing equipment.

Enforce the NO RIDERS RULE - for safety's sake.

## Pumpkin seeds.. yummy

Toasted pumpkin seeds make a great snack, says Foods and Nutrition Specialist Monica Beaumont with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's rural organizations and services branch.

To toast pumpkin seeds,

place seeds on a greased baking sheet, sprinkle with salt, if desired. Bake at 180 degrees Celsius (350 degrees Fahrenheit) for 20 minutes or until crisp and golden brown. Turn seeds occasionally to prevent burning.

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## Agriculture is big business here in Canada

Canadian agriculture provides us with our most basic natural resource - food.

Canadian agriculture accounts for one-sixth of all the economic activity in Canada and employs 18 per cent of our work force. It also provides us with a positive agricultural trade balance of some \$4 billion.

In order to ensure future agricultural growth and prosperity, several challenges must be faced.

### Farms hit hard

Canada's farm economy has been hit hard by the recession. A record rate of bankruptcies and the 15 per cent rate of arrears on Farm Credit Corporation accounts are evidence of the recession's impact. Farmers have been caught in the squeeze between high production costs and low commodity prices.

In 1951 it took \$4.97 of

capital investment to yield one dollar of net farm income. By 1982 the requirement had soared to \$34.74.

Farming has become a very capital intensive industry and, as a result, is very sensitive to fluctuations in interest rates. Canadian agriculture needs a source of stable, reasonably-

is the Farm Credit Corporation, an institution my party feels should be strengthened.

More attention must be paid to scientific research and development. While the average farm today produces much more food than it did 40 years ago, Canada still lags behind in developing the technologies, such as biotechnology, which promise to revolutionize the entire industry.

We know that money spent on Research and Development is a good investment, in some cases returning \$12 - 18 for

every dollar invested.

Many producers believe that governments have adopted a "cheap food" policy without considering its consequences. The average Canadian consumer spends approximately 16 per cent of his disposable income on food. I believe that this comparatively low percentage gives government the ability to protect Canada's agricultural

commodity groups from temporary, low-priced imports.

Furthermore, Canada must recapture its share of world trade in agricultural exports. While Canada has a positive agriculture trade balance, this balance is largely the result of massive grains sales. Excluding grains, Canada has a negative agricultural trade balance of close to \$2 billion.

But external pressures are only part of the story. At home the agri-industry is locked in a battle for the soil itself. In a country where only five per cent of the land area is suitable for farming - and the majority of it located around our major cities - a fierce competition for land has developed.

Federal-provincial co-operation and a real understanding of the needs of the agri-industry will be needed if we are to resolve this challenge.

## Don't eat the poison

The seeds of apricots, peaches, apples and cherries are poisonous. Chewing the seeds can cause breathing difficulties and staggering, says

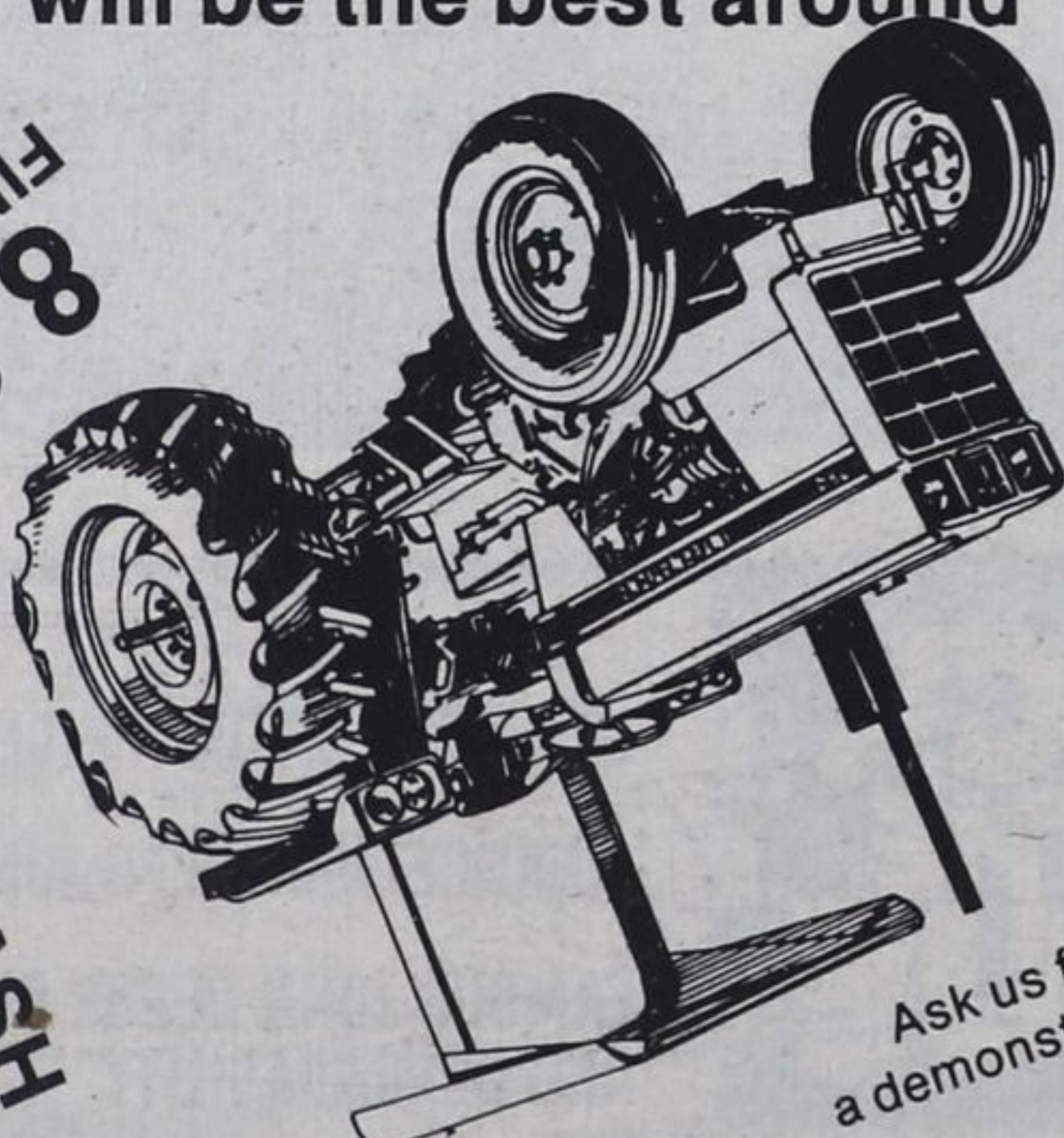
Foods and Nutrition Specialist Monica Beaumont with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's rural organizations and services branch.

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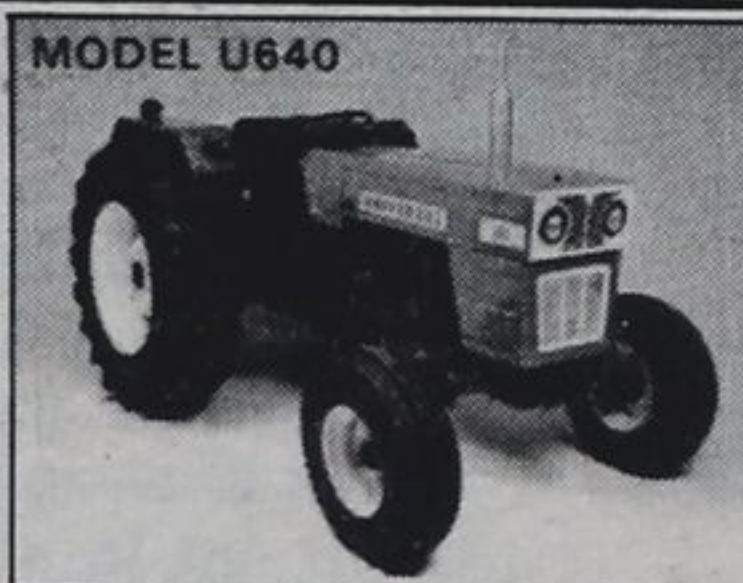
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