



Huronian



Agriculture Update

Farmers note political position

"Canadian farmers will be taking a very close look at party positions on farm finance and agricultural trade before casting their votes in

the federal election" says Don Knoerr, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Farm financing has long been a

major concern of the CFA and the recent troubles at the Farm Credit Corporation have increased that concern.

"We will be looking for commitments to the FCC," says Knoerr, "commitments like long

term loans at reasonable interest rates - that is, three to four per cent above the rate of inflation - and assurance that farmers will have access to adequate shorter term credit."

Trade policies are the CFA's

other major pre-occupation. "We have always supported negotiations for fairer trade in agriculture," says Knoerr.

"However, negotiators must not compromise specific sectors of Canadian agriculture while negotiating for improved access for other Canadian produced commodities."

The federation lists major concerns with the free trade deal:

- The uniqueness and effectiveness of the Canadian Wheat Board marketing system must not be compromised.
- Strong administrative and policing systems must be in place to keep American product separate from Canadian product, and to keep U.S. grain from being shipped with assistance from Canada's Western Grain Transportation Act.
- Steps must be taken to ensure that provisions of the agreement do not interfere with price pooling and the normal commercial practices of Canada's supply management marketing boards.

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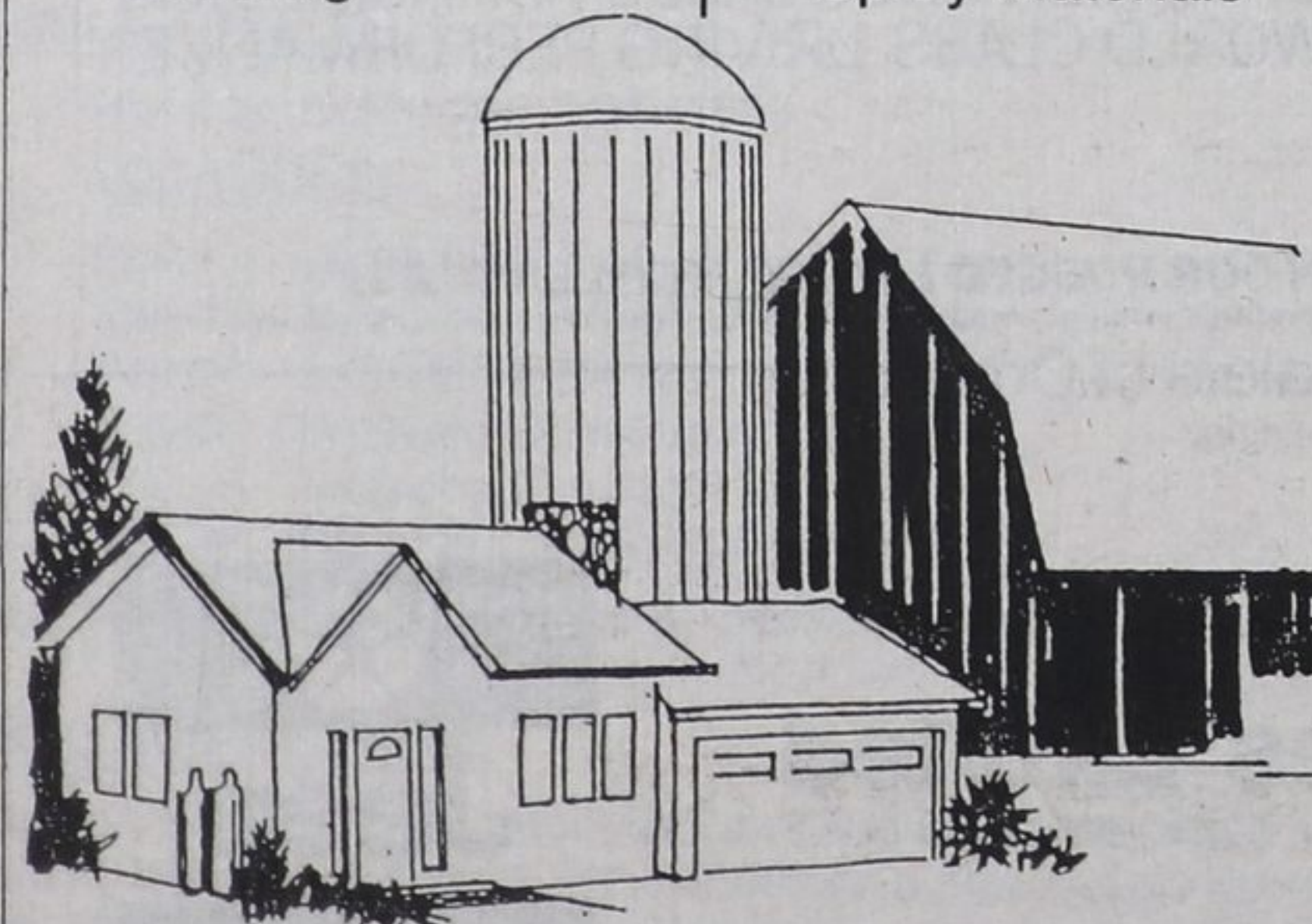
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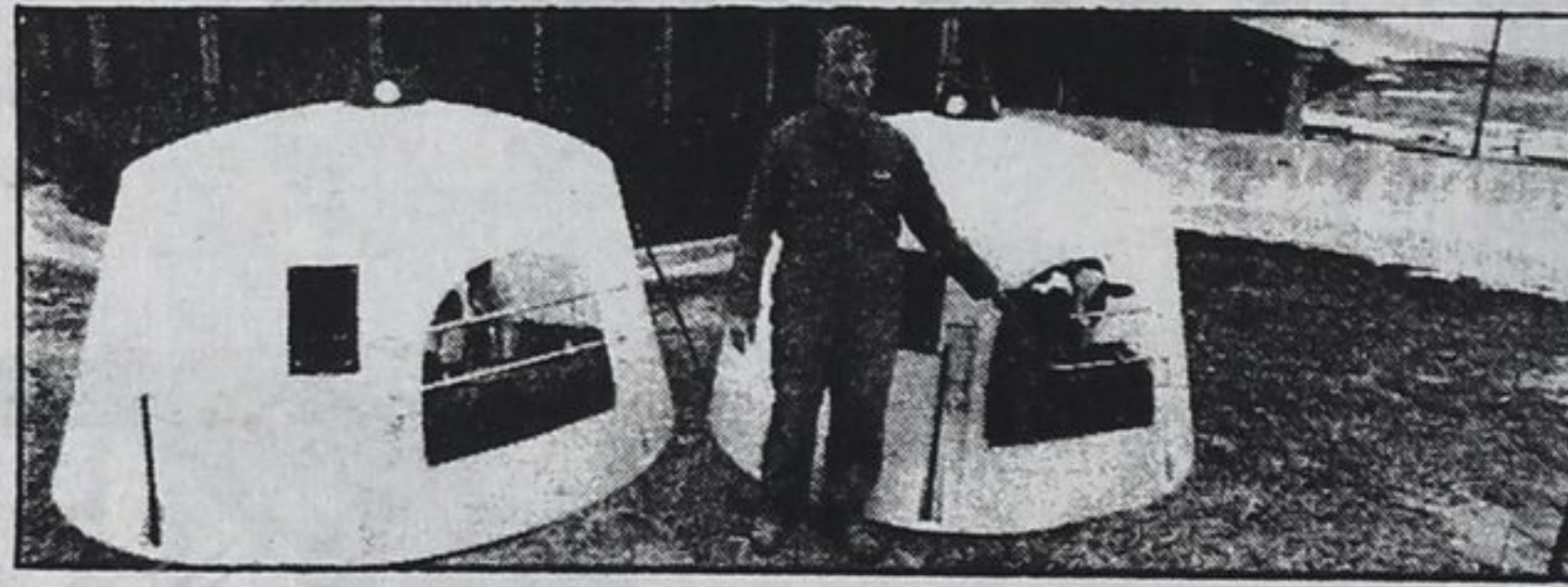
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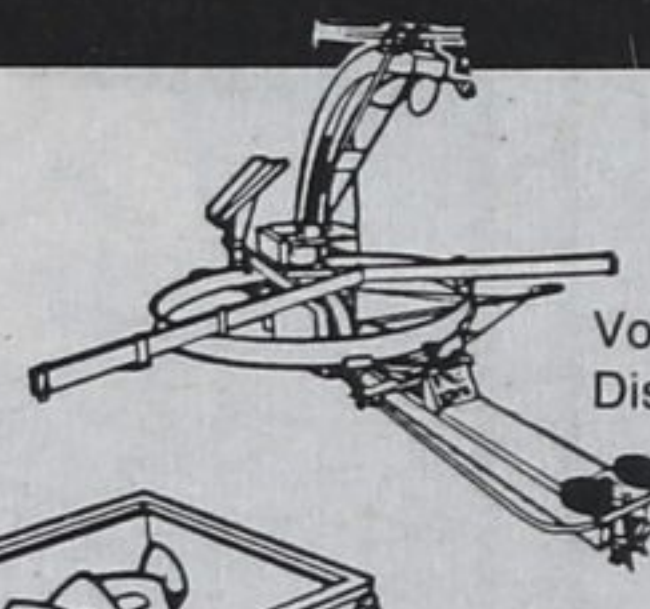
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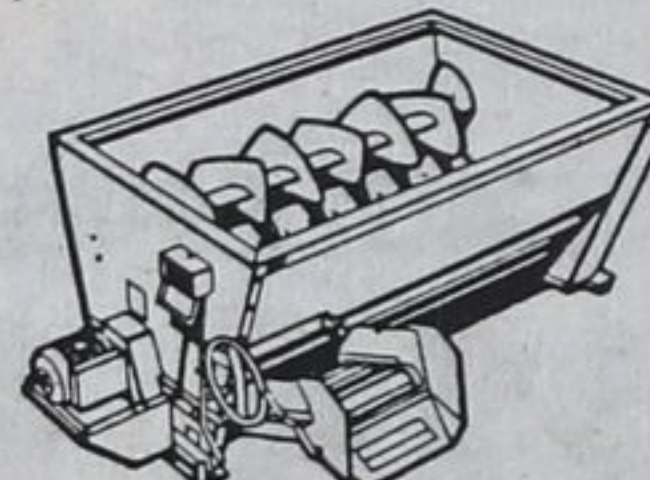
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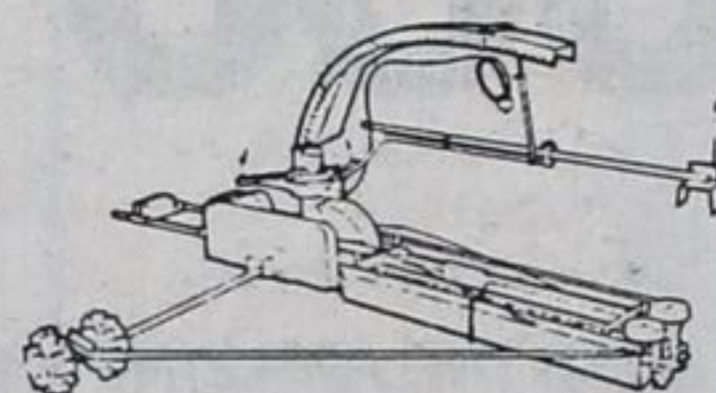
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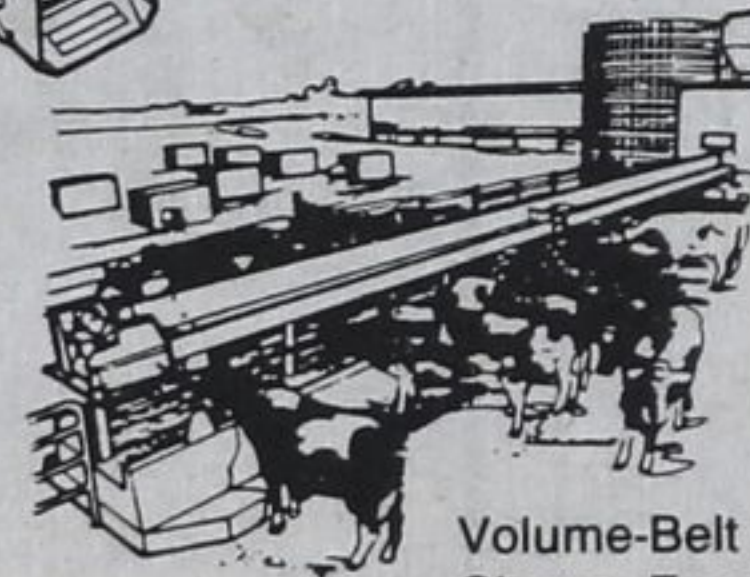
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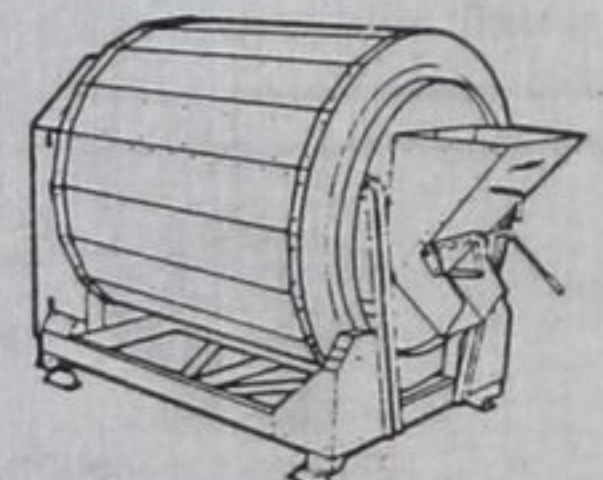
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