

features

# Grain dealer complains about embargo

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Brice Harris, a grain dealer based in Watonga, Okla., may be typical of grain elevator operators across the nation who are intensely worried about the consequences of President Carter's grain and soybean embargo.

Harris says he does not usually write letters to federal officials, but last week he wrote a letter to Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland to complain that "this time the action you have taken is having far too big a negative effect on us as a country grain dealer and on our grain producers."

He told Bergland that administration officials "do not realize the burden you have placed on the agriculture industry of this nation and the far-reaching effect it will have on the economy unless you come up with a method to spread this tremendous cost out over the nation as a whole."

Harris, who is president of Wheeler Brothers Grain Co. Inc., told Bergland that the firm faces a potential loss of \$200,000 to \$300,000.

The firm has six country elevators in northwest Oklahoma located within a 30-mile radius of Watonga, and seven elevators in the Texas Panhandle near the towns of White Deer, Pampa and Groom.

Harris said the 13 elevators handle 6.5 million bushels of wheat and 2.5 million bushels of grain sorghum each year directly from area farmers.

At close of business on Jan. 4 — a few hours before Carter announced an embargo of 17 million tons of grain and 1 million tons of soybeans — Wheeler Brothers' elevators owned 405,000 bushels of wheat and 114,000 bushels of grain sorghum.

Harris said the firm owned that much grain because it was unable to

get rail cars or trucks to move it.

Describing a Catch-22 dilemma, he said, "We could not contract ahead for sale because we had to give delivery dates, and we could not because we couldn't get the cars."

Harris told Bergland, "We know that nearly every country elevator in the nation owned some grain as of Jan. 4, 1980, and stand to lose quite a bit of money because of this action."

A week after the embargo, Harris was unable to sell any of the firm's thousands of bushels of grain which he estimated to be worth \$1.5 million.

The firm is paying about 15.5 percent interest to hold the grain, or \$19,375 every 30 days.

He estimated that the grain eventually would be sold at a 75-cent per bushel loss.

Grain producers are "complaining about this embargo and they are

getting very, very angry," Harris said. "Some of these producers will end up by going broke. There's no doubt about it."

Farmers were having a hard time before the embargo, but now they face a cash flow problem and may not be able to get credit, he said.

"In about five months, we will have another wheat harvest," Harris said. "The question now is: Where are we going to put it?"

Officials insist there is sufficient

storage capacity.

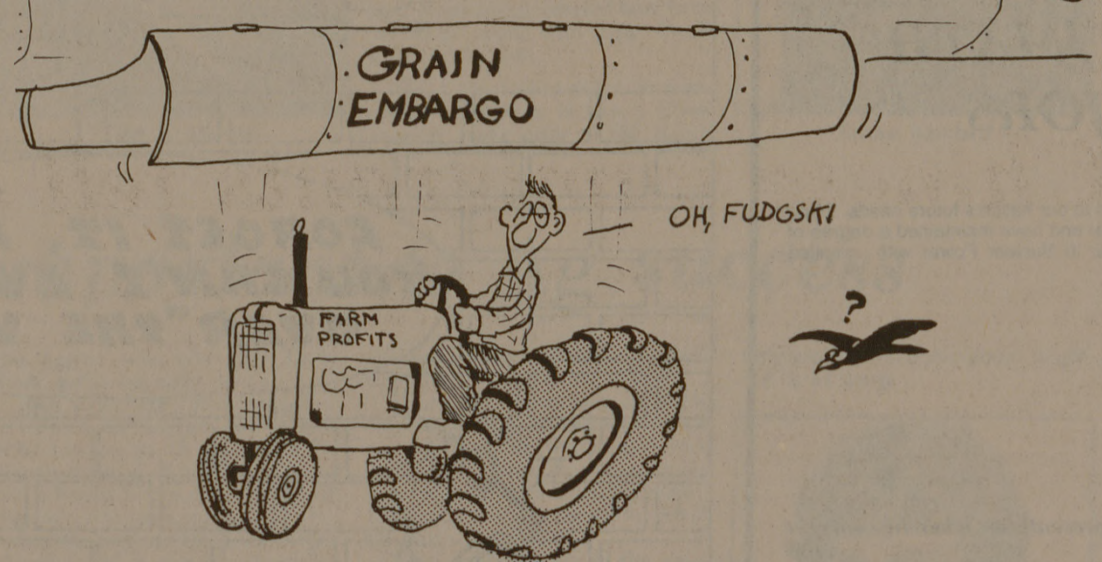
In his letter to Bergland, Harris suggested that government officials have ignored the impact of the embargo on many people who will be "badly damaged or ruined."

The administration has offered to assume contracts which grain exporters had with the Soviet Union at an estimated cost of \$2.5 billion. In turn, the exporters are to honor their contracts with country elevators who are to pay their contracts with farmers.

One purpose of the takeover of

contracts was to remove grain from the market so that supply and demand would be the same as before the embargo. But, of course, there will be no payments to elevators that had no contracts for grain bound for Russia.

Harris said to Bergland: "We feel that the in-between grain dealers and the grain producers that we serve are entitled to a full explanation of how your plan will work to really protect them from the disaster you have suddenly created."



## Greatest space energy is found

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — An astronomer announced Wednesday the discovery of an immense "superbubble" of hot gas that stores more energy than anything else known in the Milky Way galaxy.

Dr. Webster Cash of the University of Colorado said the glowing sphere is 1,200 light years in diameter and an estimated 6,000 light years from Earth. A light year is about 5.9 trillion miles, the distance light travels in a year.

Cash and Dr. Philip Charles of the University of California at Berkeley discovered the bubble while examining X-ray readings made by a space-agency satellite observatory launched in 1977. The phenomenon is centered in the bright summer constellation Cygnus.

"It is clear that we have discovered a magnificent example of the violent interstellar medium at work," Cash told a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in San Francisco.

He said the finding will help astronomers better understand star-forming processes.

"It's going to change our picture of how the interstellar medium dynamics happen," he said.

Cash said the huge cosmic bubble, or halo, had never been spotted before because it packs so much energy that it cools by emitting X-rays, instead of radiation visible through optical telescopes.

The NASA satellite, the High

Energy Astronomy Observatory 1, scanned the universe for X-ray sources in more detail than ever before.

Cash said parts of the bubble had been seen before in brief X-ray glimpses, but no one knew what it was. One part was thought to be a remnant from a massive exploding star.

He said the cooler outer edge of the bubble emits visible light. Such "filaments" have been seen with optical telescopes for years, but not understood.

Other bubbles are known to exist in the galaxy, but Cash said this is by far the largest ever seen. And the bubble is still growing at a rate of about 18 miles a second.

At 3.5 million degrees Fahrenheit, the sphere contains enough gas — primarily hydrogen — to create 10,000 new stars, like the sun. Its energy output is an estimated 10 times that emitted by the sun since its formation 5 billion years ago.

Cash said there are no other known astrophysical processes in the galaxy capable of supplying this much energy.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said, "What puzzles scientists is finding an answer to how this huge amount of energy got locked up in this gigantic halo in the first place."

Cash suggested the superbubble may have been created by a series of star explosions during the past 3 million years.

## X chromosome makes women stronger sex

United Press International  
CHICAGO — Forget all that nonsense about women being the weaker sex. Two physicians say females are equipped with chromosomes that make them naturally immune to certain male diseases.

"Females, who have one more X chromosome than males, are less likely to get some infectious diseases and certain forms of cancer," Drs. David T. Purtilo and John L. Sullivan wrote in the current issue of the Journal of Diseases of Children.

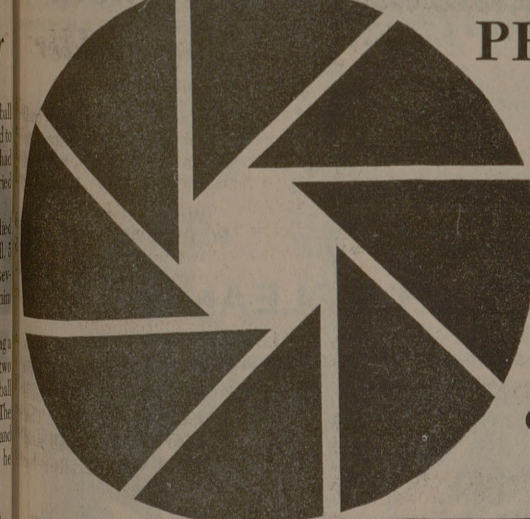
The two researchers said males show a decreased survival rate

throughout the life cycle. Although there are 5 percent more male babies born, women outlive men by eight years on the average.

"In addition to accidents, severe infectious diseases are responsible for many deaths in males," the doctors wrote. "Severe respiratory in-

fections with para-influenza show male preponderance."

They said studies show males also experience more staph infections than females. During recent epidemics of so-called Legionnaire's disease, three times more men than women fell victim to it.



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