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United Press International
NEW YORK — Crows have "an extra helping" of bird brains, according to an article in the August issue of Sports Afield magazine.

As evidence that crows are smarter than most birds, even if they are not liked by farmers, the article notes:

The crow in Charlottesville, Va., who reportedly followed a milkman on his rounds, pried the cap off bottles he left, and

drank the milk as far down as its bill would reach, then went on to the milkman's next stop; the Scandinavian crow who watched ice fishermen until they went for coffee, then pulled up their lines when the red flag popped up, and ate the fish; and the winter

crow roost in Fort Cobb, Okla., where crows migrating south for the winter stop after going just far enough to assure a winter food supply.

Cryts took action against law, now hero to other farmers

United Press International
PUXICO, Mo. — Wayne Cryts led a quiet life on his Missouri farm until the events that made him a hero to many farmers, a symbol of the American farm movement.

"Before we got involved with this, our lives were built around farm and family," is how Cryts puts it. "We spent most of our time around the farm and we didn't even associate with that many people. We were quiet and shy."

No more. Now he is one of the nation's most prominent farm activists.

This turnabout, this conversion from stay-at-home Booth-eel farmer to a strong leader who has gone to jail twice in support of what he believes is right began on Feb. 16, 1981. That day Cryts led a band of farmers on a raid against a bankrupt grain elevator.

Cryts was enraged that a federal judge had ordered the elevator closed and the grain inside impounded until claims by creditors were resolved. He had 31,000 bushels of soybeans inside the Ristine grain elevator. He wanted — and took — them back.

Since the Ristine raid, the 36-year-old farmer has engaged in a running battle with that judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Charles W. Baker, who twice has ordered Cryts to jail. Cryts and members of his family have filed a lawsuit against Baker and others for \$35 million.

Cryts charges Baker caused him to default on farm loans and

harvest was stored at Ristine, did a slow burn as months went by with no determination of ownership.

On Jan. 15, 1981, he gave a one-month deadline for the bankruptcy matter to be settled to the farmers' satisfaction or he would break into the elevator and remove his beans.

Hundreds of farmers, many with empty grain trucks, arrived at Ristine on the deadline day to help Cryts take back his beans. Ten federal marshals also were there to uphold the order of the bankruptcy judge.

The night before the planned raid, a sympathetic lawyer called the motel where Cryts was staying and gave another farmer a message of defiance for Cryts to deliver to the marshals.

The farmer scribbled the words on a napkin and gave it to Cryts. The next morning, Cryts stepped up to one of the marshals, who informed the farmer he was in violation of Baker's order.

Cryts told the marshal: "I am a sovereign individual and a citizen of the state of Missouri and am operating under common law. The court order is without the weight of law and does not have jurisdiction over me."

The marshals conferred then stepped aside.

Since that winter day, Cryts has been cited for contempt of court, jailed twice, seen all of his bank accounts garnished and been forced to consider losing

his farm. He said he considered the consequences before he acted.

"The elevator didn't go broke one day and we jumped in the trucks and go down there the next day," Cryts said.

He admitted his frustration is growing. Cryts said lawyers for the defunct grain company and other creditors were dragging out the bankruptcy proceedings.

"I hope I haven't gotten too cynical," he said. "The lawyers have got themselves a gravy train."

To Baker and other authorities, Cryts is a thief. The judge has ruled that under existing

"There was nothing that judge could do to make me back down." — Cryts.

bankruptcy laws, the grain in the James Brothers elevators remains impounded until the legal proceedings are completed.

By taking his full share of the soybeans, Cryts violated the law and harmed the claims of other farmers who have patiently waited for the court to make a decision concerning distribution of James Brothers assets, Baker said.

The judge's most recent action involving Cryts cleared the way for the Ristine trustee to seize the farm activist's assets

and use them to help pay a \$287,000 judgment against Baker in August.

Baker in August also motioned to free Cryts, paying for the beans from Ristine. The judgment includes a \$1,500 daily penalty.

"That's \$1.04 a day," Cryts said.

Cryts was declared insolvent of a Commodity Credit loan from the Agriculture Department. The farmer officials refused to accept attempts to pay off the loan.

He said he will lose his forced to pay the judgment already had frozen bank accounts and ordered elevators not to accept crops to be harvested there.

However, the bank were removed before the issued his order.

In the jail, 200 miles from his farm on the rolling flat delta land of southeast Missouri near the Mississippi, Cryts was resolute.

In August, he spent nights in jail in Fort Smith after his arrest by federal marshals in the tiny Arkansas town of Cass. Cryts was grand marshal town's parade and authorized \$287,000 judgment to seize the van, which had loaned to him.

After his bank accounts frozen, Cryts said he returned home one day to find that of his farm machinery hidden by friends in case issued orders that it be



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Safety ignored in tractor use

United Press International
COLUMBIA, Mo. — David E. Baker is facing the same problem with farmers that most consumer advocates faced when they first tried to convince American motorists to use seat belts.

Nobody wants to listen about safety. Accidents, they surmise, always happen to someone else.

But 450 farmers were killed and hundreds of others were injured last year on the nation's farms from the simplest of farm accidents — a tractor turning over. Baker, a University of Missouri extension safety specialist, says most of those farmers could

have been saved if their tractors were equipped with either a bar or a cab.

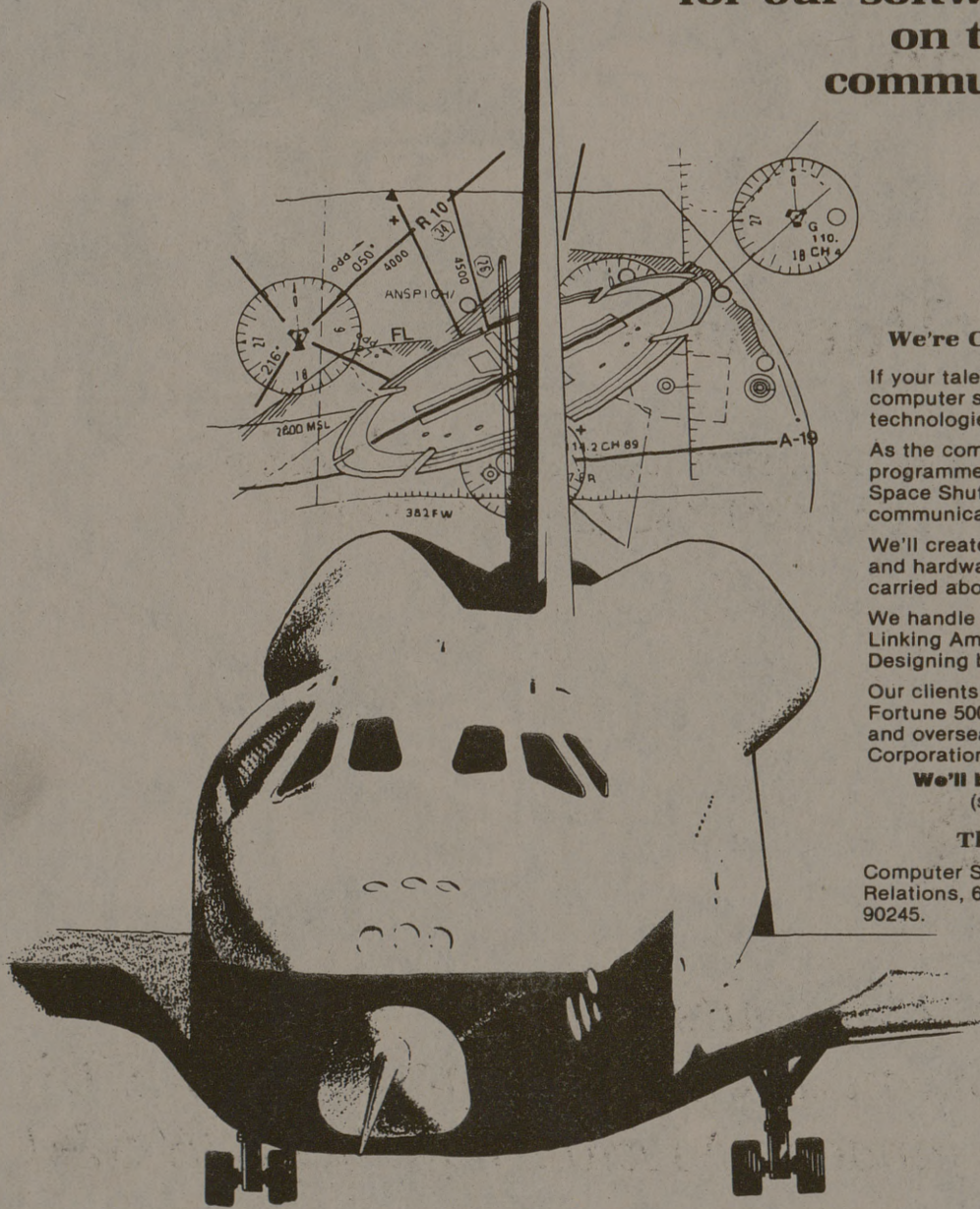
The protective device available as options on most tractors today, but because

tors are made so well and long — and because of depressed agricultural economy — farmers are buying equipment and running longer.

Tractors made prior to 1975 generally are not designed to accommodate protected rollbars.

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