



Ohio farmer Chuck Harley built this 12 x 24 foot solar grain dryer for "a mite under \$600" and expects it to pay for itself the first year. He borrowed the money through the county office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, which can also help builders locate plans. The dryer, on skids, is attached to Harley's 5,000-bushel grain bin.

### Solar Grain Dryer Makes A "Bushel"

JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO — "I bought it all at the local cash and carry hardware," said Chuck Harley, a farmer here trying to beat the high cost of energy by building his own solar grain dryer.

"The total cost was just a mite under the \$600 I had estimated," he said. "Since I spent a bit more than \$600 last year for the propane gas I used to dry my corn, I figure this dryer will soon pay for itself."

Harley is a full-time employee of the Goodyear Atomic Plant in neighboring Pike County. With his weekends, evenings and other free time he also operates a 150-acre farm in this Appalachian foothill region of southern Ohio. He grows corn, soybeans, wheat and hay on a farm reclaimed from an old peach and apple orchard with the help of erosion control and conservation loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Last February, a month when farmers get out their pencils to figure cost and profit possibilities of the coming crop season, Harley was worried about increasing operating expenses, especially for fuel. Leafing through a farm magazine, he saw an article about a small portable solar grain dryer that seemed to him both practical and feasible. He sent

away for the plans.

After talking it over with friends and other farmers, Harley decided he could build the dryer himself if he could find the money. He estimated the cost of materials at around \$600.

Fortunately for him, the Jackson county office of the department's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service announced about that time it was making farm facility loans for solar grain dryers. When he learned that, Harley lost no time making out a loan application.

While Harley became the first farmer in the U.S. to use a department farm facility loan to build a solar grain dryer, the loans have been available for years to help farmers build on-farm storage facilities and obtain needed grain drying and handling equipment. It has been

only since June 1979 that solar drying units have been eligible—and encouraged—for such loans nationwide, through county ASCS offices using department approved plans.

Loans are also available for commercially constructed solar grain drying systems and for multiple use solar systems—both commercial and homebuilt—provided one of the intended uses is grain drying.

Harley built the dryer out of plywood, greenhouse-type clear fiberglass sheets, 2x4 inch studs, hardware cloth and black paint for the solar ray collector. He also needed metal framing and supports and miscellaneous nuts, bolts, hinges and electric wiring for the fan, which runs off house current.

He hooked the dryer up to his 5,000-bushel grain

bin. Harley built the dryer on skids so he can use it at other buildings. Although Harley's solar dryer is designed primarily for crop drying, it can help heat brooding houses and other livestock shelters or farm machine shops and machinery sheds.

"Wonders are many, and none is more wonderful than man." Sophocles

### Call For Action Tips

#### Call A Lawyer

Call For Action, in cooperation with 35 local bar associations, is sponsoring a nationwide "Ask the Lawyer Day" on Thursday, November 29, 1979 from 4 to 8 p.m. Three lawyers from the Durham Young Lawyers Association and three from the North Central

Legal Assistance Program will volunteer their services for this special project. The Durham Call For Action Number is 688-9306.

Local people will be able to get legal information in such areas as marriage-divorce, wills, landlord-tenant relations,

and consumer problems, according to the Call For Action Director.

This will be the third year that Call For Action has sponsored this type of innovative "Ask the Expert Day." Another program "Ask the Tax Expert" will be held in the early part of 1980.

Touch Calling not available in all areas.

New location in Northgate Mall near Sears

"A tart temper never mellows with age, and a sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use." Washington Irving

Free newspapers in the U.S. now have an estimated aggregate circulation of 30 million—equal to that of paid-circulation weeklies and half that of dailies.