

# PennAg Spokesman Says Rail Plan Hurts Farmers

The United States Railway Association was asked to reevaluate the impact of its preliminary system plan to restructure ailing Northeast railroads. D. Jay Wolgemuth, Mt. Joy, made the request on Monday when he appeared before an Interstate Commerce Commission in Harrisburg. Wolgemuth is a member of PennAg Industries Assoc., a group of Pennsylvania agribusinessmen, and is chairman of their transportation committee.

Referring to light density rail lines in the state, Wolgemuth said, "It appears to us that the more the needs of agriculture are considered by the planners, the more apparent the reasons become for continuing service to remote areas."

Wolgemuth pointed out that last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation proposed a plan which would have eliminated rail service to 163 Commonwealth agribusiness firms. The current study would affect only an estimated 56 firms across the state.

These 56 firms responded to a recent PennAg survey of their rail service needs. Some who provided tonnage data said they would increase rail utilization by 54 percent if adequate and consistent service were provided. USRA was urged to check with the firms before reaching their final decision.

Eliminating rail service to these Pennsylvania agribusiness firms and the farmers and communities they serve would mean an economic loss of some \$11.2 million annually, Wolgemuth said. His figures were an extension of a study made by Dr. Thomas R. Kershner of Union College, Bradford County. Five mills in that county were forced to convert to truck transportation for incoming ingredients after tropical storm Agnes wiped out their railroad in 1973. Kershner's study showed that feed costs in the area have risen. The report also indicated that dairy production was adversely affected because some feedgrains became too expensive to use.

"American agriculture and its marketing system are composed of vast and intricate subtleties which relate one to the other and no one really knows for sure what the effect of lost rail

service will mean," Wolgemuth said.

The PennAg spokesman also challenged the USRA's method for branch line profitability. He used as an example the Reading to Columbia branch, a total of 39.65 miles which the USRA chose to break into four segments. In determining costs USRA used the daily cost of a five man crew on each segment rather than dividing by four.

"Discrepancies of this sort tend to discredit other USRA figures," Wolgemuth stated.

TODAY . . . we are thankful . . . that the sun came up . . . and the rain has ceased . . . that the West wind blows into the East . . . that roosters can crow, and flap their wings . . . that flies are small . . . and have no stings . . . that Mom sets the table . . . and plans the meals . . . the youngest does the dishes . . . if she so 'feels' . . . that the boys were once babies . . . but aren't any more . . . they eat and they drink . . . but they work a lot more . . . that the eldest is married to that husband of hers . . . now living together for better or worse . . . that Heidi has kittens . . . and Blackie has one . . . Whitey had puppies and Lobo had none . . . that a yard has three feet . . . but does not walk . . . and jars have mouths but cannot talk . . . that grass is green . . . and roses have thorns . . . that

sparrows can chirp . . . and the turtle dove mourns . . . that trees are tall and made of wood . . . some have fruits that are tasty and good . . . that clocks have hands . . . and some can write . . . they point us the time . . . by day or night . . . that wheels are round . . . and holes are hollow . . . and roads are made for travelers to follow . . . that level isn't flat . . . and air isn't seen . . . though it fills all the buildings . . . and in between . . . that doors have hinges . . . to open and close . . . to keep out the draft . . . when the cold wind blows . . . that Switzerland is small . . . but it is high . . . it's borders touch Europe . . . and its top the sky . . . that the Swiss harness water . . . that flows downhill . . . to push rail-cars uphill at will . . . that the inclined plane . . . of

the 'spiral' type (screw) . . . is used by people far and wide . . . our blessings are many . . . if we pay attention

. . . the list is so great . . . too numerous to mention.

Harvey H. Nolt  
Ephrata R3

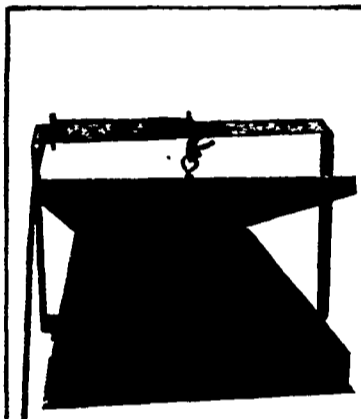
# Reader's Corner



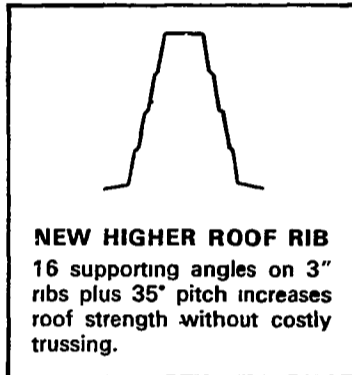
Miller's Repair, Bird in-Hand, Ph. 656-7013

## SUPERIOR

## EDWARD



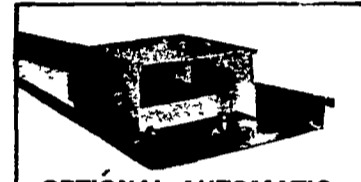
**OPTIONAL GROUND CONTROL ROOF HATCH**  
Easily operated from ground level for proper release of air during drying and conditioning phases.



**NEW HIGHER ROOF RIB**  
16 supporting angles on 3" ribs plus 35° pitch increases roof strength without costly trussing.



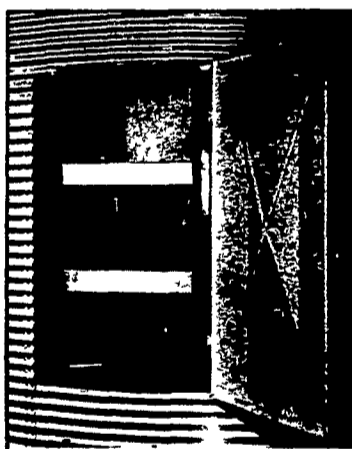
**FULL CIRCLE SAFETY RING**  
Standard on 24' diameter and larger, it is laced through each roof rib to provide a safe, rigid foothold and add strength to roof.



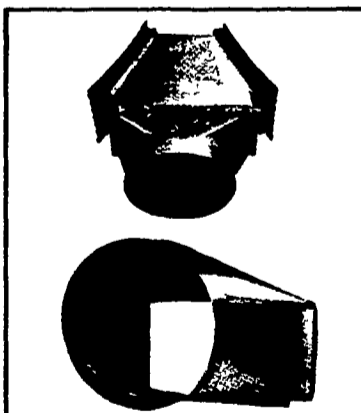
**OPTIONAL AUTOMATIC AIR VENT**  
Louvers open and close automatically providing air outlet when pressure requires and moisture protection when fan is not in operation.



**LARGER FILL CAP**  
Has wide, heavy gauge 39" opening allows access and provides four times as much haust area.



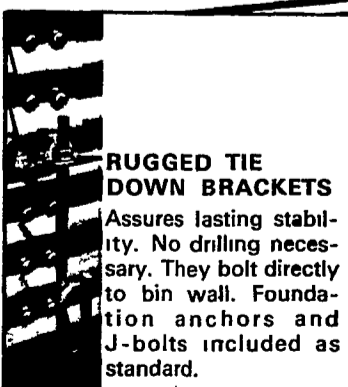
**CORRUGATED SEAL DOOR WITH SWING-AWAY INNER DOOR**  
Provides convenient access. All-welded construction and corrugated frame gives extra strength and an airtight seal.



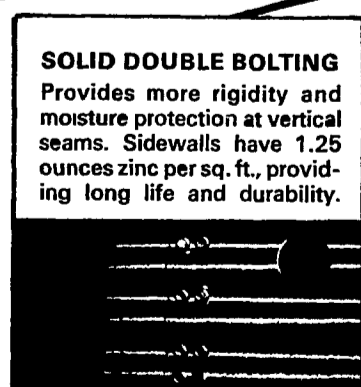
**OPTIONAL AERODYNAMIC TRANSITION UNITS WITH CORRUGATED COLLARS**  
Single and double. Perfectly matched to bins. Provide a proficient air delivery. Double units have dampers for single bin use.



**TORNADO FANS AND HEATERS SERVICE FREE, PUSH-BUTTON OPERATION**  
Fast and sure grain conditioning at the flip of a switch. Newly engineered fans and heaters assure efficient drying air regardless of weather conditions. Available for natural or LP gas.



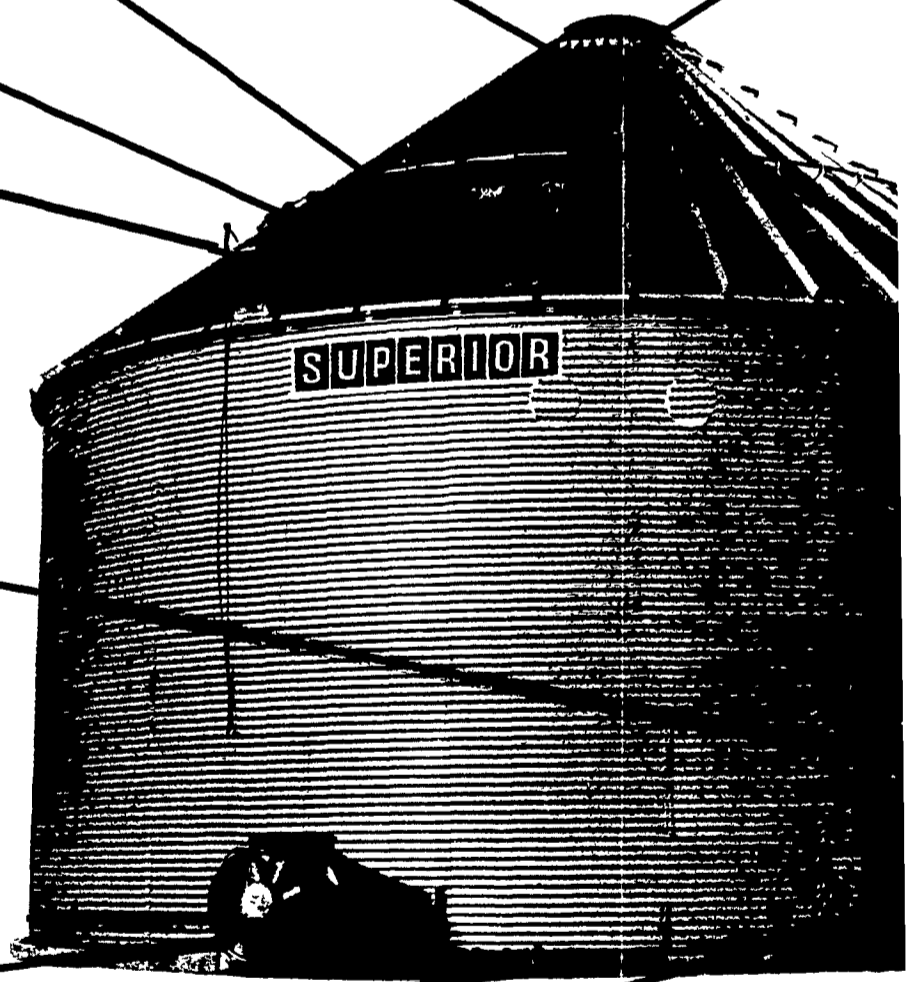
**RUGGED TIE DOWN BRACKETS**  
Assures lasting stability. No drilling necessary. They bolt directly to bin wall. Foundation anchors and J-bolts included as standard.



**SOLID DOUBLE BOLTING**  
Provides more rigidity and moisture protection at vertical seams. Sidewalls have 1.25 ounces zinc per sq. ft., providing long life and durability.



**OPTIONAL BIN STEEL**  
Heavy gauge, solid steel



**BRUNING PAINT**

I will do your spray paint job right and personally at a more reasonable rate with the latest equipment

**BRUNING COUNTRY SQUIRE**  
Phone (AC) 215-445-6186

**PHARES HURST**  
RD1 Narvon, Pa. 17555

FACTORY DIRECT SALES

GAP, PA PHONE (717) 525-1111  
SALES & SERVICE