

## Grange asks paid diversion at ag committee hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Testifying before the Senate and House agriculture committees this week, Edward Andersen, Master of the National Grange, expressed concern about the long-range economic effects on U.S. farmers as a result of the Administration's grain embargo. Andersen said he is particularly worried about corn farmers.

He said the Administration promised to isolate the grains, originally intended to be sold to the Soviets, and not allow them to be resold into the market until it could be done without adversely affecting market prices.

In the case of wheat the Administration took direct control which resulted in the recovery of the wheat market after an initial slump in prices.

To further stabilize the wheat market the Grange recommends permitting haying and grazing on 1980 wheat acreage, a 1980 paid land diversion or set-aside, that will result in a carry-over in 1980 of only 900 million bushel; and increasing the loan rate to \$4 per bushel.

Andersen said the Commodity Credit Corporation which has assumed the contracted obligations from exporters for the feed grains has announced intentions of selling corn and soybeans to anyone at the pre-embargo price of \$2.40 per bushel.

He said this action is not in keeping with the Administration's promise to isolate the corn from the market. He said another idea is to take into the farmer-owned reserve the embargo equivalent of corn. However, very little of that

corn has entered the reserve.

Andersen said it is apparent the price is not right to induce farmers to place corn in the reserve because of the announced CCC resale policy and also farmers who participated in the 1979 farm program do not have sufficient on-farm storage facilities to store another year's production.

Andersen recommended a five step plan be taken to assure feed grain producers they will not be adversely affected by the suspension of grain sales to the Soviets: 1) grain covered by export contracts assumed by the CCC not be sold at less than \$3.15 per bushel (or 150 per cent of the loan rate); 2) establish a gasohol feedstock reserve; 3) raise loan rate for corn to \$2.40 per bushel and soybeans to \$6 per bushel; 4) establish a soybean reserve as part of the farmer-owned reserve program and 5) a 15 per cent paid land diversion or set-aside be established as part of the 1980 feed grain program.



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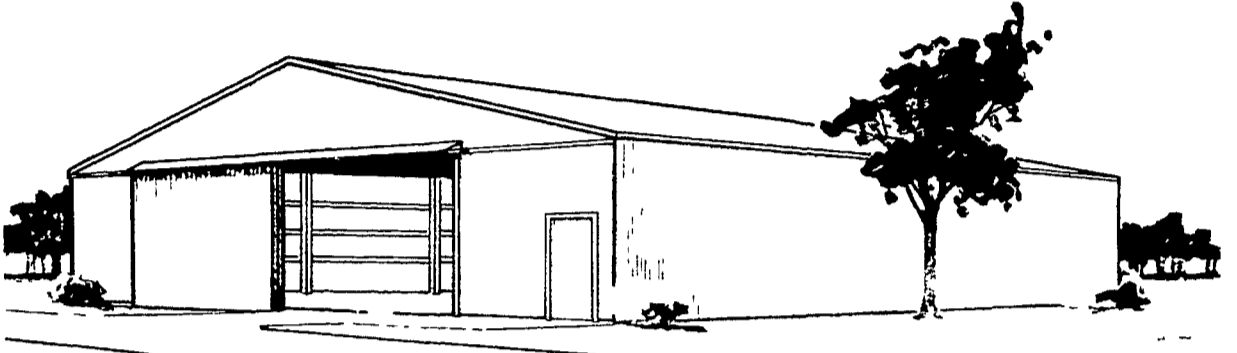
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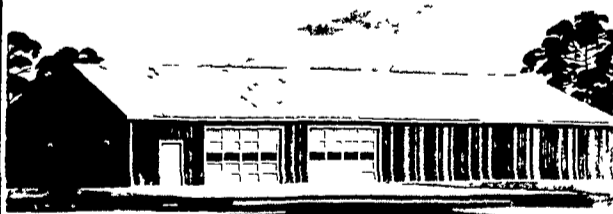
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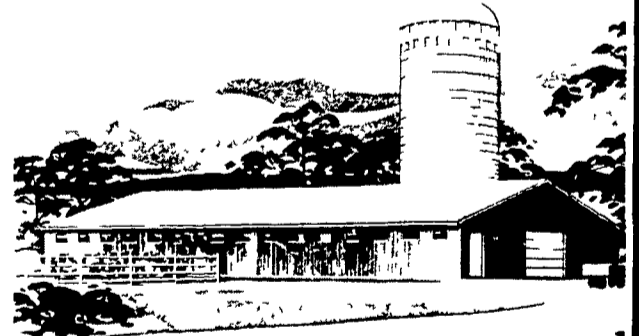
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