

Farm Business News



Morton Buildings, Inc., Morton, Illinois, proudly announces the selection of Craig Anderson to be promoted to the position of Commercial and Industrial Building Specialist for the Gettysburg area. The announcement came after a week long meeting in Morton, where 12 progressive salesmen were selected to represent Morton's Commercial and Industrial Buildings in various districts. Shown above on a tour of Morton's new plant facilities under construction at Morgon, Illinois, Anderson (right) is being congratulated by Sales Manager, Dick Wicks.

Attend milker seminar

LANCASTER — Melvin Stoltzfus, Lancaster; B. Wilmer Martin, East Earl; Roy Fasnacht Jr., Bowmansville; J. Robert Engle, Oxford; and Edward Hart, Lancaster, have attended a 3-day Milker Systems Seminar at Albert Lea, Minnesota, at the factory of Universal Milking Machine Division of Universal Cooperatives, Inc. They received training in the practical installation and servicing of pipeline milking systems, bulk coolers, automatic pipeline cleaning equipment, and the evaluation of detergents and cleaners. The week-long course covered basic fundamentals, planning of pipeline systems, installation problems and their solutions. He was also trained in advanced practices of modern milking and good sanitation procedures.

Speak up

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affected our use of fertilizers and pesticides as well as the cost of tillage, harvesting, and transporting our products to market.

The latest proposal to tax crude oil will add another 10 cents per gallon to our cost of fuel, and who knows how much to the other costs.

The administration's policy on increased interest rates has nearly destroyed our ability to borrow operating money with any real hope of repaying the loan. In many cases credit is simply not available to farmers through agricultural suppliers.

Credit is just another production tool and you are pricing that tool out of our reach.

In spite of lower farm prices for what we sell, the consumer is still paying top price in the supermarket. For example: In February of 1979 farm price for hogs was 56 cents per pound and pork chops were retailed at \$1.89 per pound. On April 7, 1980, hogs were 30½ cents per pound and pork chops were still \$1.89 per pound. Why?

Since the Soviet embargo, farm prices for soybeans have plummeted \$1.23 per bushel. This indicates that your promise to maintain farm prices at pre-embargo levels was hollow.

Your cheap grain policies also do damage to all segments of our livestock economy. Cheaper grain means cheaper feed which stimulates overproduction of pork, beef, milk, poultry and eggs, which can further depress farm income.

Even though things do not look good at this point, we feel that you can take some actions to help the situation.

First, we want you, and the entire USDA, to adequately represent the farmers interest in the future development of government energy policies. This is especially true in the area of petroleum products. In other words, speak up for the American farmer.

Second, we want you to investigate and publicize the farm to consumer price spread. We feel that it is unfair for farmers to be blamed when food prices increase, and then use inflation as an excuse not to lower prices to the consumer when farm prices go down.

In conjunction with this, we believe that the commodity marketing system should be investigated. We question whether the system is being regulated properly.

Third, we feel that the FmHA policies on emergency loans need to be changed. They should enable the family farmer to have a viable opportunity to weather these crises, caused by government policies.

We are proud to be part of the most productive segment of the American economy.

All we ask is that government policies give us the opportunity to exercise our abilities to feed the nation, and make a living for our families while we do it, the farmers told Bergland.



J. M. HORST

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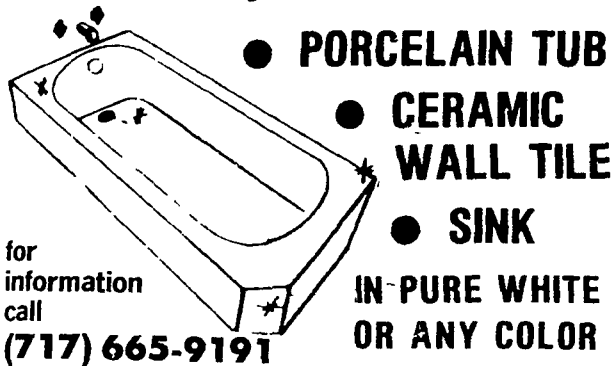


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