

Corn Growers reject Administration's proposals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "The serious economic conditions affecting U.S. corn farmers and the program initiatives we feel are necessary to help relieve the seriousness of the difficulties were the key points discussed with Secretary of Agriculture John Block and other USDA officials," stated William R. Mullins, president of the National Corn Growers Association, Shabbona, Illinois.

In a one hour meeting with Secretary Block, Mullins and Russell Arndt, immediate past president of the Association and corn farmer from LaCrosse, Indiana, reiterated the positions of the NCGA and once again called for the implementation of an effective paid acreage diversion program and a supply management program for the 1982 season. In addition, clearly defined market-oriented production and export trade policies must be developed as a long-term program for U.S. corn farmers, stressed the NCGA spokesmen.

"The Secretary expressed his understanding and appreciation of the depressed corn price situation, the severe cost-price squeeze and credit limitations facing corn farmers," Mullins explained. "However, we pointed out the contradictory positions of officials in the Reagan Administration to regulate foreign trade via 'suspensions and postponements' and the unwillingness to regulate

effectively production in the 1982 season."

The NCGA officials reaffirmed the association's support for the Administration's Economic Recovery Program and the 1981 Farm Bill, and recalled the President's campaign promise not to embargo agricultural products.

"Notwithstanding recent statements by USDA officials that the Soviet Union has not been restricted access to U.S. agricultural commodities, we directly challenged these assertions. We also reiterated our belief that a 'de facto' embargo exists which deters Soviet purchases of U.S. corn and other agricultural commodities," Mullins stated.

In order to prevent a further buildup of stocks in excess of the 2.1 billion bushels carryout projected for 1981/82 and the possibility of cash corn prices falling below \$2 per bushel in the 1982/83 season, the NCGA representatives called for the institution of an effective paid acreage diversion program for the 1982 crop.

"We reiterated the position of the association that a voluntary set-aside program for 1982 corn is not a workable solution to achieve the desired production reduction and, in fact, will only result in sustained production in 1982. Moreover, such a program will only delay for a season the Reagan Administration's realization that its 'restrictive grain export policy'

is essential responsible for current low U.S. grain prices," Mullins stated.

"In addition", Mullins continued, "if the Reagan Economic Recovery Program has any chance of success, then U.S. agriculture must be allowed to produce efficiently for world markets. To restrict exports will only result in lost export earnings, enhance the potential weakness of the value of the dollar in international money markets, and increase government outlays resulting in greater federal deficits and ultimately higher U.S. interest rates," Mullins asserted. "Moreover, these actions and predicted results will only compound the political dilemma facing the Administration in the forthcoming November 1982 Congressional elections.

"Knowing that President Reagan believes the buck stops at his desk, we believe it is time he realizes the Economic Recovery Program can only succeed if both grain production and grain export trade are unrestricted. In creating a climate of restraint and all but a formal declaration of a Soviet and Eastern European embargo, the Reagan Administration is essentially continuing the Carter Administration policy of punishing and penalizing U.S. corn farmers by international trade restrictions and embargoes.

"More frustrating to U.S. corn farmers, however, is the refusal of

Reagan Administration officials to accept responsibility for the acute loss of income to farmers because of lost export sales to Eastern Europe," Mullins concluded.

The National Corn Growers Association is made up of corn producers from 16 states, with the purpose of promoting the general welfare of U.S. corn farmers by maintaining and developing domestic corn production and price and income support

programs consistent with a market-oriented grain economy.

The activities of the organization are conducted through two offices, located in Des Moines, Iowa and in Washington, D.C. State members of the National Corn Growers Association include Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Quilt Auction to be at Farm Show Building


HARRISBURG — The 26th Annual Quilt Auction sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee will be held Saturday, April 3 at the Farm Show Building, here.

Open house will be held Friday, April 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. when the PA Men's and Women's Chorus will entertain.

On Saturday, browsers can choose from homemade quilts of many colors and patterns, such as

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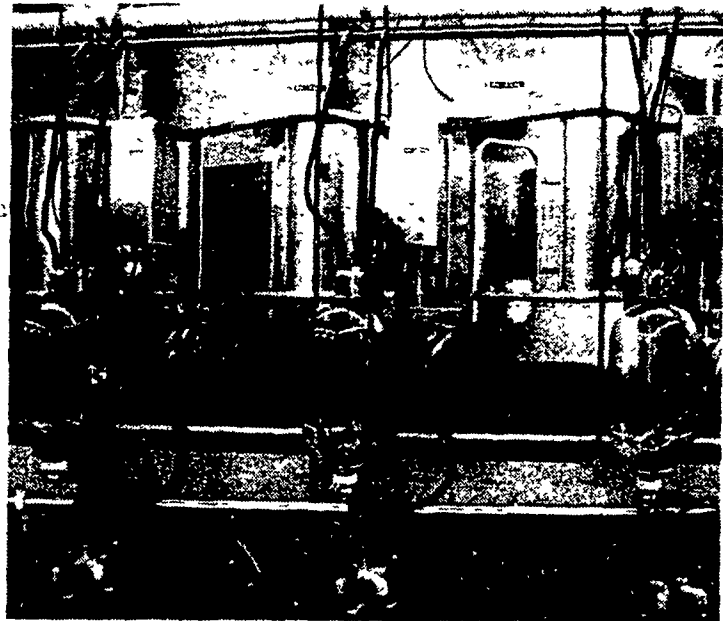
Antique items such as brass hanging lamps, oak furniture, refrigerator serving machine, marble top tables and old dishes will be auctioned also. A new grandfather's clock, a miniature full-scale Conestoga wagon, three dimensional paint/carvings, plants and flowers, plus handmade items from the Third World countries will be sold.



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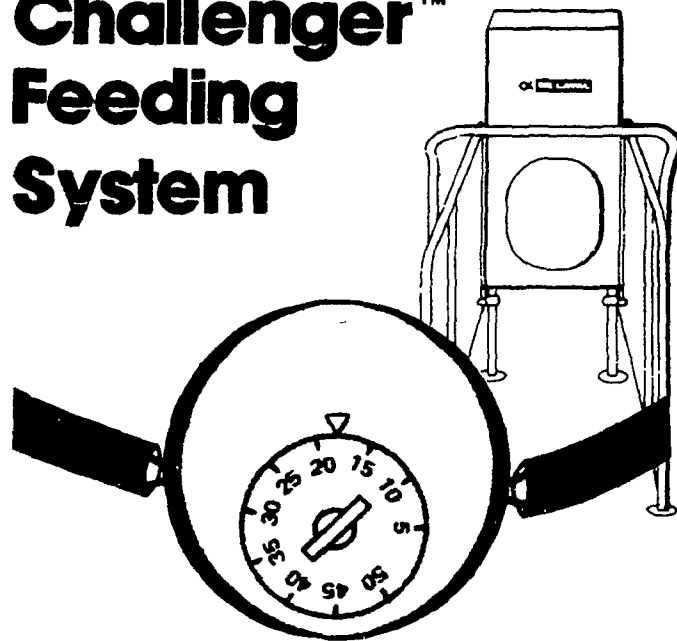
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