

States asked to lift poultry bans

HARRISBURG — State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell has asked the chief agriculture officials in all 49 states to immediately release "any and all restrictions placed on poultry, poultry products and eggs from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

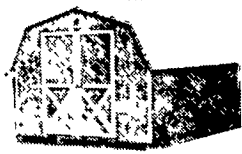
Hallowell wrote the agricultural officials to formally request the actions, after making a similar request at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture annual meeting last month in Portland, Oregon.

"During the past year, the Pennsylvania poultry industry has paid a very dear price to protect poultry producers in all 50 states," Hallowell wrote the Association. More than 15.7 million birds were destroyed at a cost of well over \$100 million. Today, more than 15.4 million birds have been repopulated on Pennsylvania poultry farms.

"Many state felt it necessary to place restrictions and embargoes on Pennsylvania poultry, poultry products and eggs. Such preventive actions are clearly no longer necessary," he wrote.

Hallowell said that as many as 22 states and 23 foreign nations had imposed some form of restriction on the movement of poultry and eggs from Pennsylvania during the avian influenza eradication effort. "Lifting of other states' restrictions will be a major step in the \$450 million Pennsylvania poultry industry's effort to regain its leadership position in the nation," he said.

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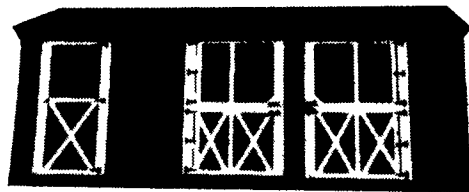
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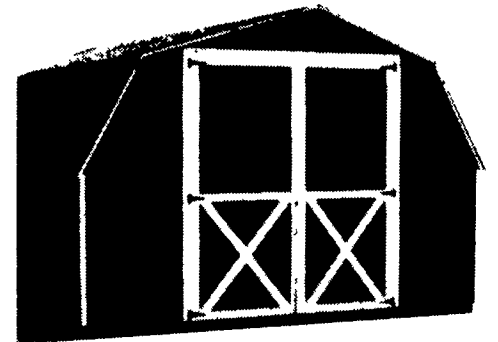
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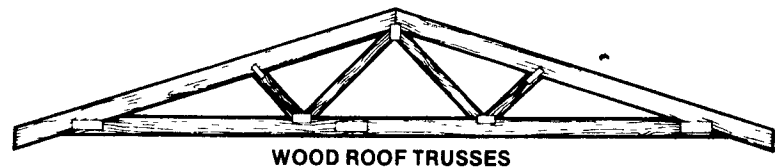
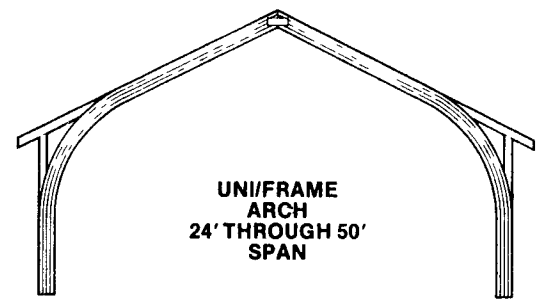
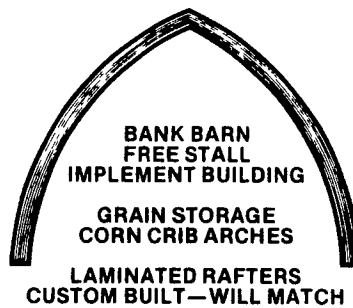
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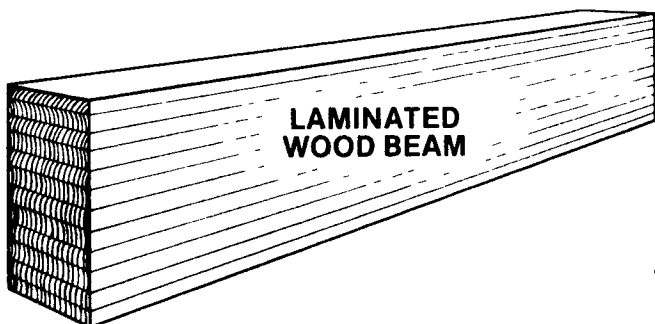
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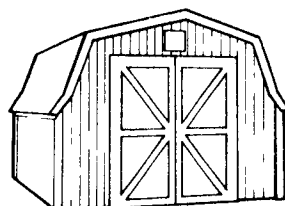


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