

Grange head calls for increased farm exports

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a strongly worded statement here before the House Ways and Means Committee, national farm leader, Edward Andersen called for Congress to reinforce efforts to deal with "unfair trade practices that are damaging farm export markets."

Andersen, Master of the National Grange, pointed to the sharp decline of agricultural exports between 1981 and 1985 (from \$44 billion to \$31 billion) as a trend that must be reversed. He said, "the failures and foreclosures of so many American farms are bringing distress and economic disaster to rural areas all across the country and that relief is badly needed for these critical trade problems."

Andersen recommended a new round of multilateral negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) with provisions that agriculture be a high priority element. He said a meaningful export subsidy code, workable dispute settlement procedures and provisions for compliance are goals which a new

trade round should achieve. He also said there should be a concurrent effort to deal with the instability and other shortcomings of the international monetary system.

"Relief under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 has not been satisfactory," said Andersen, "and it should be strengthened in a way to bring about benefits rather than risk of retaliation."

Andersen asked the Committee for strong Congressional support to see that actions of the European Community do not violate international agreements at the expense of American farm exports to Spain and Portugal during their accession to the Community. He expressed concern regarding trade problems in steel, textiles, automobiles and other sectors which might affect farm export opportunities.

In conclusion, Andersen encouraged continuous consultation between trade negotiators, Congress and the private sector in order to obtain maximum benefits for all who are affected by trade policies and practices.

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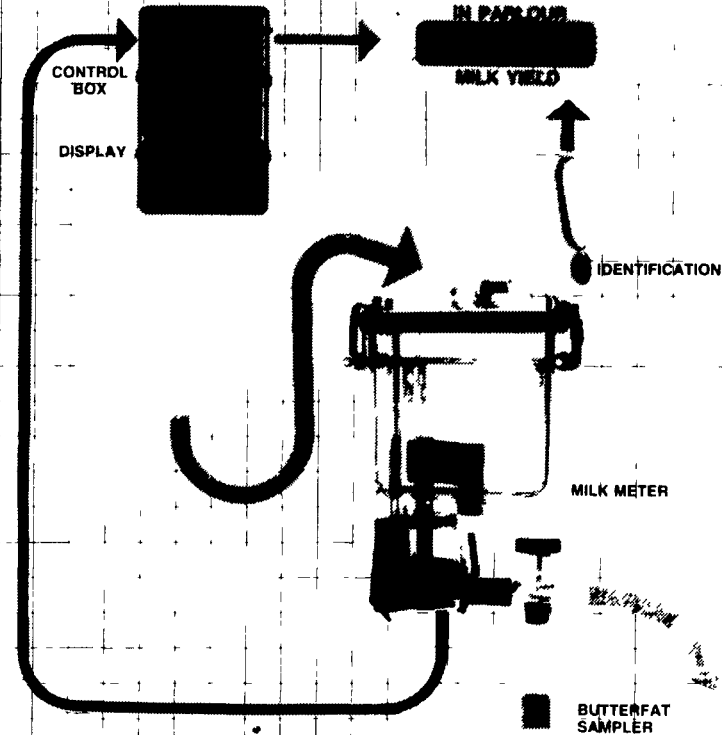
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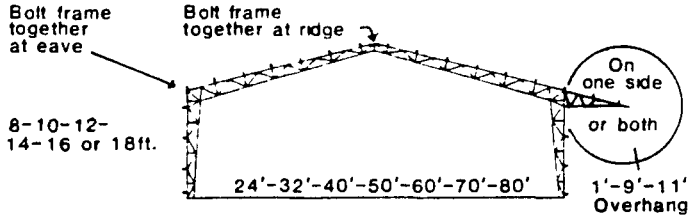


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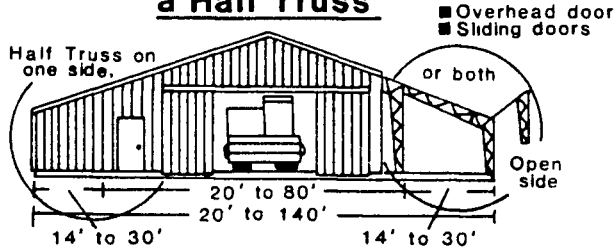
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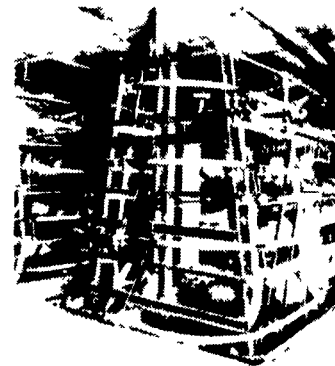
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