

Smörgåsbord



Harold Johnson
Publisher and
Editorial
Director

**Great Gift Idea
For Christmas**

We've discovered that there's an unselfish trait among FARM SHOW readers. They like to share good things with others.

That's why we're inviting you and other subscribers to give FARM SHOW for Christmas. Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us that they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients.

Use the handy order envelope inserted elsewhere in this issue to order your Christmas gift subscriptions.

Here's a recap of our special Christmas gift offer (expires Jan. 1, 1986).

When you give more than one gift subscription, the price drops.

United States: Your first gift sub is \$9.95. Each additional gift sub is only \$5.95. It figures out to \$15.90 for two gift subs, \$21.85 for three, \$27.80 for four, etc.

Canada: Your first gift sub is \$12.95 (Canadian dollars). Each additional gift sub is \$7.95. It figures out to \$20.90 for two gift subs, \$28.85 for three, \$36.80 for four, etc.

If you like, you can give the "First Gift" to yourself as a one-year extension of your own FARM SHOW subscription, entitling you to give reduced rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives or neighbors.

With each gift sub we'll send a card, notifying each recipient of your thoughtfulness. The card and first issue will be processed in time to arrive shortly before Christmas — if you order now!

We'll also imprint the mailing label with "A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM (Your Name)" so the recipient will be reminded of your thoughtfulness.

Merry Christmas and please order today so we can give your special Christmas gift orders the prompt attention they deserve. Contact: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612 469-5572).

**"Bitter Harvest" Farm
Raffle Called Off**

"We're calling it off," reports Bud Hirst, Unionville, Mo., ending the much publicized "Bitter Harvest" farm raffle.

Facing farm foreclosure, Bud and his wife Hazel started selling a book of Hazel's poetry entitled Bitter Harvest. Her poems detailed the joys and sorrows of farming and farmlife. Along with the book, which sold for \$8.00, purchasers received a chance at winning the Hirsts' 476-acre farm in a raffle.

The drawing for the farm was originally set for last July 4th, one year after the contest started.

When the goal of 50,000 books had not yet been sold by that date, the contest was moved back to Labor Day, Sept. 2nd, and then moved back once again after that.

"The truth is that it's not going to go," Bud told FARM SHOW. "We did everything we could possibly do but orders were down to practically nothing and we were only about halfway to our goal."

The contest wasn't in vain though, adds Bud, who along with Hazel was featured in national magazines and on TV news shows. "We feel good about how the contest helped bring the farm problem out in the open. We received many letters from city people telling us that they didn't realize things were so bad."

Bud says they probably now face foreclosure on their farm sometime this winter.

Hirst says purchasers of the book who want their \$8-refunded should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and the number of their book to: FARM SHOW Followup, Bud and Hazel Hirst, P.O. Box 176, Unionville, MO. 63565.

In Illinois, David and Anita Schroeder ran the following want ad in the St. Louis Post Dispatch several weeks ago, hoping it would cause a good-hearted benefactor with big bucks to spare to come to their aid:

Philanthropist sought! Young, productive faithful Illinois farm family looking for \$400,000 at low interest to consolidate deadly high interest loans. Collateral: \$1,000,000 farm.

"We've had about 20 calls and letters but no one has offered the desired loan at 6 to 8% interest," Anita told FARM SHOW two weeks ago. "Several brokers called to say they might have 11% or 12% money to loan."

Meanwhile, the Schroeders are hopeful that their "longshot" plea for help will pay off: "We basically feel there's somebody out there who will show concern and be willing to take a chance with us."

The Schroeders can be contacted at: FARM SHOW Followup, David and Anita Schroeder, 13410 92nd Ave., Coal Valley, Ill. 61240 (ph 309 234-5227).

**You're Invited To
Australia's "Outback"**

This issue features dozens of "Best Ideas" I picked up several weeks ago on a 5 week trip "down under," courtesy of the Australian government which provided round trip air fare for Farm Show's coverage of three major farm shows (see page 16).

Between the three shows, we (my wife and I) visited several farms and ranches, highlighted by a trip into the "outback" where we spent a week with Wattie and Marlene Cresswell who, along with sons Steve and Simon, and daughter Jane, run



5,500 sheep and 100 head of cattle on 60,000 acres. They treated us royally and showed us what living in the "outback" is really like.

They live 46 miles from the nearest town and it's mud road all the way. (We all went into town one afternoon and it rained so we all had to stay in town overnight.) The mailman only comes once a week. Emus and kangaroos stare at you from paddocks. Watch closely and you might see a wild pig, dingo or a herd of feral goats. There's no TV. An air strip near the house stands ready, in case of a medical

emergency, to bring in the Flying Doctor. Area youngsters go to school right at home via the Radio School of the Air.

Here's an invitation to come see and enjoy it all yourself some day: "Our welcome mat is out for any FARM SHOW readers who'd like to come spend a week or two with us out here in the outback," the Cresswells told FARM SHOW. "But don't come in December or January because that's the peak of summer when it gets really hot, or in April when we're busy shearing the sheep."

The Cresswells will put you up in a bedroom in their home, or you and your party could stay in the sheep shearers' quarters and do your own cooking. You could fly or take the train to Broken Hill, NSW, where the Cresswells would pick you up and drive you about 150 miles to their ranch, which is 46 miles north of Wilcannia.

For more information, contact: Wattie and Marlene Cresswell, Annalara Station, Wilcannia 2836 NSW, Australia (ph 080 919484).

Sale Of Body Organs Illegal — Warnings were issued recently by upper Midwest health agencies in response to reports that financially-strapped individuals are offering their own body organs for sale to patients in need of transplants. Officials caution that the sale of body organs is a federal offense punishable by up to 5 years in jail. A recent ad in the Minneapolis Tribune read, in part: "Willing to sell body organs for \$155,000. Quality guaranteed." Placement of the ad apparently was not illegal but anyone who bought an organ for transplant, or sold one, would be guilty of a crime under a law passed last year by Congress. The law was passed in response to worries about the possibility of fraud in dealing with desperate people, as well as the likelihood that donors might hide parts of their medical histories if they were donating organs for payment.

Sweden Bans Antibiotics — At the stroke of midnight, Dec. 31, Sweden becomes the first country to ban antibiotics in animal feed. The parliament's decision is notable for two reasons. First, the ban is a direct response to consumer fears. And second, it is not an unwelcome mandate from ignorant politicians — Sweden's meat producers asked for it.

Gunnilla Krantz, director of information for the Swedish Farmers Meat Marketing Association, says, "Most farmers and experts here believe you can get better growth stimulation by working with the environment. They say the economic benefit from feeding antibiotics isn't worth it. . . . We also think it will add to the export of Swedish meat. I wouldn't be surprised if other countries followed suit."

The U.S. won't be next in line. David Meisinger, director of research and education for the National Pork Producers Council, says, "It's fine for them but not for us. There is a definite benefit to feeding antibiotics for disease control, growth promotion and feed efficiency. Also, our consumer feeling against antibiotics is not that great. That's not to say it won't be, but it isn't right now." (Top Producer Extra)

Law of Diminishing Returns: Salesman: "Madam, you can buy this home freezer for the amount you will save on your food bills."

Housewife: "Yes, I know, but we're buying our car on the bus fares we save, our washing machine on the laundry bills we save, and our house on the rent we save. We can't afford to save any more right now."