

# Cast Your Ballot for First 'Miss Agriculture'!

HERE IT IS... your chance to help select the nation's first "Miss Agriculture"! This issue of *Country EXTRA* includes pictures and brief descriptions of all the candidates, along with a mail-in ballot.

Sending in your votes will be part of a selection process that will wind up with nationally televised finals in Chicago on March 17. The winner also has been invited to appear in the March 20 "National Agriculture Day" program in Washington, D.C.

As those of you who read last month's *Country EXTRA* already know, publishers of *Country EXTRA*, *Farm Wife News*, *Farm & Ranch Living*, *Country People* and other

farm publications are inviting their readers to cast their ballots for a year-long spokeswoman for agriculture.

Only young women who already have reigned as queen of a particular segment of agriculture are eligible to compete for the national title.

That requirement ensures that the young woman ultimately selected as "Miss Agriculture" already will have a full year of experience in dealing with the public and appearing

before audiences, microphones, cameras, etc., before she starts a year of travel and appearances across the country in her new role.

"Since 'Miss Agriculture' will represent farmers, ranchers and agri-business people," Miss Agriculture Program Coordinator Jill Nickerson points out, "it's appropriate that they have a major hand in making the selection by voting for their favorite candidates." That's where you come in: Carefully check out the

qualifications of each of the candidates on *EXTRA* pages 2 and 3, then use the ballot on *EXTRA* page 3 to vote for the *three* candidates you think would best represent agriculture.

Remember, this is not a "beauty" contest or even a "queen" contest—the goal is to select the person who can do most to project an accurate image for America's No. 1 industry.

The 10 candidates receiving the most votes from readers of *Country EXTRA* and other farm publications will participate in the "Miss Agriculture" finals in Chicago on March 16-17. A panel representing agriculture and agri-business will interview

(Continued on *EXTRA* page 2)



## CX 'Ad' Calls Light Up Our Switchboard

"WE'VE BEEN looking through the classified ads for the 'Mystery Ad' in *Country EXTRA*'s Mailbox Marketplace every month," an excited Philip Smalligan of Fremont, Michigan told one of our CX editors. "So when we found it there last night, I decided to phone you right at 8 o'clock this morning to see if we won your prize of a free dinner for four!"

Philip did win that regular prize of ours because he was the first to get through to us at 8 a.m. that day, and *Country EXTRA* picked up the restaurant tab. Many other readers of *Fremont Hi-Lites*, the newspaper chosen to carry CX's "Mystery Ad" in December, made the same discovery and decision that Philip did.

"Our switchboard lit up like our Christmas tree with calls from Fremont around 8 o'clock," our CX telephone operator reported. "Many

(Continued on *EXTRA* page 4)

## Great Way To Get Mind Off Weather!

IF COLD winter weather is getting you down, here are several ways to get your mind (and your body) on a great escape route:

**Tan in Spain:** There's still time to join CX's tour to sunny Spain Feb. 20-27. You'll be with warm rural people in warm sunny weather!

**Take a Cruise!** Our 10-day cruise on a luxury ship takes you from Aca-pulco, Mexico through the Panama Canal to Curacao, Netherlands Antilles! It's set for Feb. 7-17.

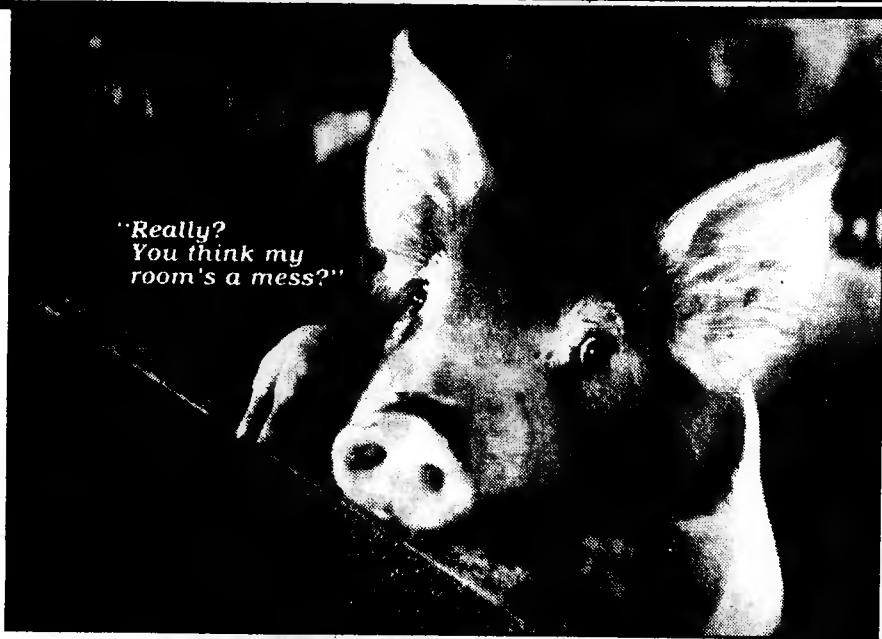
**Switzerland Anyone?** We're planning another CX tour of Switzerland this fall, including tours of Swiss farms and *even the farm homes!*

For a full-color brochure with prices and day-by-day itineraries, call 1-800/558-1013 toll-free between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CT Mon.-Fri. Ask for Tracy. (In Wisconsin, dial 1-800/242-6065.)

# Country EXTRA

JANUARY 1984

Adding Extra Humor, Photos and Fun to Your Rural Newspaper



## This Little Pig Went to the Lead!

AS YOU likely noted in the last issue of *Country EXTRA*, we've now turned out 22 large, country-oriented posters to follow up on the popularity of the now-famous "Little Farmers" poster we produced earlier.

Well, of the 21 *new* posters, the one above has proven the most popular! It took the lead early and has gained distance daily. In the full-color brochure showing and offering these 22 posters, we suggested the above poster might be appropriate on the door of a teenager's room: According to the notes received with poster orders, that's where this poster is going! (Does that mean there are lots of messy teenagers in rural America??)

As regular CX readers know, the "Little Farmers" poster published in CX and other publications last spring triggered a "farm poster mania" that has continued all year long. The demand for such posters resulted in the selection of photos for the 21 new posters now being offered.

You can order the picture above on a large 18" x 14" full-color poster or the "Little Farmers" poster for just \$3.00 each. Or you can order the new poster brochure free from: *Country EXTRA*, Box 643, Milwaukee WI 53201.

## 'Miss Ag' To Lead Washington Parade!

ONE OF "Miss Agriculture's" first official duties will be to participate in National Agriculture Day activities in Washington, D.C.

"We're honored to invite the title winner to take part in as many of our events as possible that day," emphasizes Shirley Traxler, chairperson of Ag Day Washington and deputy assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture.

"We hope to include in our events a parade of farm machinery dating from the early 1800's to the present," Traxler says. "We would like 'Miss Agriculture' to lead that parade, along with Agriculture Secretary John Block and Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry."

Actual scheduling of the parade is not final as we go to press. "But if we go through with it as we hope," Traxler says, "we'd like to have all 10 'Miss Agriculture' finalists ride in the parade, along with sponsors and various dignitaries."

"We hope commodity organiza-

(Continued on *EXTRA* page 2)

## Hearty Beef Stew Wins CX Contest

"PERFECT FOR this time of year—a hearty, 'body-warming meal' by itself!" That's what *Country EXTRA* taste-testers said when treated to Wanda Boesel's "Louisiana Beef Stew" at the close of our most recent recipe contest.

The CX testers thought Wanda's stew was so good they awarded it first prize in CX's *Hearty Stews and Soups* contest. Wanda is from Wapakoneta, Ohio and entered the contest—along with hundreds of other cooks from around the country—after reading about it in CX in the *Wapakoneta Daily News*.

You can see by her recipe on page 4 that Wanda uses an assortment of tasty and wholesome ingredients to make her delicious beef stew. You're

(Continued on *EXTRA* page 4)