

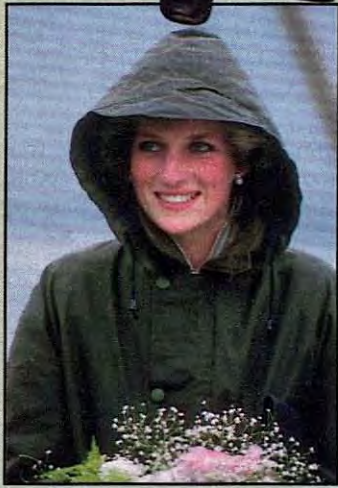


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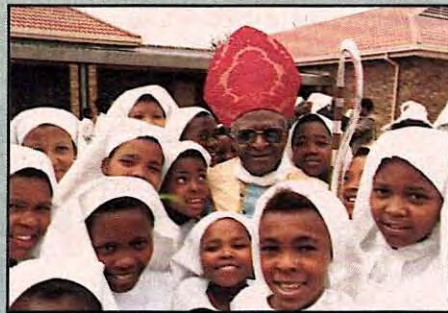
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Cover photograph by Snowdon

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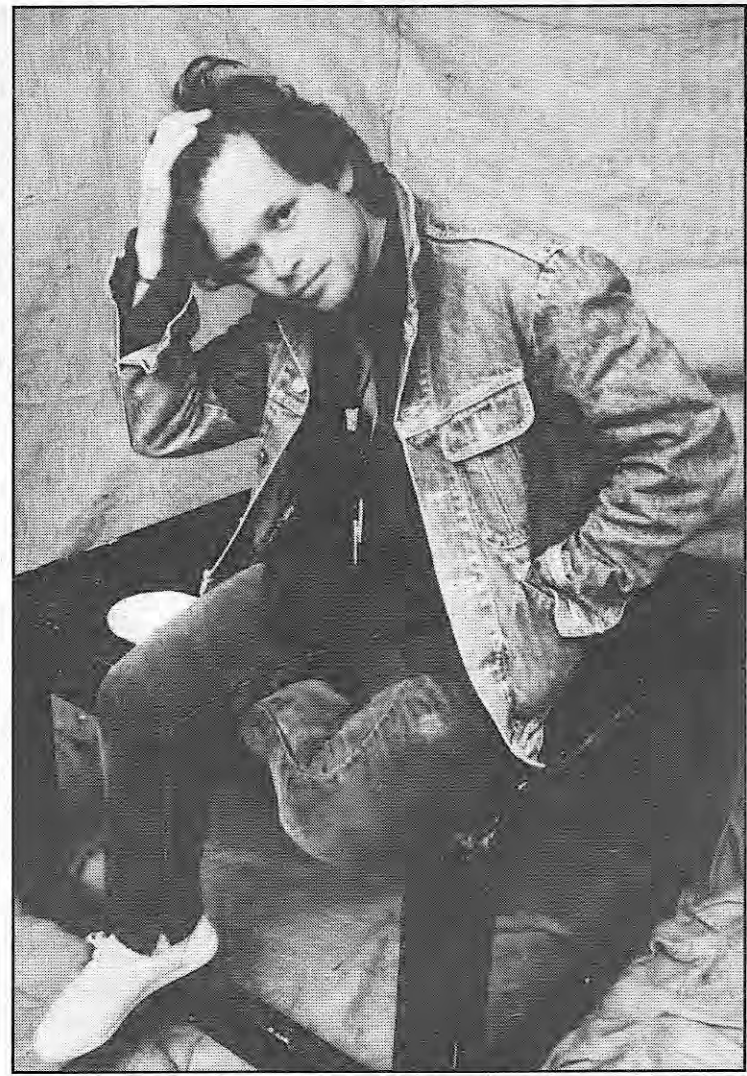


# FARMERS' HELPERS

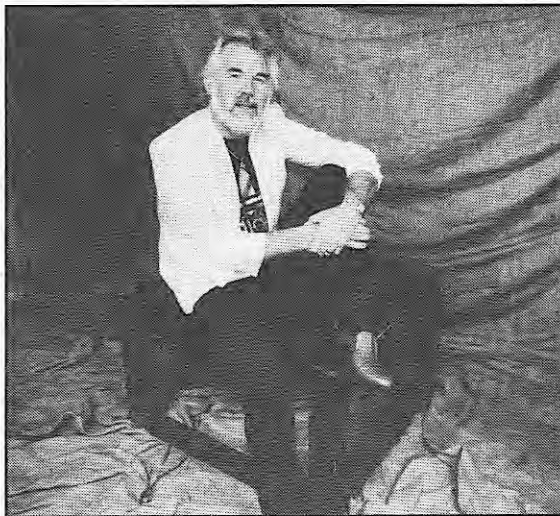
It was one heck of a barn raising. Some 55 of America's best-known country and western, rock, pop and blues singers—including the dazzling array shown here—kept 78,000 music fans spellbound for nearly 15 rainy hours at Memorial Stadium in Champaign, Ill. The extravaganza was also beamed to 24 million cable subscribers. Billed as Farm Aid, it was patterned after the famine-relief songfest Live Aid. Only this time the focus was on America's financially hurting farmers. (LIFE chronicles the plight of one Nebraska farm family on page 145.) Nearly all the performers chose songs containing references to farmers, country life or America's heartland. Though organizers Willie Nelson, Neil Young and John Cougar Mellencamp had hoped the marathon concert would raise \$50 million, the actual take was only about \$10 million. Much of it will go for farmers' legal assistance.



**WILLIE NELSON**



**JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP**



**KENNY ROGERS**



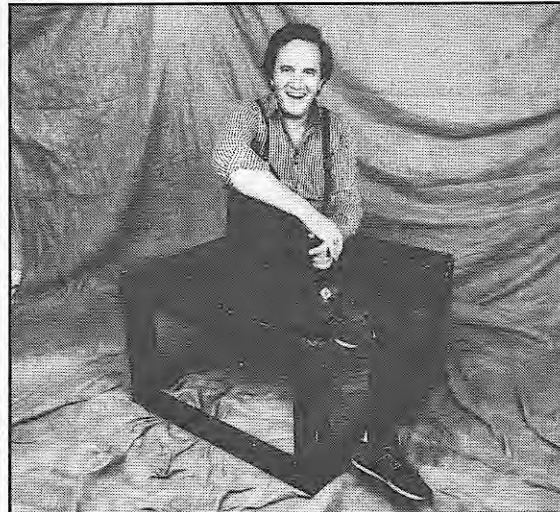
**CHARLIE DANIELS AND HIS BAND**



**ROGER MCGUINN**



**WAYLON JENNINGS AND CREW**



**ROGER MILLER**



**ROY ORBISON AND COMPANY**





**NEIL YOUNG**



**JOHN FOGERTY**



**EMMYLOU HARRIS, SOUTHERN PACIFIC**



**BILLY JOEL AND RANDY NEWMAN**



**CAROLE KING**



**B.B. KING, MANAGER AND BAND**



**BONNIE RAITT**



**ARLO GUTHRIE, KRIS KRISTOFFERSON**



**JONI MITCHELL**



**JOHNNY CASH AND JUNE CARTER**



**HOYT AXTON AND BACKUP**

KEN HEGAN & MICHAEL MARKS/CAMERA 5 (19)