

EAR CORN, small grains and concentrates are ground, mixed and blown into storage by this automatic, continuous-flow, farm feed processing unit. Designed and built by agricultural engineers at the Pennsylvania State University agricultural experiment station, this unit was put to practical use recently on the farm of Fred Davidson, Warriors Mark. R. P. Prince, who conducted the trials, was pleased with the results as was Davidson. (Penn State Photo)

Philadelphia Milk Hearing Closes After 7 Months

PHILADELPHIA—A Federal-State hearing to consider changing regulations in the Philadelphia milk marketing area closed here last week after sessions covering a period of more than seven months. But in all probability it will be at least another five months before the decisions of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Milk Control Commission will be announced.

The main issue of the lengthy hearing has been this: should the Philadelphia area's traditional handler pool system be replaced by a market pool operation?

Under the present handler pool, each dealer pays his producers a blend price based on how the dealer utilizes the milk in his own business. In a market pool, each producer receives a blend price based on how all milk in the market is utilized by all dealers.

Milk used for Class I, or bottling, purposes receives a higher price than manufacturing, or Class II, milk. A blend price is a weighted average of the two rates.

The chief opponent of a market pool during the hearing has been the Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, whose members form a majority of milk producers in the Philadelphia area.

The market pool proposal originally was made by I. Elkin Nathans, a New York milk broker, who has complained that receiving stations he handles in the buffer area near New York are unable to buy milk without paying a premium to meet the Philadelphia price. The Mutual Federation of Independent Cooperatives, Inc., of Syracuse, N. Y., which indicated in testimony that it wanted some excess New York milk put into the Philadelphia pool, also asked for a market pool. These outside proponents were joined, in the hearing, by Sealtest Supplee Division, National Dairy Products Corporation and Foremost Dairies, Inc., two large Philadelphia milk dealers who also engage extensively in manufacturing.

The New York market area now operates under Federal Order 27 with a market pool, while Philadelphia is regulated by Order 61 with a handler pool.

Testimony was given by experts from Pennsylvania State University, several Philadelphia dealers, both large and small, and Inter-State's directors, staff members and individual producers.

Inter-State contended that to change to a market pool in the Philadelphia milkshed would lower the price to producers while possibly raising the price to consumers and would result in an unstable market.

In the forty-six days that the

Only 'Angus' Now No 'Aberdeen,' Breeders Decide

At the recent annual meeting of national Aberdeen-Angus breeders in Chicago, it was voted to shorten the official name of their organization from American Abredeeen-Angus Breeders' Assn. to American Angus Association. No provision was made for shortening the name of the breed, however, it will continue to be known as Aberdeen-Angus to signify the areas in Scotland where it originated. The Association is the official registry organization for Aberdeen-Angus cattle in America; its membership exceeds 32,000 cattlemen. Offices of the Association are at St. Josephs, Mo. At the annual meeting, William W. Bramard, Jr., Downsbragh Farms, Far Hills, N. J., was named to a three-year term on the Angus board of directors.

hearing ran intermittently between June 11, 1956, and Feb. 2, 1957, ten lawyers interviewed and cross-examined several dozen witnesses. A total of more than 10,000 pages of testimony was placed in the record.

The Federal recommendations will be submitted to all interested parties, who, in turn, will be given a definite period in which to study and submit further briefs in opposition to, or in support of, the recommended decision. Following these Briefs of Exceptions, government representatives then study them and issue a final amended order.

Producers may vote only on the complete amended Federal order as proposed and have no choice as to the type of regulation in it. If the required number of producers voting approve the amended order, it will become effective. Once the Department of Agriculture has held a hearing and found that amendments are in order, it takes the position that producers may vote only on that order as amended and not on an individual issue such as types of pools.

Dr. W. L. Barr of Pennsylvania State University summed up the chief advantage of a handler pool when he testified: "In a marketwide pool, individual handlers are not in a position to reward extra quality through higher utilization. Consequently, the milk supplied tends to gravitate to minimum acceptable standards."

"On the other hand, in an individual handler pool, dairymen who produce milk of higher quality than that which meets minimum standards are sought by handlers with higher than average utilization. This system provides an opportunity for producers to earn economic rewards for doing more than is required."

Summer Hatched

Pullets Get Eggs On Market Earlier

Pullets start laying about six months after they are hatched with the first eggs mostly small and medium size. At eight months eggs are of the larger sizes. Most chicks for layers are hatched from Jan. 15 to May 15 with the result a large number of pullet and medium sized eggs come on the market from July to November.

With that background, County Agent Max M. Smith points out that from July to November in 1956 prices for medium eggs were 12 to 20 cents lower per dozen than large eggs. Supplies of medium eggs were starting to drop off by December while supplies of large eggs increased. By early January 1957 the price differences between medium and large eggs narrowed down to 3 to 5 cents a dozen.

Pullets hatched from late May to early July lay their smaller eggs from December to March when prices for the smaller sized eggs are relatively higher. These summer hatched pullets can lay more large eggs the following July to November when the market prices are firmer for the larger eggs.

Progress Definite In Poultry Production

Progress in poultry production in all lines during recent years has been definite. But there are still fields where much more is needed.

For instance, an Eastern Egg Laying Test operating for some years, emphasizes that there is still much to be desired in quality of eggs produced in many strains of poultry. It reports that too many eggs are laid with blood spots, especially in heavy breeds, and that many high quality eggs deteriorate too rapidly in storage. In many cases shells are thinner than is desirable.

Too many young flocks have too many hens that never lay eggs beyond B quality. Careful breeding should help eliminate many of these weaknesses.

Increase Crop Yield

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LARD HELPS HOGS

Of help to the market for hogs, especially those with weight and fat in recent weeks, has been the stronger price for lard. In a month the value of lard has jumped 10 per cent and currently is at the highest January level in three years. This week's value was more than 40 per cent above a year ago. Cash refined lard sold at \$15.25 yesterday and \$15.30 Monday, compared with \$13.75 a month ago, \$10.75 a year ago and a range of \$12.65 to \$13.50 in January, 1955.

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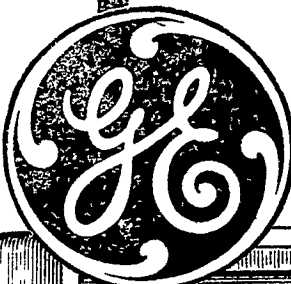
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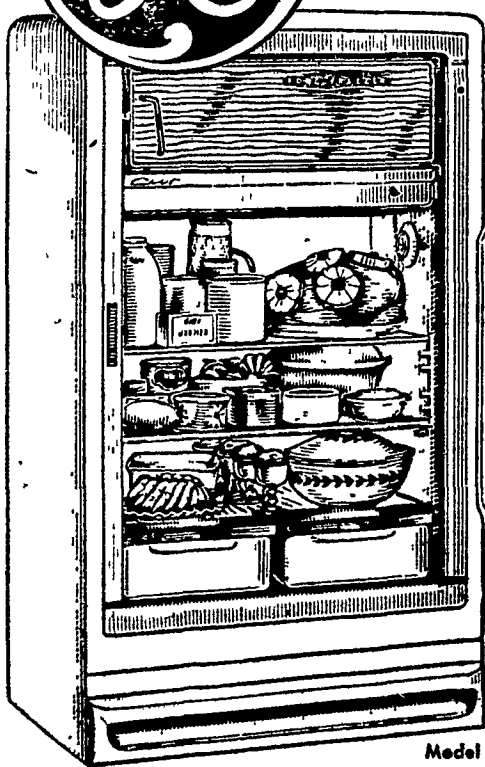
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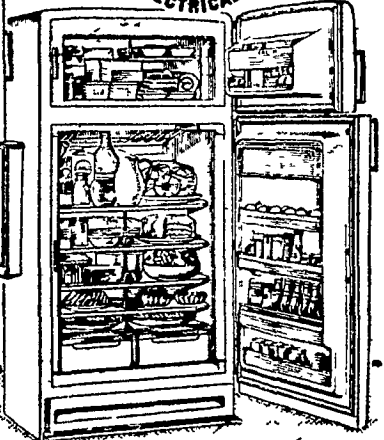
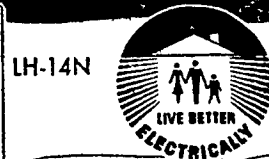
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