

4 Mississippi Farms Holding Hereford Sale

Four Mississippi Hereford farms are combining efforts in holding a breeding stock sale at TePee Ranch Senatobia, Mississippi, May 13.

The four are TePee Ranch; Cedar View Ranch, Hernando, Miss.; V-Z Valley Ranch, Coldwater, Miss.; and CMR Ranch, Senatobia, Miss.

Northeastern Poultry Farmers Say Free Market Preferred in Survey

NEW YORK — Northeastern poultry farmers have voted a strong preference for a free marketing and production system for eggs and poultry according to a release Friday from the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council.

Despite an industry depression during the past year that has driven poultry and eggs prices below the cost of production at times, growers were firm in their belief that government aid should be limited to "disaster" prevention, the Council says.

This information was obtained from a survey of some 31,000 poultrymen made by the Council.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Council, this information was formalized into the official policy of the Council.

Other major points in the policy statement involved the development of a stronger program for marketing and merchandising eggs and poultry meats, and a program for sounder financial practices in the industry.

More than 65 per cent of the farmers replying to NEPPCO's questionnaire asked for a "hands off" policy from federal economic planners. Of this group, over 43 per cent were for all-out industry resistance to subsidies and controls of any kind with the balance asking for a free market system, but with some federal financial emergency measure in times of disaster.

"We have studiously maintained an open mind in re-evaluating our policy on federal aid to poultrymen," declared Harold P. Klathold, NEPPCO President, "Thou-

ands of poultrymen in the Northeast have made their wishes clear to us in this survey.

"It is now clear that NEPPCO must take a strong stand in opposing production controls, federal subsidies or other measures that would seriously limit freedom of choice in either the production or marketing of poultry and eggs."

Based upon survey results, NEPPCO directors unanimously approved a three-point program aimed at strengthening the industry and putting its economics on a sounder footing.

Top rating in the new policy outline went to a proposal to develop better organization within the industry to put it on a sound, business-like basis. As a major point of this recommendation, the Council directors proposed a full-scale program to improve the bargaining power of poultrymen so that they might maintain their economic independence.

As example they quoted the need to (1) encourage the coordination of egg and poultry marketing agencies to improve efficiency in their operations and promote full scale merchandising program; (2) encourage marketing agencies to do a more complete marketing job for producers, and (3) encourage the establishment of quality incentive payments.

As the second major point in the Council's policy declaration, directors urged a curtailing of indiscriminate credit within the industry, regardless of source, and the adoption of accepted and proven business practices in financing operations.

In line with grower resistance to governmental controls and subsidies such as are in force with grain, tobacco, cotton and peanut farmers, NEPPCO directors agreed to maintain its traditional "hands off" policy.

For nearly three months, Council officials have been polling poultry farmers in 14 states to get their views on general price supports, subsidies and controls. It is the first such effort to conduct a full-scale investigation to determine exactly how poultrymen themselves feel on this sensitive point.

Seven questions were put to poultrymen in the survey. The first two drawing 65 per cent of the vote, specified that the only help acceptable would be possible governmental intervention in the event of disaster.

The only other alternative to draw a substantial vote was one which asked for some degree of production control derived from government authority, but producer directed. Approximately one-fifth of the farmers replying checked this proposal. More than half of this vote originated in New Jersey.

New Jersey was the only state out of the 14 from which a major response was forthcoming that did not give substantial majorities to the "free marketing" proposals. Ohio led the list with 84 per cent in favor, Pennsylvania was a close second at 80, New Jersey was at the bottom with 35 per cent. Most states ranged between 70 and 80.

Those poultrymen with smaller sized flocks voted more strongly in all states for free markets and freedom from controls of any kind. Owners of larger flocks showed a stronger leaning toward production controls, particularly in the broiler field where such policies have been under discussion for months.

Winter Cress Infestation Getting Worse

Winter cress weed infestation is getting worse in Pennsylvania, warns Associate County Agent Harry Sloat.

Winter cress is a yellow blossom mustard that appears in hay fields early in the spring. It spreads by seed and comes up year after year. The seeds mature about the time the first crop of hay is harvested, and the seeds go back to the fields with the manure.

There are several control measures you can use, Sloat says. One is early clipping before the alfalfa gets off to a good start. This keeps the winter cress from going to seed.

Another way is to cut the first crop off early and put it in the silo.

A chemical treatment with 2, 4-D works well if there is no alfalfa or clover in the field.

MCP can be sprayed on new seedings of alfalfa and clover after clipping the grain stubble in September and October.

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