

USDA Vegetable Advisory Committee Cites Need for Fundamental Studies

The need for more research in the field of vegetable crops to help build the nation's store of necessary fundamental knowledge was cited by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Vegetable Research and Marketing Advisory Committee at its annual meeting in Washington, Feb. 26. The importance of this fundamental research for the country's future welfare was emphasized by the committee.

Committee members urged a detailed program of specific fundamental studies of vegetable crops to underline their assertion of the general need for greater research efforts in this field. For example, in farm research they called for strengthened investigations of vegetable breeding, nematodes, and pesticide residues.

In vegetable breeding, the need for expanded genetic, cytogenetic, and applied breeding work to develop disease — and insect-resistant varieties of sweet-potatoes, carrots, beans and peas, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, tomatoes, and muskmelons, the committee said. This work should also lead to varieties adaptable to mechanized production and handling and possessing better qualities for processing and use.

The aim of the nematode studies would be to understand nematodes as primary invaders in bacterial and fungus-disease complexes, to develop efficient use of nematocides, and to develop nematode resistance in vegetable varieties.

In regard to the pesticide-residue investigations, the committee noted that lack of information about residues in or on vegetables is still a serious obstacle to the best use of pesticides in protecting crops from insect attack.

The committee gave top priority in the field of utilization research to expanded fundamental chemical studies of vegetables. Information is needed, in the committee's opinion, on the constituents of first importance to processing quality, on the chemical changes involved in the loss of quality and nutritive value during and after processing, and on enzymes and enzyme systems that affect processing quality.

Top needs in home economics research, according to the committee, are for further work on USDA's food composition tables, which list the nutritive components of foods, and for new research to determine the content of selected vitamins in fresh vegetables as served and eaten in homes and in the school-lunch program.

Further studies of the postharvest physiology of vegetables is the top need in vegetable-marketing research, the committee said. Expanded work on russett spot of lettuce, storage specking of cabbage, and chilling injury of sweet-potatoes, honeydew melons, peppers, cucumbers, and squash was

Milk Production, Marketing Survey In West Begins

A special milk production and marketing survey in three western Pennsylvania counties will get underway Feb. 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

Dairymen in Crawford, Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties will be asked to supply answers each month to questions on individual dairy production and marketing practices.

"It is our aim to compile sufficient data to aid dairymen in these pilot study counties and eventually all our Pennsylvania dairymen should benefit from these results," secretary William L. Henning declared.

The program, under supervision of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, is expected to provide much needed information to dairy farmers in a fast-changing industry.

Matching funds for the survey have been provided by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

urged by committee members as part of these investigations.

Also important in the area of marketing research, the committee said, is a new study of retail handling and merchandising of tomatoes to cut costs and furnish better market tomatoes.

Established under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, the committee is composed of outstanding authorities on vegetables. Its detailed recommendations for vegetable research to be undertaken by USDA will be submitted formally to the Department within the next few weeks.

Acting chairman Russell H. Winters, The Larsen Company, Green Bay, Wis., was elected chairman at the conclusion of the meeting. E. O. Williams, county agricultural agent, Toledo, Ohio, was named vice chairman.

Atlantic Angus Bull Sale Feb. 24-25 Offering 400 Head to Beef Herdsmen

STAUNTON, Va.—Final plans for the Great Atlantic Angus Bull Sale, to be held at Richmond's Atlantic Rural Fairgrounds, Feb. 24-25, were formulated at a meeting held recently, according to an announcement made here by Dave Canning, secretary-treasurer of the Atlantic Angus Assn.

In making his announcement, Canning stated that the proposed bull sale is "a solid, grassroots effort that we believe can be built into an annual program of great service to the Aberdeen-Angus breed, and to beef cattle producers everywhere."

The sale, first of its kind in this section, will offer what Canning describes as "the very finest

selection of bulls ever offered on the North American continent." He stated further that the bulls consigned include "those big, rugged, not highly fitted bulls ready for immediate service for the farmer or rancher, as well as many top herd prospects suited to the most discriminating breeder."

Bulls eligible for the forthcoming sale are only those born between May 1, 1954 and March 1, 1957. Entry lists have now closed; and Angus men all over America are said to be eagerly awaiting the big event, with many of them making plans to come to Richmond to see the judging and participate in the selling of more than 400 Aber-

deen Angus bulls.

A distinguished committee, featuring names well known throughout the Angus world, is set to sift the cattle, and place them in classes for the ultimate judging of the top group, and the selling of that group and the next two highest ratings. Serving on the sifting committee are Dr. Paul Kessie manager of Kermac Ranch, Poteau, Okla., Clayton Jennings, co-owner of Hyland Angus Ranch, one of the really noted herds of the West, at Highmore, S. D., John Mommsen, Clinton, Iowa who has shown seven International Grand Champion Carloads of steers, and Dr. A. V. Bartenslager, owner of Bellemonte Farm, Churchville, Va., and a leading livestock authority and veterinarian.

Headquarters for the sale will be in Richmond's historic Hotel Jefferson.

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