

Livestock Representatives Show Opposition To Livestock Grading

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture proposed program of livestock grading ran into stiff opposition Tuesday night

Representatives of the livestock industry, meeting with Pennsylvania State University Agriculture Economists and Market Specialists from the State Department of Agriculture in the John Henry Neff School, in Neffsville, showed very lit-

tle enthusiasm for the program.

The group of 45 persons at the meeting was composed largely of stockyard commission agents, livestock dealers and representatives of packing firms.

Only about a dozen livestock feeders were in attendance

As proposed, the program would be on an entirely voluntary basis. Louis Moore, extension Agriculture Economist pointed out. Any livestock producer who does not want his livestock graded could hold them from the

grading.

John Rainey, market expert with the state Department of Agriculture explained the purpose of the plan was to get an unbiased man in the market to, grade livestock according to standard and uniform grades. The grader would be a state employee.

The proposed grading program was requested by the Pennsylvania Farmers Association and some members of the Pennsylvania Livestock Auction Assn.

John Gingrich, a member of the livestock study committee appointed through the Department of Agriculture, said the Livestock Auction Association, at a recent meeting voted eight to four in favor of the proposed grading plan with nine mem-

bers of the association abstaining.

Gingrich, manager of the New Holland Sales Stables, said management there does not favor grading for that market.

Moore, in pointing out the advantages and disadvantages of the program, said studies in areas where grading has been established showed that the program tends to eliminate misunderstandings between producer and buyer.

Moore also said the grading system tends to improve the product through education of the producer.

However, Moore pointed out, the program might be costly if a large volume of livestock did not come under grading. He also said poor grading of false tar-

gets could ruin the program. Some opposition to pooling livestock from various producers might be expected.

Under the proposed set-up, livestock of similar wgt and quality would be grouped and penned.

A representative of the Lancaster Packing Company expressed strenuous opposition on the grounds that a smaller producer would not be able to buy small lots of slaughter stock.

As proposed, the grading would apply only to feeder calves, feeder pigs, veal calves and lambs.

Much of the interest in the program appears to come from the auction sales in western part of the state, especially in the sheep areas and in places where there (Turn to page 12)

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