

units, we could offer the farmers in this area what they need to remain competitive." "I couldn't think of a more natural marriage," Bond added. "We have the same traditions of service and dependability. Our operations fit well together. We think alike." The Eastern States Farmers' Exchange, headquartered in West Springfield, Mass., was organized in 1918, and started

its cooperative purchasing operations by assembling orders for carloads of feed among the farmers of communities in southern New England. Through its organization of farmer representatives and service centers it developed a system of feed distribution throughout the New England States, Delaware, and parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania. In addition to its feed business,

Eastern States distributes fertilizers, seed, agricultural chemicals and farm supplies. Wirthmore Feeds Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Corn Products Company, is headquartered in Waltham, Mass. It was established in 1886, and has since served farmers in 17 northeast states with poultry and livestock feeds.

USDA Approves Smoke Flavoring In Some Meats

The use of smoke flavorings and artificial smoke flavorings is now permitted in the processing of certain Federally inspected meat products under an amendment to Federal Meat Inspection regulations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

"Smoke flavorings" consist of the safe, soluble ingredients in smoke "Artificial smoke flavorings" include these ingredients plus spice extracts and other flavorings.

Before this amendment, USDA regulations required that smoke flavor in meats had to come from exposure of the meat to smoke from burning hardwood or hardwood sawdust. The use of smoke flavorings or artificial smoke flavorings still is not permitted in the preparation of products such as ham, bacon, frankfurters, and bologna, which consumers normally would expect to be smoked over burning hardwood.

Products with the newly permitted flavorings are required to be plainly marked and identified with the statement "Artificial Smoke Flavoring Added" or "Smoke Flavoring Added," whichever may apply. This is to assure that the products involved are not offered for sale under any false or deceptive name.

All smoke flavorings, as well as other ingredients, must be approved for safety by USDA before they can be used by Federally inspected meat processing establishments.

Announcement of the proposal to change the regulations appeared in the Federal Register June 2 and again on Aug. 7. Both announcements invited 30 days for comments and views from the public and from industry.

The amendment becomes effective on publication scheduled today in the Federal Register.

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