

Electric Gates Speed Livestock Movement

Electrically operated gates, developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, speed the movement of livestock through markets, reports a new USDA publication.

Two men can do the work of four with the gates designed by agricultural engineers Herman F. Mayes of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, and J. S. McKibben and James H. Obermeier of the University of Missouri, Columbia. These experimental gates should be useful at livestock auctions, stock yards, and other sites where large numbers of livestock must be moved rapidly, the engineers report.

In commercial-scale tests in a livestock auction market, animals were moved through the sales ring faster, thereby speeding up the sales operation.

The gate has several safety features to avoid injuring animals and is strong enough to stand up under rough use. It can be opened even when animals are leaning against it.

Inter-State

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though such decisions are somewhat late in coming. Our concern, however, is that, with 1968 being a presidential election year, the political sources that will be existing in 1968 may well change the powers and attitudes of the Department of Agriculture to the point of calling for, or attempting to, bring about agricultural price reductions so that consumers' prices may be held in

line as a political weapon in the presidential election year.

2. Following a two-year procedural fight, the Philadelphia Federal milk marketing order was changed only recently from what is called a handler pool to a market pool. Representing our members, Inter-State sought the continuation of the handler pool, which was the method of distributing monies to dairy farmers for close to 50 years in our area. The main reason given by the Department for this change was their inability to enforce Federal Order No. 4 with a handler pool. It appears to us that such inability was apparently a policy decision on the part of certain levels of the Department's administration "not to enforce." The effectuation of the policy "not to enforce" became a really effective tool in the hands of the Department to impose its will on a group of cooperatively organized farmers to their long-run monetary detriment.

We believe that the long-run policies of the Department of Agriculture should hew to this line of the democratic form of government. The people should still be more important in the

direction followed by the government policies than the views of a few individuals within the government.

3. For over six months now, dairy farmers across the United States, with the support of other general farm organizations, have been making every effort to tighten the interpretation of the current import regulations on dairy products. We have asked the Secretary of Agriculture to stand firmly behind the dairy industry in protecting our present price levels by strongly urging the proper interpretation of the current import legislation. We strongly urge the Department of Agriculture to impose the current legislative efforts involved in S. 612 wherein definite limitations by the law are established with reference to importing dairy product items.

4. We are strongly in favor of legislation which will provide opportunity for dairy farmers to strengthen their bargaining efforts. We would like, however, to urge one word of caution as the Secretary and his Department may move along the line we now read about. We hope that any legislation, which is developed and ultimately passed, will not bypass the currently established cooperative institutions and we

Joanne Bowman Resigns County Extension Post

Mrs. Joanne Bowman, formerly assistant extension home economist, resigned her county position effective May 31st, according to Mrs. Doris Thomas, extension home economist. Mrs. Bowman joined the

county staff in 1964, following her graduation from Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., where she earned a degree in home economics.

While on the extension staff, Mrs. Bowman was primarily responsible for 4-H home economics activities, and also worked with the adult program.

Mrs. Bowman and her husband David reside at Manheim R1, where she plans to become a full-time homemaker.



Joanne Bowman

certainly hope that it will not be so written as to cause any great amount of jurisdictional dispute as between groups of farmers now established in co-operatives, or any ones brought about by the language in the law. Commodity cooperatives, particularly in milk, have, through the years, done an excellent job and have relied primarily upon strong marketing agreements with their members. Any such new legislation should not disturb these relations because, if they are disturbed, the long years of effectiveness of these organizations will be completely destroyed.

Dairy farmers' views and questions on future farm income, farm programs and operations, and the entire farm food economy were discussed.

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