

Meat Packer Charged In Sale Of Decomposed Meat To Hospital

The Pennsylvania Agriculture Department has charged the Diamond Meat Company of Philadelphia with selling decomposed meat to the Weinersville State Hospital.

The charges stem from an investigation begun by the Department after samples of the meat were analyzed and found to be "decomposed and not fit for use," Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull said.

The complaint has been filed before Alderman George Ward, of Reading, by James A. Brennan, a food inspector of the Department's district office at Lansdale. It charges Benjamin Levenberg, president of the Diamond Meat Co. of Philadelphia (2060 E. Tioga St.) with violat-

ing the general food laws of Pennsylvania. A hearing was tentatively scheduled for Friday, Jan. 19.

Recently a United States Department of Agriculture meat grader stationed at the Diamond Meat Company plant was arrested by FBI agents. The federal grader — Joseph F. McGuigan, 29, of Philadelphia — was charged with fraudulently approving some 10,650 pounds of meat sent to hospitals in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Secretary Bull said the Department was notified late last December that officials at the Wernersville Hospital were concerned about the condition of ground beef received from the Diamond Meat Company. An in-

spector from the Lansdale office went to the hospital January 2 and obtained samples of the beef and sent them to a regional laboratory for analysis.

The analysis reports indicate, Secretary Bull said, that the meat showed freezer burn, and appeared to have been thawed and refrozen. On thawing, he said, it was soft and slimy and analysis showed it to be decomposed and not fit for use.

Secretary Bull said examination of food products "is a service we provide state institutions any time they feel there is a need to check food being served there." The Department's food inspectors regularly pick up food samples in retail outlets and check them "to avoid this sort of thing and to assure consumers they are getting wholesome products," the Secretary added.

Three separate shipments of meat were involved in the Wernersville complaint, Bull said. One lot of 750 pounds was seized and is being held by Department agents. Another shipment of meat from the Diamond Meat Company was halted at the hospital recently and samples taken for analysis, Bull added. Re-

4-H NEWS

The Northern Lancaster County 4-H Soil and Water Conservation Club met at the home of Aaron Stauffer, Ephrata R1. Thirty members were present.

In the reorganization the following were elected: Dennis Martin, Stevens R1, president; Clair Weaver, Narvon, vice president; Lucy Weaver, East Earl, secretary; Curtis Horst, New Holland R1, treasurer; Park Stauffer, Ephrata R1, news reporter; Cindy McCarthy, New Holland R1 and Linda Sensenich, Horse Shoe Rd, Lancaster, game leaders.

Leroy Pfautz and Paul Martin, both of Stevens R1 are the adult leaders. The next meeting will be held at Twin Pine Auto Sales, Route 322, one mile north of Lincoln. Speaker will be Orval Bass. Anyone interested

ports of that analysis have not yet been received, he said.

may still join the club, according to the leaders.

TRACTOR CLUB

The reorganization meeting of the Central 4-H Tractor Maintenance Club was held at Landis Bros Farm Equipment Co., Manheim Pike, Lancaster on January 23 at 7:30 p.m. The following officers were elected:

Pres, Glenn Kieder, Quarryville R1; vice pres, Kenneth Risser, Leola R1; sec, James Killeffer, Manheim R1; treas, Joe Hess, Mt Joy R1; news reporter, Larry Rohrer, 1604 Wheatland School Rd, Lancaster.

The adult leaders are Herbert Royer, 2025 Oregon Pike, Lancaster; Glenn Porter, Washington Boro R1; Christ Brubaker, Stone Mill Rd, Lancaster; Howard Baker, 327 E. Charlot, Millersville.

The next meeting of the club will be January 30, 7:30 p.m. at Landis Bros, Manheim Pike, Lancaster.

The purpose of the 4-H Tractor Club is for members to learn to do many small maintenance jobs on farm tractors and power units. Members also learn how to be a safe operator and form good safety habits so as to act safely at all times.



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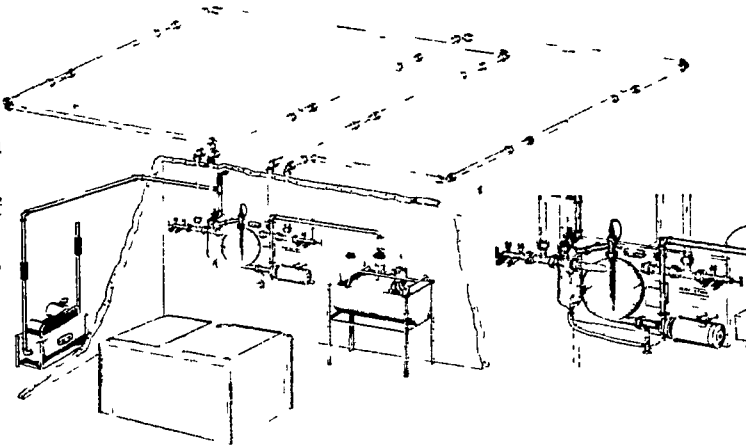
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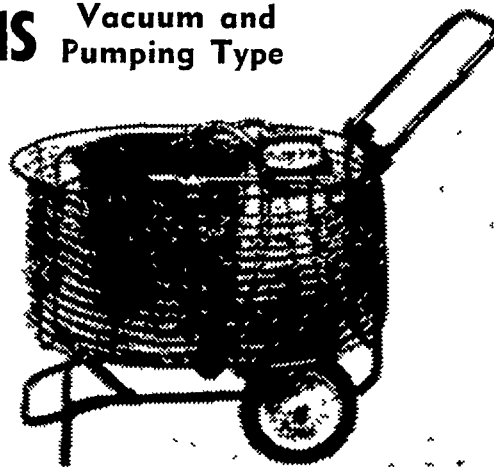
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