

Committee Urges USDA-Industry Efforts To Curb Overfeeding

The National Cattle Industry Advisory Committee today urged industry organizations and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue efforts to encourage producers to hold slaughter cattle to lower weights in light of relatively cheap feed grain prices.

The 39 members of the committee, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, represent all phases of the cattle and beef industry — producing, feeding, packing, retailing, and consum-

ing interests. The group met with Secretary Orville L. Freeman and with a number of his key administrators in a two-day meeting (Feb. 19-20) to discuss common needs and problems in the cattle and beef field.

Secretary Freeman said he was "highly pleased with the frank and honest manner in which this committee has approached many of the problems facing the cattle industry today. I will give the comments and recommendations of this com-

mittee very serious and urgent attention."

The Committee:
-1 Urged industry organizations and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue efforts to encourage producers to hold slaughter cattle to lower weights in light of relatively cheap feed grain prices. The committee endorsed the feed grain program as an integral part of maintaining beef supplies in line with effective demand.

-2 Continued efforts by USDA and industry in promoting the sale of beef, beef products, and live cattle overseas.

-3. Requested that USDA ex-

plere the possibility of establishing beef import quotas on a quarterly instead of annual basis and evaluate possibilities of implementing any adjustments which promise significant improvement.

-4 Expressed concern over the volumes of retail cuts imported into Hawaii in competition with native business.

-5. Expressed concern that pending legislation to limit imports of industrial products would, if enacted, damage export markets for agricultural products.

-6 Since several livestock organizations now have programs started which are designed to improve farmer bargaining power, most committee members expressed skepticism about the possibilities of using marketing orders at this time in the cattle industry. They expressed a desire to observe how these current industry programs work before considering other approaches.

-7 The Committee expressed a need for more timely and accurate statistical reports, and particularly requested more monthly cattle on feed reports.

-8 The committee members representing producer and feeder interests supported some type of packer bonding or proof of solvency under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

-9 An expansion in beef cutability grading was endorsed by the Committee, and greater publicity was urged to acquaint producers, packers and retail buyers with the merits of the new USDA service.

-10 Urged the purebred beef breed associations to intensify their efforts to identify breeding cattle for grading quality, muscling, and rate of growth, and to liberalize the use of artificial insemination for this improvement.

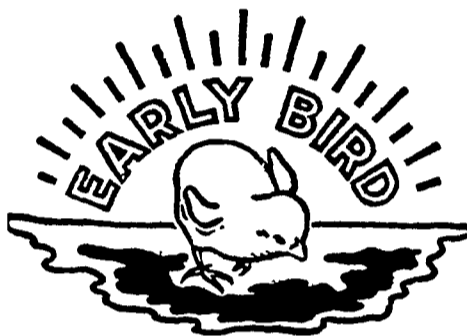
-11 The consumer representatives emphasized that there was not a basic conflict between consumer and producer interests. They further indicated strong support for reasonable prices to producers of beef to assure adequate wholesome supplies of high quality beef for consumers.

-12 The industry expressed interest in a number of other programs such as the inspection of imports under the new Wholesome Meat Act, steps taken to protect the American livestock industry from disease and insect problems, new developments in livestock and meat market news reporting and in USDA meat purchase programs.

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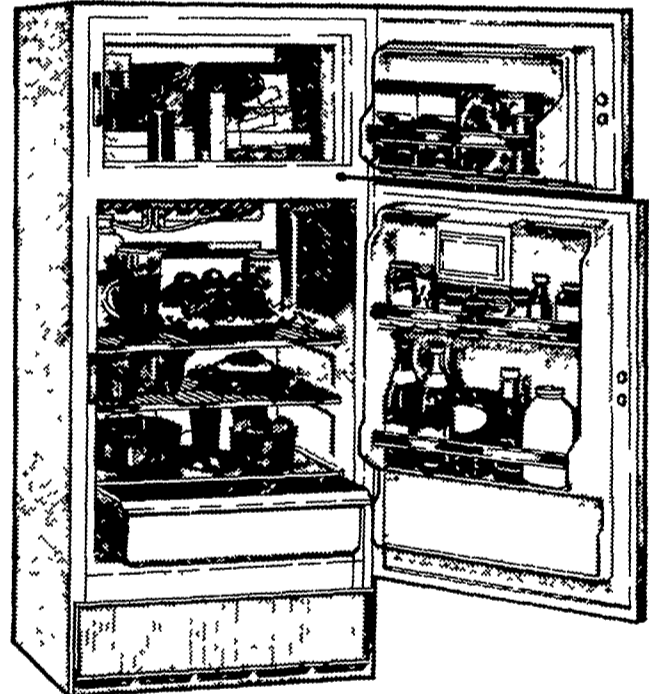
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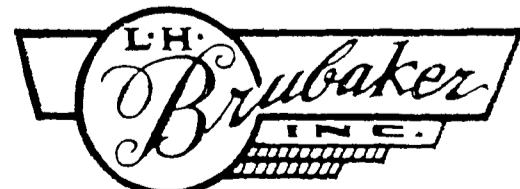
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