

Pa. Egg Marketing Association

The following report was taken from the meeting minutes of the last meeting of the Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association.

John Wenger, vice president, presided in the absence of President Ben Burkholder. He introduced Kenneth B. Hoist, a new member.

It was explained that one year has elapsed since "the egg character was named Miss Nutrish". The winner from Somerset, Pa., received two dozens of eggs each week for one year at a cost to the Association of \$50.83. Miss Keck, the winner, donated half of the eggs to a children's home.

A further investigation of the confusion that has existed in institutional bidding and pricing revealed that the Auditor General's Dept. refused to honor invoices when the term "Fancy Medium" was used and the outside price used as a base. The unreasonable reasoning indicated that Fancy Medium called for a 41 lb case and the specifications called for only a 40 lb case. This action forced the vendors to use the Medium price as a base and become further confused, because the quality specified was only 75% A, when the specifications called for 80% A.

Any vendor is advised to bid above or below the market—using the outside price on the Medium quotation. If they were for example bidding plus 3 cents they will have to increase to plus 4 cents to cover the fact that they trade on the Fancy Medium quotation and must furnish an 80% A quality product. Any vendor wishing additional information may contact the Bureau of Markets, Harrisburg, Pa.

Sam Berenson reported that the Legislative Committee became aware of the existence of enabling legislation in the Pennsylvania Legislature. It was discovered that S1273 had passed the Senate and had gone to the House with provisions for enabling legislation for Apples, Milk and Peaches. These items replaced Agricultural Commodities which would have covered eggs as well as other agricultural commodities.

Action was taken at once and Rep. Ashby Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee has indicated that he will give the matter of changing to Agriculture commodities or include eggs his attention, in hopes that the committee will also agree. Should the bill receive favorable action in the House, arrangements have been made by the committee to also bring about favorable action in the Senate when the bill returns. Every member is urged to contact his Legislators and advise them of his feelings toward the legislation.

Following a short presentation by Berenson about additional freight rates granted by I.C.C. effecting feed costs the group moved to contact I.C.C. and insist that they avoid further increases that will hurt an industry already badly damaged.

Berenson continued by reporting that industry people from several states have requested the Chicago Mercantile Exchange to two days a week reporting with a maximum drop of one cent per day. He said we have been advocating almost the same thing for years but we never do anything about it.

The members moved that, the Egg Marketing Association request the New York Mercantile Exchange to go on a two day a week basis with a maximum of a two cent drop each day and that the Association requests a meeting with the Exchange within two weeks. Motion passed unanimously.

Kermit Birth introduced Hal-

ler, Auditor-Associated with the P & S Act who accompanied Tuggle, Acting Chief of The Poultry Branch, USDA.

Tuggle explained that the P & S Act covers Poultry, Meat Packers and Livestock, but does not cover eggs.

"The Act has five Titles".

1. Definition of terms including interstate commerce.

2. Poultry and Meat Packers may not use any unfair practices, give unreasonable benefits,

and the balance — integrators must not create a monopoly, may not manipulate prices and cannot restrain commerce.

3. Applies to Livestock only.

4. Maintain true and accurate records and make them available when requested to do so.

5. Describes marketing areas.

"The Act has 180 employees of which 100 are technical, there are 13 area offices with Newark serving Penna.

There are some 6000 complaints annually, most of which are investigated and settled without litigation. Since 1962 there have only been 8 formal poultry cases, of which five have been brought against integrators

against chain stores. The latter applies mostly to the rejection of the product by chain stores."

"If the Industry is interested the John G. Dow bill in Congress would permit the inclusion of eggs in the P & S Act".

Mr. Tuggle advised that an industry should keep in mind that, the Federal Trade Commission do have some industry control measures that are applicable and should be used whenever necessary.

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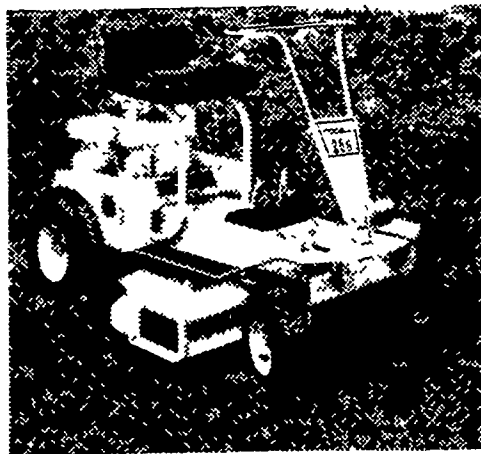
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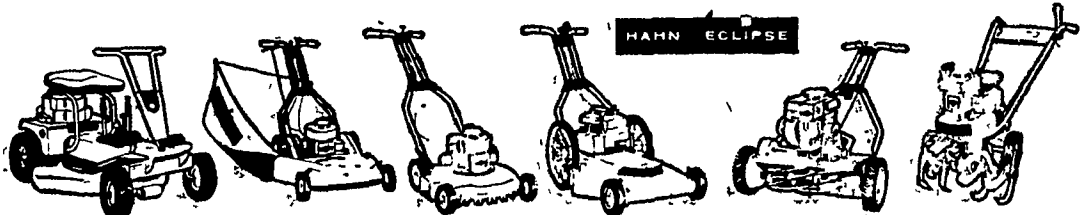
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