

USDA Proposes Revision In Swine Slaughter Standards

The U. S. Department of Agriculture today proposed a revision in the official grades for slaughter barrows and gilts.

The revision would make the grades for slaughter swine correspond directly to the recently revised grades for pork carcasses. A major change would be to revise the U. S. No. 1 grade and eliminate the minimum backfat requirements for that grade, in recognition of the industry's progress in producing leaner, meatier swine.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service officials explained that the revised U. S. No. 1 grade would include not only superior meat-type hogs that now rate that grade but also similar animals without sufficient backfat thickness to rate U. S. No. 1 under current standards.

In other respects, requirements for the proposed U. S. No. 2, U. S. No. 3, and U. S. No. 4 grades would be very similar to those for the present U. S. No.

1, U. S. No. 2, and U. S. No. 3 grades.

The grade U. S. Utility would be used for barrows and gilts which will produce carcasses with an unacceptable quality of lean.

Slaughter grades for swine are used in market news reporting, futures trading, and for other general marketing purposes.

County-Wide (Continued from Page 1)

The Tourist Bureau is to be informed of the event with the hope many out-of-state people will be reached with the promotion.

All dairy organizations are asked to join the event and prepare ideas to be presented at a meeting for this purpose to be announced in the near future.

Those attending the Thursday night meeting were: Gartley, Wagner, William Arrowsmith, Peach Bottom; Robert Groff, Quarryville; William Guhal, and Forrest Preston, both of Oxford R2.

Pennsylvania Spring Turkey Gobbler Season To Open May 6

Pennsylvania hunters were reminded this week by the Game Commission that the state's first spring gobbler season will open one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, May 6. The season closes at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 11.

Special rules will apply for the experimental season. Only bearded turkeys will be legal game. Shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise until 10 a.m. EDST and turkey hunters should be out of the woods by 11 a.m.

Hunting shall be by calling only, "organized driving" or one group of hunters trying to "push" birds into a second waiting group is forbidden.

Use of dogs and hunting turkeys from a blind are illegal. The use of shotguns with shot

no larger than No. 2 and bows and arrows will be permitted, while the use of rifles and pistols is prohibited. However, combination over/under rifle-shotguns can be used providing the hunter does not have single ball ammunition for the rifle in his possession.

Only one turkey may be taken by a hunter per license year. Killing, or attempting to kill, a second turkey during a single license year is illegal. Hunters who took turkeys last fall are prohibited from taking second birds in May.

Hunting turkeys through use of recorded calls or electronically amplified imitations is forbidden by law.

A successful hunter who harvests a bearded turkey during the spring season will be required to detach the turkey tag supplied with his license and attach the tag to the bird within one hour, and before transporting or removing the turkey in any manner from where it was killed, according to Game Commission Law Enforcement Division Chief James A. Brown. Failure to tag the turkey subjects the person to a fine.

If the bird is lawfully taken by a person not required to secure a license (such as a farmer hunting on his own or adjacent land), the hunter must make and attach a tag within the time specified after such killing, bearing in plain English the name and address of the hunter and the date and county where the turkey was taken. Hunters are not required to file a report with the Game Commission on turkeys taken.

In response to numerous questions, Brown also offered these guidelines hunters may enter the woods prior to one-half hour before sunrise providing no attempt is made to hunt for or kill a turkey prior to one-half hour before sunrise; hunters who harvested turkeys last fall may accompany hunting companions and operate a turkey call, providing they are not in possession of a gun or bow and arrows, and in no way attempt to take a second turkey; and manually operated mouth or hand calls may be used.

Questionnaires concerning hunter activity will be placed on automobiles by Game Protectors, biologists and Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit personnel. Field surveys will also be conducted in an effort to evaluate the experimental gobbler season.

Hunters are urged to cooperate with the Game Commission's surveys and regulations, especially concerning the shooting of bearded birds only and within legal hours, so that an accurate appraisal of the experimental season can be made as to the value of the season and whether or not it should be continued in the future.

RAINFALL HELPS

Germination of vegetables has been helped by recent rains, the State Crop Reporting Service says.

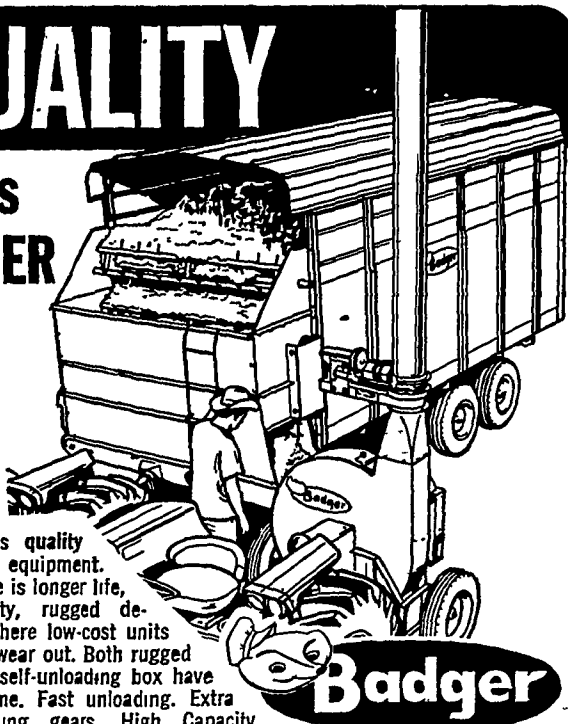
The rainfall aided the growth of fall-seeded grains. Rye is beginning to head in the southern areas of the state and a small amount of barley is in the early stage of development.

Although some scattered light frosts were reported by fruit growers, damage is light. In the southern areas, apples are now past full bloom. Tying of grape vines in Erie County is largely completed.

Strawberries continue to prosper. Asparagus harvests, curtailed by cool weather, are continuing.

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