

## Albert Warns Farmers Of Need to Speak Up

Majority Leader Carl Albert warned farmers recently that a "confrontation is needed as a springboard for combating the spreading mythology about agriculture."

"Farmers have become a too-silent minority, and partly as a result they are saddled with second-class economic status," the veteran House leader wrote in an article in the May issue of "Agriculture USA," a newsletter published by the National Educational Institute for Agriculture.

He noted that between 1949 and 1968 farm income fell by \$3 billion, and added "In an era of loudly-voiced demands, no other large economic group or profession would have accepted such a staggering loss of income without making it a well-known fact to most other Americans."

He said the public is unaware that a farm crisis "might be simmering to a boil in a period of rising food prices many Americans conclude that farmers are raking in huge profits . . . getting them to under-

stand otherwise is perhaps the major facet of the farm problem. And here the silent farm minority might well borrow a chapter from the tactics of confrontation so effectively used over the past decade by other groups and interests — a confrontation, in this case, of facts to counter the growing fiction about American agriculture."

"Destructive and disruptive tactics will not succeed," Albert continued.

"Neither will threats of chaos linked with extreme demands. But an aggressive, persistent and systematic confrontation could work if enough farmers and farm spokesmen, armed with the facts, would undertake the task."

Albert said he was encouraged that a new organization, the National Educational Institute for Agriculture, has been formed to combat farm image problems. He urged leaders of the organization to assist farmers in gaining redress for an old and legitimate grievance to let the facts be heard.

The Institute announced in March, is a non-profit and non-partisan organization designed to improve urban understanding of agricultural issues.

## Feed Manufacturers Urged to Cooperate With National Civil Defense Survey

Feed manufacturers are urged by their national trade association, the American Feed Manufacturers Association, to cooperate with a Civil Defense Survey of all feed mills which is scheduled to be mailed in early June.

The Survey is being conducted by economists and Civil Defense specialists in the US Department of Agriculture. The primary objective is to obtain information which would be vital to the continued operation of feed mills if controls and allocations should become necessary.

"In case of controls and allocations there currently would be no basis for sound estimates of the industry's requirements for labor, utilities, transportation, ingredients, etc.", stated Oakley Ray, AFMA Vice President. "We are hopeful that such controls and allocations will never be necessary," Ray continued. "However, the domestic and foreign situation is such that future allocations of scarce resources is a definite possibility due to war, inflation or some other national emergency."

Ray pointed out in a recent letter to Secretary of Agriculture Harold Holt that the efficiency of the present system is such that many feed manufacturers have storage facilities for only a few

days' operation. In many cases feed mills would be unable to operate even as long as a week if the supply of ingredients and transportation were disrupted. He also stated that most of the nation's commercial livestock and poultry farmers maintain only a few days' supply of feed, and that livestock and poultry would be hungry in less than a week if producers were cut off from feed supplies.

About 15,000 mills will be contacted. The Survey covers such subjects as production and storage capacity, quantities of feed produced, ingredient requirements, ingredient inventories, transportation requirements, etc.

The information provided by each mill will be combined with

that from other mills in the same state. The USDA will release no information which would disclose data concerning an individual mill or an individual company.

Ray indicated that this will be by far the most complete survey of feed manufacturers which has ever been conducted. Although the Survey is primarily for Civil Defense purposes, some of the

summary information will be of great interest to feed manufacturers and suppliers. It will indicate the capacity and the output of the feed industry, and the size of the market for industry suppliers. All of this information will be available on a state and regional basis.

### USDA Pushes Vaccine Contaminants System

Procedures that will lead to better detection of contaminants in vaccines are being proposed by the US Department of Agriculture.

Chief among the proposed changes are restrictions on antibiotics used as preservatives and more sensitive tests to detect bacteria, fungi, and yeasts that contaminate vaccines. Minor changes included contain specifications for equipment that may be used to produce veterinary biologics. The changes affect Parts 109, 113, 114, and 121 of the Code of Federal Regulations and were scheduled for publication as a proposal in the Federal Register on May 16.

Interested parties have 60 days to send comments, suggestions, or objections to the proposal. Refer to Docket 70-44 and address such remarks to Dr. John M. Hejl, Director, Veterinary Biologics Division, Agricultural Research Service, 215 Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

Most significant among the changes are those affecting antibiotics. Recent tests by the Veterinary Biologics Division clearly showed that antibiotics interfere with proper testing of vaccines for freedom from microbes. These tests covered 27 strains of known contaminants affected by nine antibiotics commonly used in commercial vaccines.

Typical of the resulting restrictions is a limit of 30 micrograms of streptomycin permitted per milliliter of vaccine. Other antibiotics permitted, but only in limited amounts, are amphotericin B, nystatin, tetracyclines, penicillin, polymyxin B, neomycin, and certain combinations of these antibiotics.

### Applemen Vote Yes

With a vote of 235 to 58, Pennsylvania apple growers have approved the extension of an apple marketing program, the State Department of Agriculture reported this week.

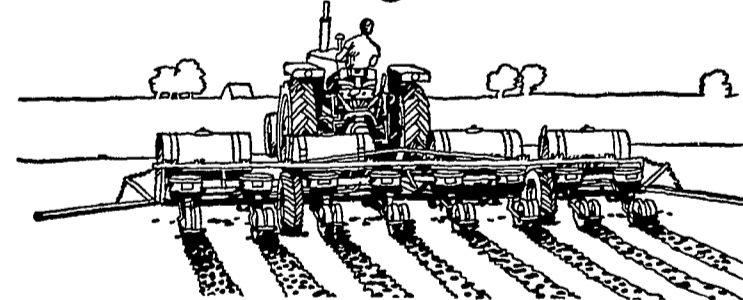
The program provides for an assessment of three cents per hundred weight on apples sold for the fresh market, and one cent on apples sold for processing.

Commercial growers with 500 or more trees each are subject to the assessment which is used to promote sale and use of apples.

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