

USDA Meat Sanitation Enforcement Stepped Up

Suggestions by the General Accounting Office to strengthen enforcement of meat inspection have been adopted — some of them nearly a year ago — the US Department of Agriculture reported recently.

The GAO recommendations are in a report on sanitation in meat plants under mandatory

Federal inspection, and in non-Federally inspected meat plants receiving optional Federal grading service.

USDA officials said intensive surveys recently show that the plants surveyed by GAO now have acceptable sanitation if they are still producing meat for sale.

GAO limited its study primarily to selected plants with past sanitation problems. Therefore, it was not designed to be representative of the meat industry as a whole.

The GAO report suggested emphasizing sanitation regulations to all employees responsible for carrying out, supervising or administering meat inspection programs establishing specific criteria for suspending inspection and grading services and including a statement of action taken in all reports of deficiencies in sanitation.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said the emphasis of the requirement for strict enforcement of sanitation standards was started in May 1969. Meetings were held with field inspection and supervisory staffs and with industry. Be-

ginning with June, 1969, there was a sharp increase in the number of actions taken by USDA to hold up operations in plants in unsanitary conditions.

When a plant cannot or does not correct serious deficiencies promptly, the entire plant is shut down by suspending or withdrawing inspection. While there were no formal suspensions before June 1969, there were 23 such formal suspensions from June 1969 to March 1970.

Temporary withholding of inspection from entire plants or individual operations within plants until unsanitary condi-

tions are corrected by the plant also showed a marked increase in the past year. Plants in which such actions were taken averaged 99 a month during the first five months of 1969, but climbed to 342 a month during the following 10 months.

Deadlines given to plant management for correction of basic facility and equipment deficiencies tripled during the past year, from an average of 22 plants a month during the first five months in 1969 to 68 per month in the next 10 months. Seventy-nine meat and poultry plants have withdrawn from Federal inspection, most of

them closing down, because they were unable or unwilling to meet sanitary requirements.

C&MS officials said that although marked progress has been made during the past year, they will continue to direct their efforts to making further needed improvements. USDA will also continue to emphasize to plant managers their responsibility for producing wholesome food.

These actions will be aimed at making stronger an already effective program to assure consumers they will get clean, wholesome meat, officials said.

4-H Club Activities

GARDEN SPOT 4-H

The Garden Spot 4-H Club will hold a fashion show titled "The Age of Aquarius" at 7:30 p.m. July 27 in the New Holland Fire Hall. The event is free of charge and open to the public. Chairmen are Jan Hunsicker, Carol Huss, Debbie Redday and Kay Sheaffer.

Barb Halls was appointed chairman of a committee to plan a picnic. Assisting her are Mary Hale and Cindy O'Brien.

By Linda Siskman Kookie Kooks

The Penn Manor Kookie Kooks held their fourth meeting on Wednesday, July 15 in the home economics room of the Penn Manor Junior High School.

Subsides and soup was the topic of the first year girls and the second year girls made biscuits.

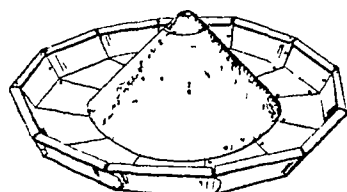
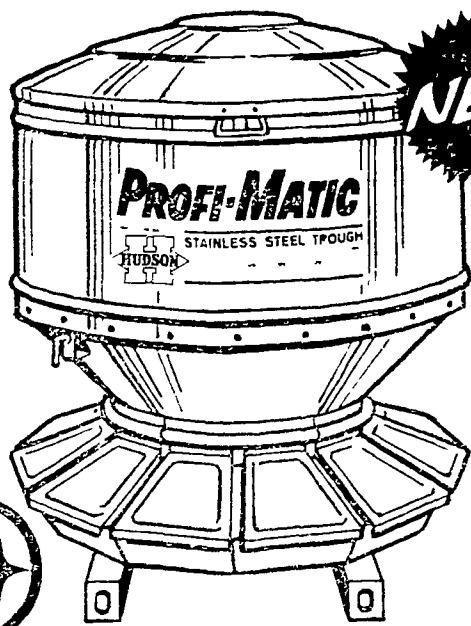
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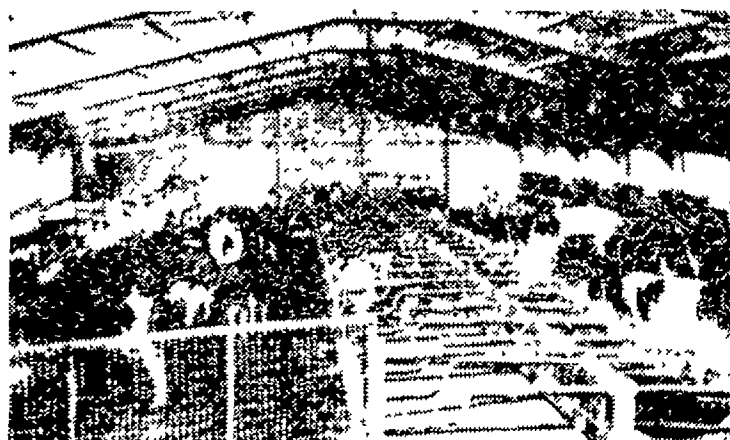
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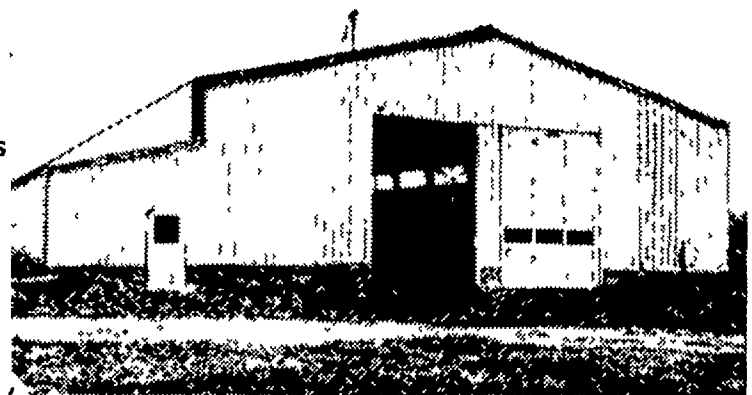
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