

USDA Reports PAC Act Action

Johnie Stanley Banana Co Inc., 708 E. Second St., Huntington, W. Va., has satisfied a reparation award of \$6,911 issued under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported recently.

Officials of USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said the firm's PACA license was suspended effective May 27, 1970, when it failed to pay the reparation award. Now that the award has been satisfied, the firm and its officers, directors and stockholders — Johnie M. Stanley, Charles A. Clark, John H. Flournoy and Patricia A. Adams—are again entitled to conduct business subject to the PAC Act.

C&MS officials said the award was based on the firm's failure to pay a North Carolina produce firm for three truckloads of bananas purchased. The North Carolina firm had registered a complaint under the PAC Act.

Elsewhere, the USDA has suspended the produce trading license of Sun Ripe Banana Co., New Castle, Del., under the PAC Act, effective June 26 for failing to pay a reparation award of \$22,899.

Officials of USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said the firm and its officers, directors and stockholders — Samuel I. and Leonard Beikowitz—are not entitled to conduct business subject to the PAC Act until the reparation award is satisfied and the license suspension is lifted. They

cannot be employed by another PACA licensee without USDA approval.

C&MS officials said a produce shipping firm in New Orleans, La., claimed that the Delaware firm failed to pay for numerous lots of bananas shipped between July and September 1969. The firm was advised of the complaint but did not answer the charges. USDA's Judicial Officer ordered payment of the full amount claimed due for each transaction.

Also, the produce trading license of Nat Greene, Miami, Fla., has been suspended under the PAC Act, effective June 23, for failing to pay a reparation award of \$3,586.

Officials of USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said Greene is not entitled to conduct business subject to the PAC Act until the reparation award is satisfied and the license suspension is lifted. He cannot be employed by another PACA licensee without USDA approval.

C&MS officials said a produce shipping firm in Scranton, Pa., claimed that Greene purchased for his own account but failed to pay for two trailerloads of tomatoes. Greene was advised of the complaint and filed an answer claiming he was a broker for a Puerto Rican buyer in the transactions. Greene requested an oral hearing which was held at Miami, Fla.

USDA's Judicial Officer concluded from the evidence that Greene purchased the tomatoes

for his own account and did not adequately justify his failure to pay the Pennsylvania firm and ordered payment of the full amount claimed due for the transactions.

The PAC Act establishes a code of good business conduct for the produce industry. As a means of enforcing that code it requires that interstate traders in fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables be licensed. The law authorizes USDA to suspend or revoke a trader's license for violating the Act.

Egg Production Shifts Sharply

The number of farms selling eggs decreased sharply, contractual arrangements gained importance and egg production tended to shift to the South and West during the 1950's and 1960's, according to the USDA Economic Research Service.

The number of farms selling eggs fell from 2.4 million in 1949 to 527,000 in 1964 alone.

And, while farms with less than 400 chickens accounted for 76 per cent of all chickens on farms in 1950, this group accounted for less than 20 per cent of the total by 1960.

Also, in 1964 about 16,000 farms selling 50,000 dozen or more eggs each in 1964 accounted for two-thirds of all eggs sold, while the 1,000 largest egg farms accounted for more than one-fifth of all eggs sold.

While contractual arrangements accounted for only a small proportion of total egg production in the 1950's—perhaps five per cent—they accounted for 30 to 35 per cent of it by 1968.

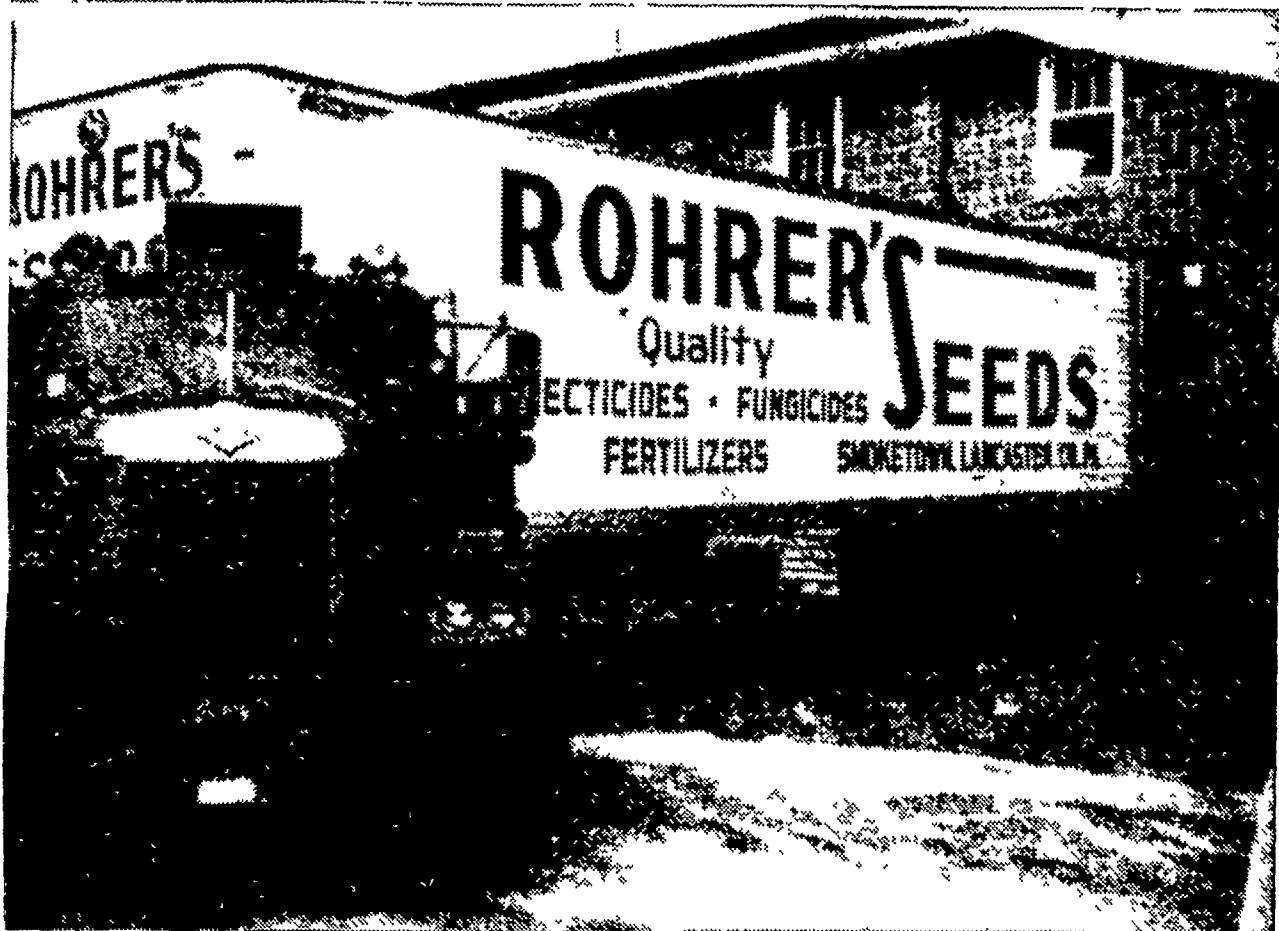
While the West North Central States accounted for 25 per cent of the Nation's egg production in 1959 they accounted for only 14 per cent of it by 1969. While the South Atlantic States, which accounted for only 12 per cent of egg production in 1959, accounted for over 20 per cent of the 1969 total.

A further breakdown shows that since 1959 egg production has decreased 42 per cent in the West North Central States, decreased 18 per cent in the East North Central States, decreased nine per cent in the North Atlantic States.

On the other hand it has increased 39 per cent in the West in States, increased 60 per cent in the South Central States, increased 89 per cent in the South Atlantic States.

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