

U. S. Meat, Poultry Inspection Programs Reorganized

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin recently announced a reorganization of the USDA's meat and poultry inspection program. "The reorganization is designed to make this important consumer protection program more responsive to changing conditions," the Secretary said.

"This realignment of duties will provide direct lines of communication. It will improve and quicken relationships with consumers, State administrations, and industry," Secretary Hardin continued. The changes will be effective immediately.

Meat and poultry inspection will continue to be administered in USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service under Administrator Clayton Yeutter, and Kenneth M. McEnroe, Deputy Administrator for Meat and Poultry Inspection. The revised organization provides for an Assistant Deputy Administrator and

one operating and two support divisions.

The Field Operations Division will be responsible for supervising and coordinating the operations of eight regional offices, along with training programs and import-export inspection. The organization of the regional offices will be similar to that of the Field Operations Division office in Washington, D. C. Responsibility will be focused on field operations, and lines of authority both regionally and nationally will be clearly defined for the benefit of consumers, industry, and the inspection service itself. Federal-State cooperation officers will be included on the Division Staff in Washington, as well as in the regional offices.

The Laboratory Division will be upgraded to provide all laboratory and analytical services for meat and poultry inspection. This step reflects the need for a scientific approach to many new inspection problems. There will now be added emphasis on chemical, toxicology, microbiology, and pathology testing, including tests for pesticides and other residues.

The Standards and Services Division will combine into one unit the support services currently provided by several divisions. Included will be respon-

sibilities for approval of plant facilities, development of product standards, approval of labels, and the preparation of standards and issuance of regulations for meat and poultry inspection.

Egg Marketing Assn. To Review Brand Plan

The December meeting of the Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association will feature a comprehensive report on the "Brand Egg Program," according to President Frank Troester.

A report of a survey of other states with a similar program is available and will be presented by Earl Hess.

A copy of the report on the Standards Committee will be available for everyone for further study and hopefully comments.

Ben Burkholder will be ready with a report on Pricing, even though presently some of it may be slightly preliminary.

Mel Mitchell will have an activity report on Advertising and Consumer Education as it relates to design creation, and development of programs to stimulate consumer and retailer interest.

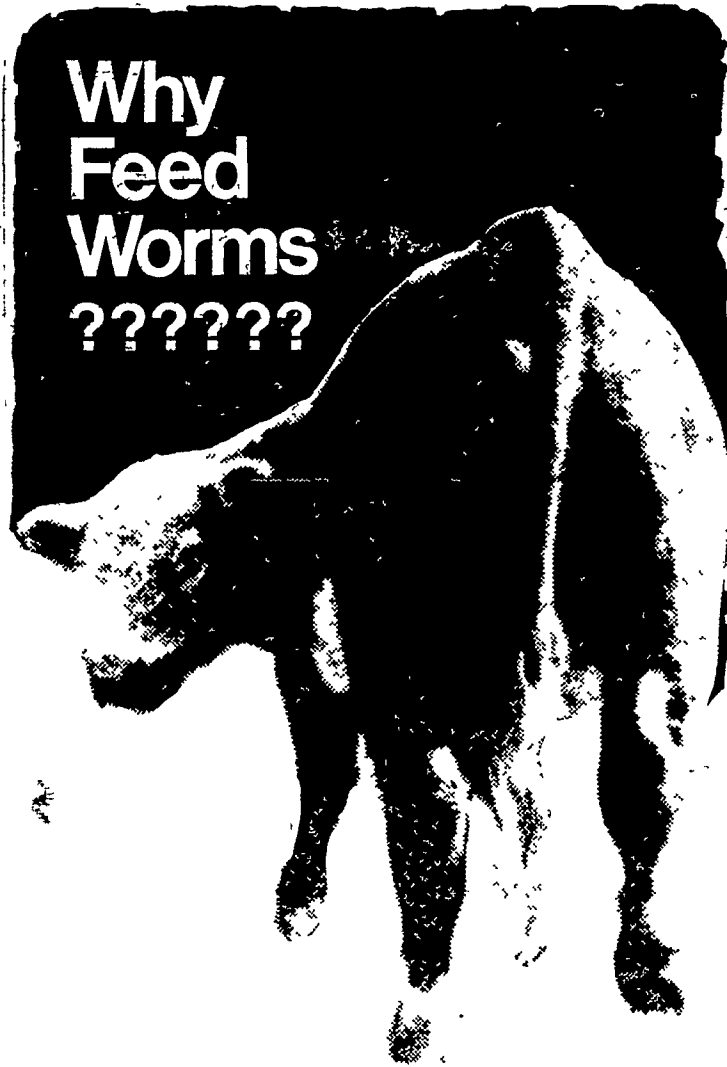
Sam Berenson is slated to report on Legislation as it relates to the Brand Egg Program.

In addition to the three divisions, a Program Review and Compliance Staff will report directly to the Deputy Administrator. The staff will be responsible for reviewing plants and operations to assure full compliance with law and regulations by both industry and inspection personnel, and will develop systems aimed at preventing legal and regulatory violations.

Secretary Hardin pointed out, "We are now in a major transition brought about by passage of the Wholesome Meat Act and the Wholesome Poultry Products Act. These new changes, based largely on the report of a task force I appointed to study our present and future needs in this field, will improve departmental efficiency and the protection afforded all consumers of meat and poultry products."

Secretary Hardin also announced that these programs of the USDA will be called "Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs", rather than Consumer Protection Programs as they have been. "There's no lessening of our consumer protection activities," Secretary Hardin explained. "In fact the reverse is true. But the name 'Consumer Protection' is too broad. We'll call it what it actually is, Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs."

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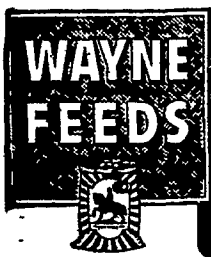


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Practice Preventive Maintenance On Small Engines Before Storage

If your power mower, outboard motor and other small engine tools have finished another season, don't just shove them into storage without a little preventive maintenance, says Thomas H. Williams, extension agricultural engineer at the University of Delaware.

Improper storage can cripple small gasoline engines in a variety of ways, he explains. Gasoline left in the carburetor can become gummy and foul fuel lines. And excess moisture may cause rust on cylinder walls and pistons and allow piston rings to freeze.

Most major engine manufacturers include storage sugges-

tions in operating and maintenance manuals, says Williams. But if you've lost or misplaced the manual, here are several key steps to head off storage deterioration.

Drain all gasoline from the tank, start the engine and run until fuel lines and carburetor are empty. Now remove the carburetor bowl, clean it thoroughly and replace.

Next, remove the spark plug and clean or replace it if necessary. Before replacing the plug, however, pour a teaspoon of SAE 10 weight motor oil into the opening and crank the engine several times. This helps to distribute the oil and forms

a protective coating over pistons and cylinder walls. Do not reconnect the spark plug lead before storage.

Finally, clean the engine exterior with an old toothbrush or wire brush, paying particular attention to the cooling fins on the cylinder and head. Remember to drain the crankcase of old oil and replace with new. Coat all unpainted metal parts with grease or oil.

Store the engine in a dry place if at all possible, adds Williams. And leave the cap off the gas tank to prevent moisture collection. If the engine must be left in the open, cover it with waterproof fabric or plastic for protection from the weather.

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