



UEP Praises New Egg Products Act

United Egg Producers has praised Congress for taking "a giant step" for the egg industry and the consumer by passing the Egg Products Act December 14

"We are very pleased that Congress moved the bill before adjournment," James F. Fleming, UEP Director of Public and Governmental Relations said. "The measure was widely supported by industry and consumer interests. Its passage is the culmination of many months of work by industry organizations, and outstanding legislative work by the bills' sponsors, Senator Aiken and Representative Stubblefield."

The bill passed the House Friday, December 11, and was accepted by the Senate Monday, December 14. It was expected to be signed by President Nixon soon.

The legislation provides mandatory inspection of egg

products, the cost of which will be borne by the government, Fleming said. It also restricts certain eggs in the movement of commerce and provides for quarterly inspection of shell egg packing operations.

The bill provides authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations to carry out this act, and gives him authority to exempt egg producers with 3,000 or less hens in production. It provides for Federal-State cooperation, and Small Business Administration assistance for affected industry people who must remodel, change equipment or otherwise alter their operations to comply with the law.

The provisions of the Act with respect to egg products will become effective six months from the date of enactment, Fleming noted. Otherwise, the provisions are effective

18 months after enactment.

The most controversial amendment to the bill in the final days of enactment was the "Poage Amendment" which was accepted, Fleming said. This amendment gives states the authority to require the name, address, and license number of the person processing or packaging eggs to be shown on the carton. Many, including USDA, voiced opposition to this amendment but did not oppose the total bill after the amendment was included by the House Agriculture Committee.

Even though the bill is titled "Egg Products Inspection Act" it includes provisions governing shell eggs and the Small Business Administration provisions include assistance for firms affected by both the Wholesome Poultry and Poultry Products Act of 1968 and the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967, Fleming said.

Chester County 4-H Beef Show

David Wylie, son of Mr and Mrs Samuel Wylie Jr., Nottingham RD2, showed the Grand Champion Steer at the Chester

County 4-H Beef Show held December 8 at Crebilly Farm. His brother Jim captured Reserve Champion honors with his steer.

Both Steers were Angus shown in the heavyweight division.

In the Grooming and Showmanship contest for members under 14, Jim was first and David was second.

Other placings in the heavyweight class were third, Lewis Frame Jr., fourth, Edward Frame, and fifth, Suzie duPont.

Placings in the lightweight class were first, John McNeill, second Diane Howe, third, Milton Howe, fourth, Debbie Coleman, and fifth, Esther Howe.

In the Grooming and Showmanship contest for members over 14, first place went to Milton Howe and second place to Hugh McNeill Jr.

This activity is one of many for the Chester County 4-H Beef Club. Members of the club receive instruction from William Holloway, Conrad Grove, Milton Howe and Sam Wylie III, volunteer adult leaders who donate their time to this youth activity. Further information about this 4-H program may be secured from these leaders or by contacting the Cooperative Extension Service office in the Chester County Courthouse.

Potato Yield Is Up 20 Per Cent

It was a good year for potatoes in Pennsylvania with a record-equaling yield of 240 hundredweight per acre, the State Crop Reporting Service announced recently.

The yield was 20 per cent higher than in 1969 and matched the record set in 1967.

Production totaled 8,280,000 hundredweight and was the state's second largest crop since 1956.

The December 1 holdings of potatoes in storage totaled 5,050,000 hundredweight, four per cent more than on the same date last year.

Movement of 1970 potatoes to markets and for other uses, however, is up from recent years. The December 1 total was 3,230,000 hundredweight, compared to 2,970,000 hundredweight on the same date last year and 3,035,000 hundredweight in 1968.

U.S. Grain Boxcar Survey Made

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has concluded a survey of railroad boxcars suitable for moving grain. The survey was conducted by officials of 2,697 county offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service throughout 48 states, twice weekly, during the four-week period of Sept 28 through Oct. 22.

According to J. Phil Campbell, Under Secretary of Agriculture, who requested the survey be done, "The survey was to determine whether there were large numbers of rail cars which were sitting idle for long periods of time."

"A shortage of boxcars suitable for movement of grain from country points at harvest time, and continuing beyond, has been a long-standing problem plaguing farmers, the grain industry, and the government," Mr. Campbell stated.

"Grain production has been increasing and there has been a marked decrease in the number of boxcars suitable for such transportation. The Department is making this special effort to see if the number of boxcars available are being utilized to the maximum extent possible."

The survey did not utilize scientific sampling techniques in that its purpose was only to identify numbers of boxcars that were sitting idle. No additional funds or manpower were utilized in that the survey was conducted during a period of relative inactivity for the ASCS offices while awaiting decisions on new legislation, and all normal services by the offices were continued to be provided to farmers.

In order to complete the survey within existing resources, it was necessary to limit the survey primarily to rural America and medium-sized cities. Rail

terminals, large switch yards, and points within metropolitan areas with 50,000 or greater population were specifically excluded.

Therefore, while the results of the survey provided accurate and meaningful information within the area of its coverage, it cannot be used to derive movement or idleness of rail grain cars for the United States as a whole.

In addition, the survey did not take into account whether the cars were loaded or unloaded, or if the cars were awaiting movement to the shop yard for repairs.

Briefly, the survey count included a total of 350,000 rail cars of the type suitable for hauling bulk grain, and showed that most were moved quite promptly. Three-fourths of the cars moved within three to four days, and 90 per cent moved within a six-day period.

However, the remaining 10 per cent were slower moving, with 21,223 cars (six per cent) standing from two to four weeks. Two per cent (6,769 cars) were observed at the same locations throughout the entire four-week period.

Geographic location was not an important factor in the movement of rail cars studied, in that movement in the midwest area, for example, was about the same as that reported for the northeast.

"While it was gratifying to note the substantial percentage of rail boxcars in rural areas that were moved rather promptly," Mr. Campbell added, "the survey did indicate that there is also a significant, though relatively small, number of cars that should be moved more rapidly as a means to help alleviate the boxcar shortage."

First 'Health Approved Swine Farm' Is Approved Under New Maryland Program

Russell Watson's Robin Hill Farm, Brandywine, Prince George's County, is the first in the State to be officially designated as a "Health Approved Swine Farm" under the new Maryland Swine Health Program started in 1970.

Official "Health Approved" status means the farm meets high standards of swine management and strict requirements for disease prevention and sanitation.

"Swine Health Approved" farms can be exempt, under certain conditions, from area animal disease quarantines, and enjoy maximum freedom in shipment of swine both within and out of the state.

Approved this year by the USDA, the Maryland "Swine

Health Approved" Program is endorsed by the Maryland Pork Producers, Inc., the Department of Animal Health, State Board of Agriculture (SBA), and the Cooperative Extension Service.

"Health Approved" by a Maryland Health Approved Committee is an endorsement of overall good health and well-being of swine on the farm and of conscientious, effective management with emphasis on sanitation and disease prevention.

Approved farms must avoid contact with other swine and control human and animal traffic onto the farm. They must observe strict requirements for isolation of purchased herd additions and careful segregation of animals in various phases of swine production (farrowing, nursing, feeding, etc).

The Swine Health Approved Program is voluntary. Inspection for approved status is made only on application from the owner. The Health Approved

Committee, made up of a representative of the Maryland Pork Producers Association, a local practicing veterinarian, a Federal veterinarian, a state veterinarian, and a University of Maryland Animal Science specialist, evaluates each farm individually.

"Health Approved" certificates may be issued, on recommendation of the Committee, by the Animal Health Department, State Board of Agriculture. The approved status is for a maximum of 12 months, and may be revoked on recommendation of the Committee for failure to maintain standards and conditions on which the approval was granted. Re-inspection and a new certificate must be applied for annually.

State Veterinarian Dr. T. A. Ladson emphasizes that the "Swine Health Approved" program is voluntary. "It is designed," he points out, "to encourage effective swine health practices, and to recognize superior herd management."

U.S. Ag Exports Set New Record

U. S. agricultural exports in October reached an all-time high of \$724 million—the first time exports in a one-month period surpassed \$700 million, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced recently.

The previous one-month record was \$698 million in November 1966. The October figure is four per cent above the 1966 high. It also is 12 per cent above October a year ago.

The increase was brought about by a 50 per cent increase in grains and preparations which advanced to \$290 million in 1970 from \$195 million in 1969. Wheat exports of 69 million bushels were over two-thirds larger than the 41 million in 1969. Feed-grain exports of 2.2 million tons were one-third above the level a year earlier. Rice exports of 4.3 million bags were about one-sixth larger than in October 1969.

Other significant increases in October occurred for cotton—\$22,868,000 compared with \$18,954,000 in October 1969—inedible tallow, and almonds.

Exports of oilseeds and products with \$181 million were down slightly from the \$189 million in October 1969. Export value also declined for tobacco, fruits and preparations, meats and preparations, and dairy products.



Two young Maryland Guernsey breeders look over a model of their favorite cow in the Maryland Dairy Shrine near Frederick following commemoration ceremonies Oct. 22 honoring the late Fred C. Downey. They are William Powell III of Ellicott City (left), president of the Maryland Guernsey Breeders Association, and Frank Downey of Williamsport. The picture of Fred Downey, Frank's father, is at center rear, and the portrait of Frank's grandfather, Simon L. Downey, is at right rear. Both of the elder Downeys were Guernsey breeders, too.