

Egg Products Act Will Make Shell Damage More Important

Editor's Note: The following informative report on the Egg Products Inspection Act and how it applies to poultry operations was released through the State Extension service and U.S. Department of Agriculture:

The Egg Products Inspection Act is an act of Congress of December 1970 which provides for the mandatory continuous inspection of plants processing egg products, whether shipping in-

terstate, intrastate, or in foreign commerce; the disposition of restricted eggs, and uniform size and quality grades among states.

The first major part of the act deals with egg products. Egg breaking and drying plants processing liquid, frozen, or dried egg products will be required to operate under continuous USDA inspection. This means that all facilities, equip-

ment, and sanitary practices in egg products plants will have to be approved and operations will have to be under the supervision of a federal or state inspector licensed by USDA at all times unless specifically exempted.

Included is required pasteurization of egg products. This part of the act becomes effective July 1, 1971 and applies to all sizes of operations.

To qualify for inspection, processing plants must comply with all raw materials, sanitation, operation, equipment, and facility requirements, which are spelled out in detail in the regulations of the act.

An official plant is any plant at which continuous inspection of the processing of egg products is maintained by the USDA. Costs of inspection at egg products plants will be paid by the United States Government, except that official plants

will be billed for overtime and holiday inspection work beyond the approved schedule of 40 hours per week.

The act also regulates the disposition of restricted eggs as follows: (1) incubator rejects, leakers, inedibles and loss eggs must be destroyed, denatured or properly identified as required in the regulations to prevent their use as human food (no exemptions); and (2) checked and dirty eggs are to be shipped to an official egg products plant where proper segregation and disposition can be made. The regulations governing the disposition of restricted eggs go into effect July 1, 1972, a year later than the egg products portion of the act, thus giving producers and marketers a chance to change marketing practices if necessary.

Egg handlers will be required to keep records of all transactions and will be subject to

periodic inspection. Shell egg handlers who pack for consumers, bakeries, institutions, and food manufacturers will be inspected at least once each calendar quarter to determine the disposition of their restricted eggs. Imported shell eggs, after entry, will be treated exactly the same as domestic eggs.

The act provides for the following exemptions: (1) the processing and sale of eggs or egg products by any producer from his own flock directly to a household consumer; (2) the sale of eggs by a producer with a flock of 3,000 or less hens; (3) the sale, transport, processing, or use of eggs which meet U.S. consumer grades; (4) the sale of cracked eggs directly to household consumers by a packing plant on its own premises.

Nest run or ungraded eggs can be sold to shell egg grading or packing plants or to official egg products plants. They cannot be sold to restaurants, retail stores, and food manufacturing plants unless they contain no more checks, leakers, dirties, and loss than permitted in the U.S. consumer Grade B pack.

Based on regulations published in the Federal Register in March 1971, the maximum amount of restricted eggs allowed in the U.S. consumer Grade B pack includes 10 per cent checks and 0.5 per cent dirties and leakers. Incubator rejects, inedibles, and loss eggs are not allowed.

Since the sale of cracked and dirty eggs will be restricted after July 1, 1972, in some areas of Pennsylvania it may be difficult to find markets for cracked eggs. Thus, it is imperative that producers re-evaluate their egg handling procedures to determine if there are ways to reduce the number of damaged eggs. Leakers will be a total loss.

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4-H News

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air freshener and window cleaner.

Karen McLaughlin, Lititz RD2, gave a demonstration about planting and transplanting outdoor flowers.

Dennis Ginder, Manheim RD2, gave a demonstration on Handyman work.

For entertainment, slides of California were shown by Greg Shell, Elm. Refreshments were served and the meeting ended. News Reporter, Debbie Patschorke

Penn Manor Thimbles

The Penn Manor Clashing Thimbles held its second meeting at 8:30 a.m. June 23.

The meeting was called to order and conducted by Karen Breneman, vice president, with Jeanette Bauman, assistant secretary, taking the new members' names. Linda Sickman and Lori Lea-

man led the club in song and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held in the Penn Manor Middle School at 8:30 a.m. June 30.

News Reporter, Linda Ann Leaman

Kookie Kooks Meet

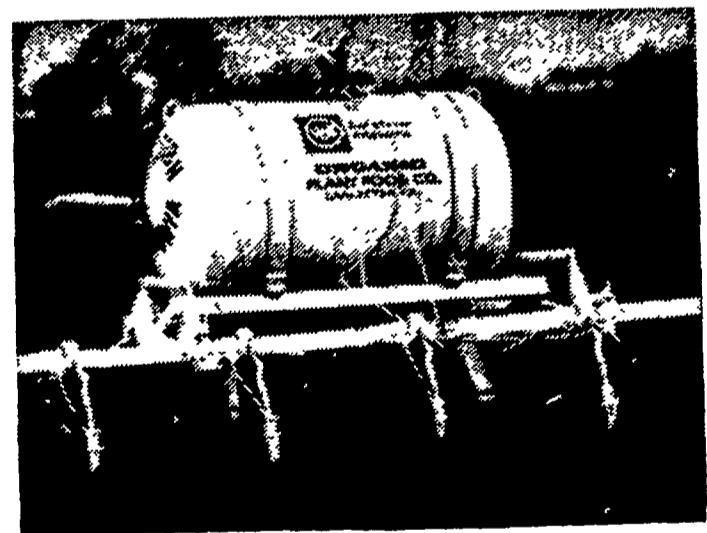
The first meeting of the Kookie Kooks was held at the Penn Manor Middle School on Wednesday, June 23.

The following new officers were elected: President, Judy Thomas; Vice President, Linda Leaman; Secretary, Debbie White; Game Leaders, Lori Leahman and Norlan Moyer; News Reporter, Jeannette Bauman, and Song Leaders, Linda Sickman and Susan Eckenrode.

The next meeting will be held June 30, at the same place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

News Reporter Jeannette Bauman

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