

Meat, Poultry Inspection Offices Consolidated

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced plans to consolidate its eight meat and poultry inspection regions into five at Atlanta, Dallas, Des Moines, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

The five regional offices should become operational during the early part of 1972 Five Program Review and Compliance (PRC) Staff field offices will also be established

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said that the regional meat and poultry inspection offices and the PRC field offices are currently located in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Raleigh, San Francisco, and Kansas City.

C&MS officials said the consolidation of regional offices will result in a substantial saving in operating costs and at the same time improve program coordination.

Areas of coverage under each of the five regions will be announced soon.

This is the latest action in a major overhaul of the Federal meat and poultry inspection program.

C&MS officials also announced today the establishment of two additional area offices at Baton Rouge, La., and in the Phoenix, Ariz., area for supervising meat and poultry inspection at the field level. These offices are in addition to the 34 area offices already created for this purpose (see USDA press release 2211-71, dated July 12, 1971). These 36 offices, most of which are located in State capitals, will report to the five regional inspection offices. This arrangement will provide a more direct line of Federal-State communication and cooperation.

U.S. Hog Numbers Down

Hogs and pigs on U. S. farms on December 1 were estimated at 63.0 million head by the USDA.

That's down seven per cent from a year earlier, according to USDA's Crop Reporting Board.

The number kept for breeding purposes, at 8.5 million, was down 10 per cent, market hogs and pigs, at 54.5 million, down six per cent from a year earlier.

The 1971 pig crop (December 1970 - November 1971) estimated at 52.4 million head, down four per cent from a year earlier. December 1971 - May 1972 farrowings seen at 6.5 million, down 10 per cent from a year earlier, the pig crop for this period, seen at 47.8 million, is down nine per cent from a year earlier.

McHale Attacks 'Corporate Farming'

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale has called upon the U. S. Senate Anti-Trust and Monopoly Sub-Committee to initiate an investigation into corporate farming in the United States.

In a letter to Sub-Committee Chairman Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich), McHale said, "Agribusiness, as it now functions, is focused on short term incentives. Legacies for the future are being ignored. If the trend continues, in my view, society may suffer tremendous damage by the year 2000."

Secretary McHale documented his request with a series of news articles citing the growth and

influence into the agricultural field by such corporations as Tenneco, ITT, Greyhound, Ralston-Purina and Agway.

The Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture insists that corporations and wealthy individuals find a more favorable tax climate on the farm and has figures to show that 75 per cent of all taxpayers with annual incomes of \$100,000 or more are involved, to some extent, in farming.

Secretary McHale said he would be willing to meet with Sen. Hart or any members of the sub-committee and would be willing to testify at hearings on the subject.

Fix-It Tip

If a window breaks in winter, a sheet of plastic will serve until you can make repairs. The plastic drop cloth you use for painting can double, or have an extra one on hand. Have tacks or staples on hand to fasten it in place.



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