

PEMA Discusses Phase II of Egg Products Act

At the recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association, Bob Shelly reported that Phase II of the Egg Products Act goes into effect July 1, 1972. This will involve four inspections annually and a determination of the manner in which restricted eggs, checks, dirties, leakers, and losses must be handled.

Shelly also stated that U. S. Standards must be adopted where eggs in interstate commerce are involved. "There are a couple of minor changes in quality, but some rather major changes in sizes."

The industry will be informed regarding new standards prior to July 1, 1972.

A discussion regarding Phase II brought out the fact that a general meeting to inform Pennsylvania industry men, as well as those in neighboring states should be held soon.

(Since the PEMA meeting, arrangements have been made with Washington, D. C., for accommodations for a meeting place. The meeting will be held in the Agricultural Building, Room 309, 2301 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, on Friday, March 10, starting at 1 p.m.)

President Landis named a Program Committee which includes Russel Knorr, Ben Brukholder and Raymond Sauder.

Following a discussion, it was decided that after the March meeting at the Sheraton, Lancaster, all meetings will be held in that general vicinity and none in the Harrisburg area.

Toni Stemberger noted, "The foremost question today is how to get the egg business back on a profitable basis. Any voluntary program of adjustment does not seem to work. The Agriculture

Act of 1937, which has enabling Legislation and self help marketing agreements on orders is under USDA supervision. Marketing orders may bring money for promotions.

"Actually, the Egg Industry should have some kind of special legislation that will bring about desired results, and be supported by the industry unanimously.

"Presently the more recent Fowl Adjustment Act is in both branches of Congress. No one seems to be sure what is in the Act now and it is a fact that everyone in the industry is not in total agreement. This act, to last for only two years, would call for sale of fowl when pricing fell below costs of production. It has been established that when volume of eggs is reduced by one per cent the value of eggs go up three per cent.

"There are just too many eggs and consumers do not respond to low prices. There are one million farms producing eggs with 100,000 of them very large. Exports are nil so this does not help.

"On quotas the small disappear and the large get larger because quotas are sold to large ones and the situation would drive small producers out of business. There could possibly be a quota system where chickens must remain on location or where quotas could be retained by states."

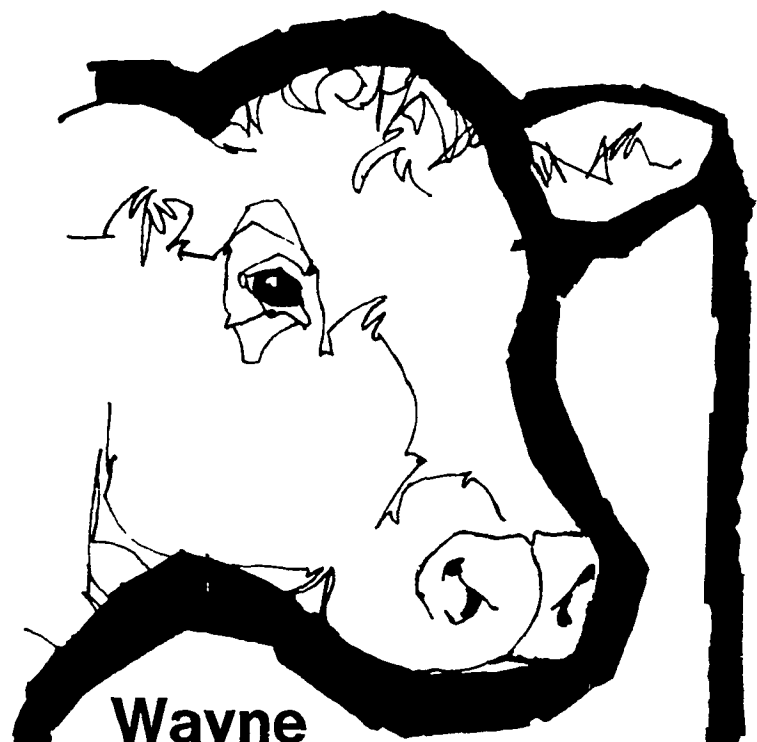
During a general discussion, a number of matters were discussed as follows:

It is predicted that the corporate farm will not drive the small independent out of business. We will probably have 10, 15, and 20 thousand bird flocks, as well as some smaller flocks for a long time because of their variety sales.

A program which would embrace a guaranteed return would not work because there would always be extreme pressure for expansion.

It will require a couple of years to get used to vaccination for Marek's Disease, which is increasing production, and plan on a cutback of poultry population.

(Continued on Page 13)



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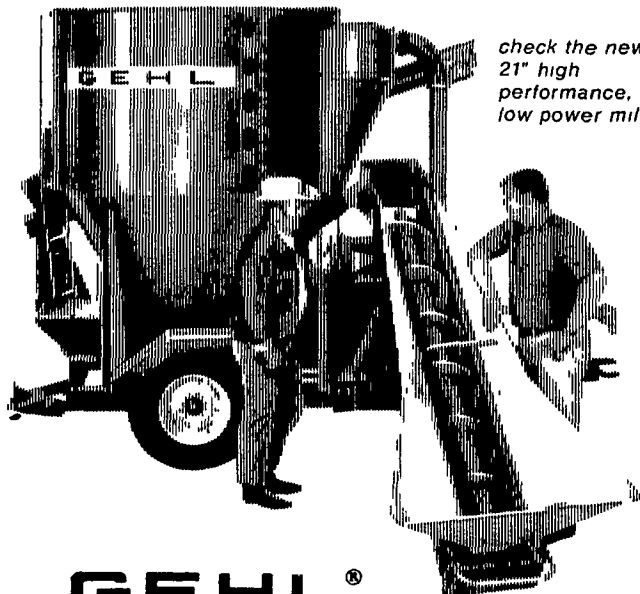
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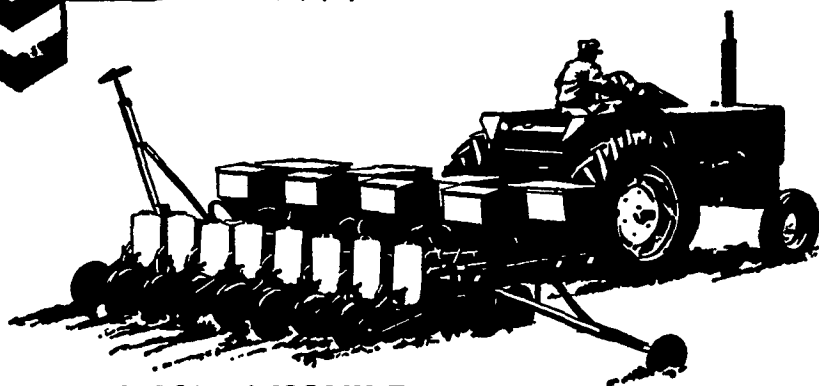
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