

# Troy Meat Plant Charged In Meat Inspection Program

A crackdown on illegal sales of "downer" beef — meat from cattle brought to plants in a dead, dying, diseased or disabled state — has been declared by Agriculture Secretary McHale.

"Tainted meat constitutes a dire health hazard to Pennsylvania consumers," said

McHale as he disclosed that a meat plant in Troy, Bradford County, was shut down indefinitely for allegedly selling adulterated meat with false inspection labels.

"Issuing a cease and desist order to this plant is in line with the department's responsibility

to protect the consumer and administer the federal Wholesome Meat Act of 1968."

In closing the meat plant, compliance officers of the department's Meat Hygiene division filed information with the local magistrate charging violations on 12 counts of the state law.

A month-long investigation of the Troy plant, which received some of its adulterated meat supply from New York State farmers, involved the cooperation of state and federal meat inspectors.

During the investigation, nearly two tons of adulterated and unmarked meat were destroyed. The plant's distribution of meat had extended to the Philadelphia area.

Reports from state compliance officers cited shipments of "downer" cattle to the Troy plant. State and federal law mandates that meat plants accept only healthy cattle for

processing and sale to retail outlets.

State inspectors charged that employees of the Troy plant were stripping "Not for Sale" labels from allegedly custom beef (meat slaughtered exclusively for farmers' use) and boxing the meat for commercial sale with state inspection labels attached.

Owners of the plant will be subject to fines of up to \$3,600 if a conviction is sustained, said McHale.

The state meat inspection program, charged by law to bring state standards up to the federal level, is financed on a 50-50 basis with federal funds.

## Price Index Up from 71

Prices received by Pennsylvania farmers during the month-long period ending April 15, 1972, dropped four points according to surveys by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The index fell from 281 to 277 with the 1910-1914 average of

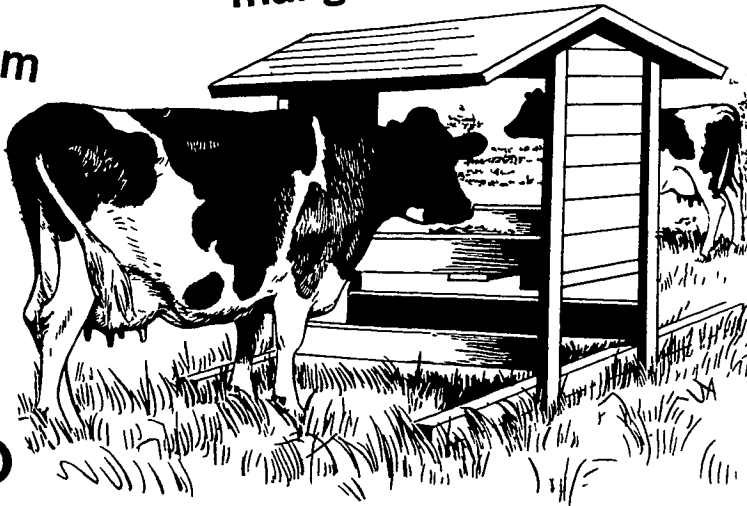
prices received by farmers equal to 100. Despite the drop, the index is still five points higher than a year ago.

Contributing to the slide downward were lower prices for oats, wheat, hogs, eggs and broilers. Other selected commodities bringing in higher

prices for the farmers included milk, steers and heifers.

Across the United States the index of prices paid by farmers went up less than a point to 125. This index uses 1967 prices as a base. Similar figures for the Commonwealth were unavailable.

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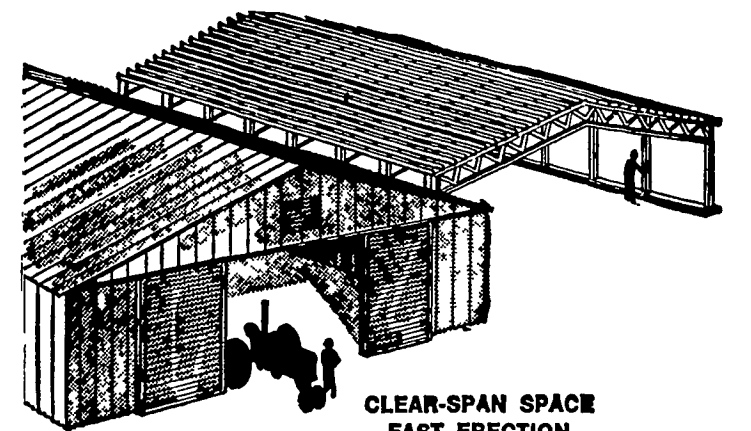
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