

Federal Poultry Inspection Regulations Revised by USDA

Revised Federal poultry inspection regulations become effective July 15.

The new regulations, issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture after consideration of public comments received on the revision it proposed last year, update and clarify Federal requirements for the production of wholesome poultry products. They cover every aspect of the Federal poultry inspection program—including before and after-slaughter inspection, plant sanitation, labeling, inspection of imported products, detention and seizure authorities, Federal-

State cooperation, and other areas.

USDA officials, in publishing the revision, reaffirmed their legal authority—and responsibility—under the Poultry Products Inspection Act to withhold inspection service from a plant where inspectors have been assaulted, intimidated or interfered with while performing their official duties. They also cited USDA's responsibilities to prevent adulteration and mislabeling of poultry products, to establish standards of identity for products so the public will not be misled as to their content, and to restrict movement of poultry

suspected of contamination with biological residues.

As a result of the 35 comments it received from consumers and consumer groups, the poultry industry, and Federal, State and municipal governments, USDA revised some sections of the proposed regulations and clarified the wording in others. Some changes were also made to incorporate policies which had not been spelled out before and to include individual amendments adopted after the proposed revision was announced.

Revision of the Federal poultry regulations was proposed in the May 27, 1971, Federal Register with a comment deadline of July 26, 1971. In July, USDA extended this deadline until Oct. 1, 1971, to give interested persons extra time to review and comment on the proposal.

Copies of the revised regulations, which were published in the May 16 Federal Register, are also available from the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program Administrative Management Staff, APHIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Between 1950 and 1970 the number of persons aged 45 and over grew at a faster rate than did the total U.S. population, 44 per cent compared to 34 per cent. The 62 million persons aged 45 and over today will be bolstered by an additional 6 million persons during the decade of the 1970's, according to the U. S. Department of Labor.

Fair Funds Distribution Announced

Another record disbursement from the Fair Fund administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture was announced totaling \$1,605,483.

The largest distribution \$1,315,312 — went to 101 state and county fair associations and other agricultural organizations conducting similar expositions.

The estimated attendance was 6,099,629 at the 1971 fairs in the Commonwealth. This is a drop of less than two per cent with much of the loss attributing to one less fair participating in the fund.

Secretary of Agriculture McHale said the fair fund is financed from a portion of the Commonwealth's share of racing income at licensed pari-mutuel harness racing tracks.

Youth-oriented agricultural activities are the principal beneficiaries of the fair fund with 249,118 divided among 50 county FFA associations and 67 county 4-H Development Funds.

Additionally, the premiums paid to the young farm people in competition at the state and county fairs is also partially reimbursed by the Fair Fund.

Eight state-wide agricultural organizations received a total of

\$41,052 to help underwrite competitive and educational activities conducted by them.


Funds to be distributed locally include: Lancaster County, \$50,807; Chester County, \$31,879; Lebanon County, \$18,434, and York County, \$47,371.

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