USDA Reminds Egg Handlers FOR FULL MARKET REPORTS **Of Registration Deadline**

As the July 1 deadline for registration under the Egg Products Inspection Act nears, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials report that many egg handlers have yet to register.

Registration applications have been received from about 6,000 egg handlers, but the Department estimates a total of 10.000 -12,000 egg handlers should register

Registration is necessary for the USDA to administer the shell egg phase of the Egg Products Inspection Act. This part of the Act, which becomes effective July 1, 1972, controls the disposition of "restricted eggs"checks, dirties, leakers, incubator rejects, inedibles and

loss eggs. (The first part of the Act, which went into effect July 1, 1971, requires that all egg processing plants operate under a necessary USDA inspection program.)

Businesses that must register are: 1) All plants grading shell eggs for retail stores, restaurants, institutions. bakeries, or food manufacturers; 2) producer-packers with more than 3,000 hens who pack eggs for the same outlet; 3) and all hatcheries.

After July 1 State or Federal officials will check egg packers at least every three months to see that they are complying with the law. Other persons who transport, ship, or receive eggs will

also be checked periodically.

To comply with the law, packing plants must denature or destroy for human food purpososes at the plant all restricted eggs except checks and dirties. Properly labeled checks and dirties may be sent only to a USDA-inspected egg breaking plant, for special handling and processing.

Registration application forms and information were distributed to all known shell egg handlers early in April. Businesses that have not returned the forms are urged to do so promptly to meet the July 1 deadline.

Any egg handler who has not received the forms should contact the State department of agriculture or write to: Poultry Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

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