

# Team Sees Need for Laws To Stabilize Egg Industry

An egg marketing study team report which indicated industry might need to seek standby legislation to stabilize prices and

production was released recently by Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz. Other key provisions of the

report recommended: — that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the egg industry support legislation to authorize the collection and expenditure of checkoff funds that would be used to determine and publish base price quotations, support cash trading mechanisms, establish committees to aid in price determinations and develop new data series.

— a unit be established within USDA to provide advice, guidance and help to family-sized egg laying operations. Jurisdiction for regulating egg trading practices should be transferred from the Federal Trade Commission to USDA's Packers and Stockyards Administration.

In considering the possibility of legislation to stabilize egg price and output, the team report emphasized that it would be on a standby basis and that alternative programs need indepth study to help decide what approach to select.

The egg marketing study team was set up early this year with the purpose of trying new concepts to get more creative and innovative approaches to solving egg industry problems. Since then, team members have conferred with State and Federal officials and all segments of the industry—producers, packers and distributors.

In releasing the report today at a conference of industry leaders, team members and USDA officials, Secretary Butz pointed out that while consumers have benefited from high quality and

low prices relative to many other foods, the producers have suffered from cyclical fluctuations and a prolonged period of low prices.

Other major recommendations included:

— improvement in the job of informing the public on the industry accomplishments and problems and of working with other Federal agencies whose programs affect the egg industry.

— working with the Internal Revenue Service to jointly develop guidelines for gradually moving the egg industry toward full accrual accounting

— support by industry and USDA of the principle of the proposed national checkoff legislation for egg promotion, advertising and product development and increased emphasis by government agencies on all programs that would increase or stabilize the demand for eggs.

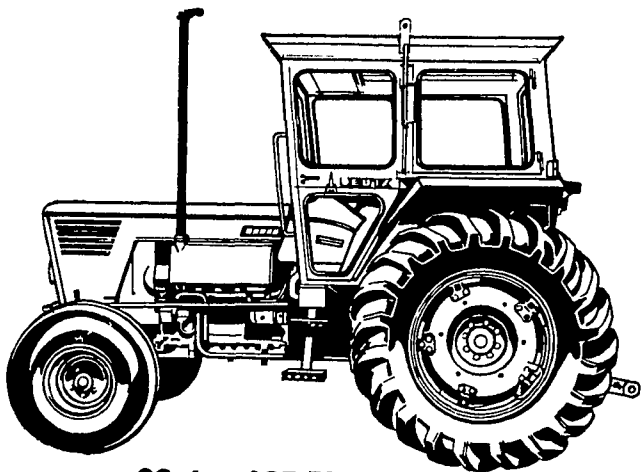
— revision of data series to reflect changes in industry characteristics and needs and better industry support of the need for accurate input data and changes in reallocating resources available for data programs.

Other selected recommendations touched upon grades and standards, rates on feed ingredients, rail line abandonment, feed additives, pollution abatement, production and marketing costs, producer bargaining, coordinating Federal lending programs, and futures trading.

Single copies of a summary of the "Egg Marketing Study: A

Team Report" are available free of charge upon request to the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250.

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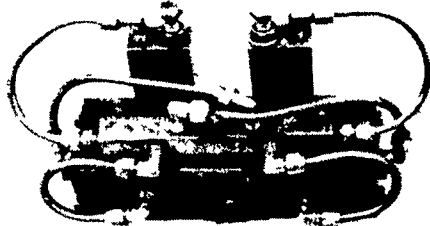
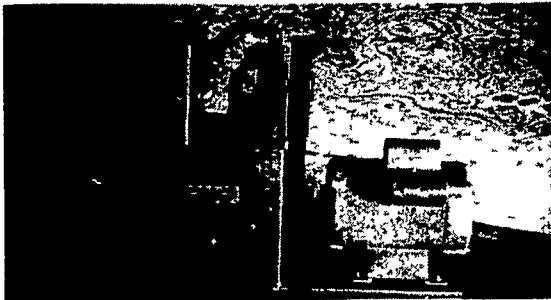
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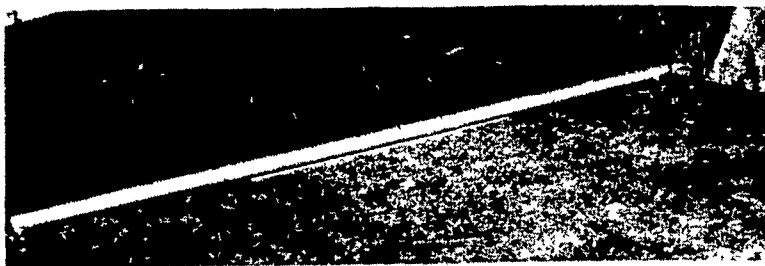
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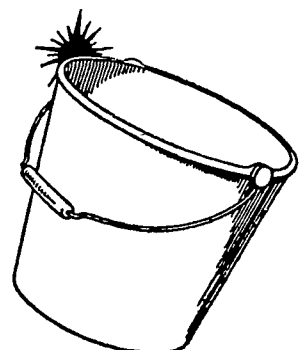
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