

### Disease Eradication Measures Taken

Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng recently declared an extraordinary emergency to permit the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assume additional responsibility for the efforts to eradicate exotic Newcastle disease of poultry and other birds from southern California.

He emphasized that the action was being taken in full agreement with the California Department of Agriculture and following notification from California officials that a local court decision has invalidated their authority to carry out key components in the eradication program. USDA said that implementation of this new Federal authority is essential because any further delay will jeopardize the success of the eradication effort and could be responsible for spread of the disease to other parts of California and to other States.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) officials in California said that activities under the new extraordinary emergency declaration will remain the same as they have been for the past seven months. They pointed out that USDA and the California Department of Agriculture have cooperated completely on the joint effort to eradicate the disease and that this cooperation will continue. The program to indemnify owners of poultry which must be destroyed will remain in effect as will

restrictions on shipments of live poultry and eggs from the quarantined area and the vaccination of commercial poultry.

An essential element of the program now is the continued use of sentinel birds as a key diagnostic tool in locating and eliminating exotic Newcastle disease. Under the new action USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will continue the use of the sentinel birds. This procedure, recommended to USDA by a scientific advisory group, has been primarily responsible for making it possible to locate remaining areas of infection and reduce the size of the originally quarantined area. Since last March when the national emergency was declared by USDA for exotic Newcastle disease, over \$25,000,000 in Federal funds have been expended in the campaign. Progress made to date in the program has enabled reduction in the quarantine zone from the original coverage of eight counties and about 45,000 square miles to less than 2,300 square miles covering parts of three counties - Ventura, San Bernardino, and Riverside.

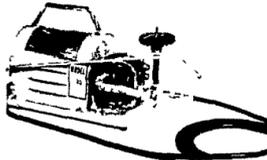
APHIS officials emphasized that the eradication program has reached a critical stage. It is essential for success of the program to be able to determine specifically where any infection may be located in the remaining quarantined area. Until this is determined, through the use of sentinel birds, the program cannot be completed. The new

Federal action also provides authority for USDA to dispose of any infected and exposed flocks that are found.

They also pointed out the economic consequences of allowing the disease to spread, estimating potential national losses of up to \$500 million annually. They also reminded consumers that exotic Newcastle disease presents no hazard in the consumption of eggs and poultry meat.

The extraordinary emergency is expected to remain in effect until such time as court imposed restraints on California's regulatory authority in this matter are removed.

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### Watch Excess Corn in Dairy Ration

Dairymen who place a heavy dependency on corn as silage and grain in the cow's ration may find a loss in production unless proper grain-forage balancing is carried out, an Extension dairy specialist at Pennsylvania State University, points out.

Dr. Richard S. Adams, speaking at the annual Forage and Seed Conference on the Penn State campus, said that when corn silage provides most of all of the forage fed, it is important to avoid both under or over-maturity.

"Silage that is too immature will result in a high lactic acid content and possibly cause ab-

normal fermentation. Over-matured silage often does not ferment sufficiently to keep down mold growth and other abnormalities," Dr. Adams explains.

The most common problems encountered with heavy use of corn as silage and grain for high-producing cows are a fiber content that is too digestible, a lack of total fiber content, and too little protein and calcium.

Dr. Adams points out that these problems can be alleviated in most cases if about 25 percent of the forage ration comes from forage other than corn.

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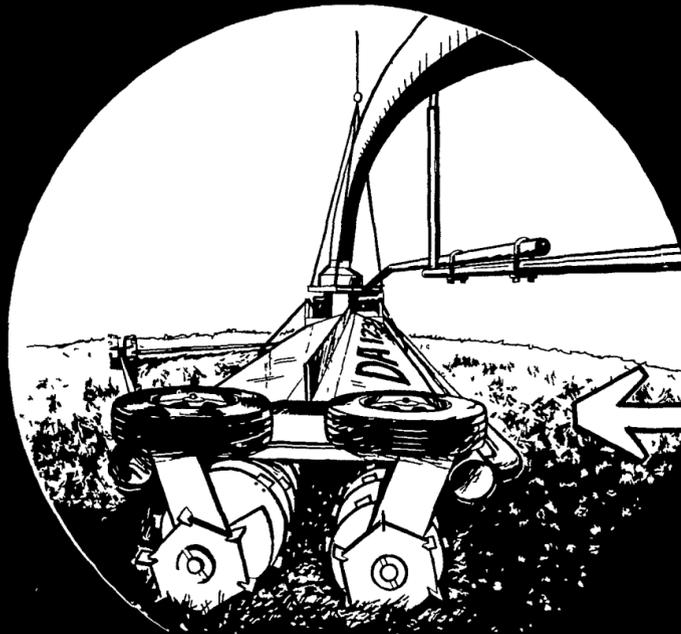
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