

## Meat, Poultry Inspection Schedule Changes Proposed

A proposal announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture would amend Federal meat and poultry inspection regulations on inspection workweeks, holidays and overtime.

If adopted, the proposed amendments would make the standard workweek for all meat and poultry inspectors any five consecutive eight-hour days from Monday through Saturday. If a government holiday falls outside the standard workweek, inspectors would be entitled to a holiday on the nearest day in their workweek—or to holiday pay, to be charged to the packer or processor.

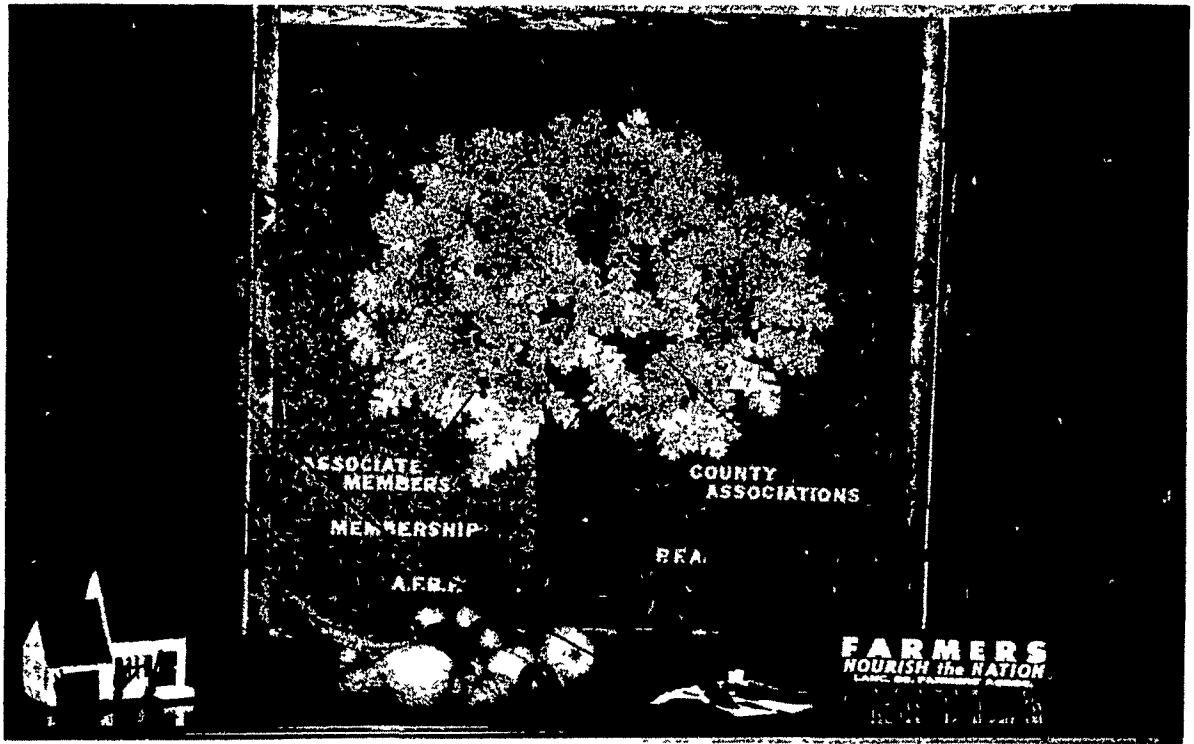
The proposed regulations also define the length of work shifts for inspectors in different types of plants and amend the list of inspector holidays.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said the regulation changes were proposed to make scheduling

policies more uniform between the meat and poultry inspection programs, which were merged in 1968, and to accommodate changes in Federal holidays.

Copies of the proposal, which were published in the December 12 Federal Register, are available from APHIS, Room 1658-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Comments on the proposal should be sent in duplicate by February 10, 1973, to the Hearing Clerk, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Anyone wishing to present his comments orally should contact the Issuance Coordination Staff, Technical Services, APHIS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, so that arrangements can be made for presentation of his views before the February 10 deadline. Written comments and transcripts of oral comments will be available in the hearing clerk's office for public review.



Lancaster Farming Photo

Farmer interests are being promoted at the Farm and Home Center with this attractive display. It was erected by the

Lancaster County Farmers Association to explain the role of farmers in producing food and fiber.

## Arsenic Compounds in Chicken Livers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that organic arsenic compounds have been found in the livers of broiler-fryer chickens.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) says that 14 of 90 chicken flocks sampled contained illegal arsenic residues (above one part per million) in liver samples. These samples are from USDA's objective phase program, indicating a 15.5 percent violation level.

Ten of 590 pork samples also contained above-tolerance levels of arsenic; these results represent a continuing decline in violations found in this specie. All sampling was done since Jan. 1, 1972.

Organic arsenic compounds, in amounts up to 90 grams per ton of feed, are used in hog and chicken rations to stimulate growth and improve feed conversion. All animals are required to be withdrawn from arsenic-containing feeds for five days before

slaughter to give the animals and birds time to fully eliminate the feed additive.

Reports on these violations have been turned over to the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for investigation. FDA has legal authority over animal feed additions. Because of these residue findings, USDA has initiated an increased arsenic testing program to help assure that no residues reach consumers.

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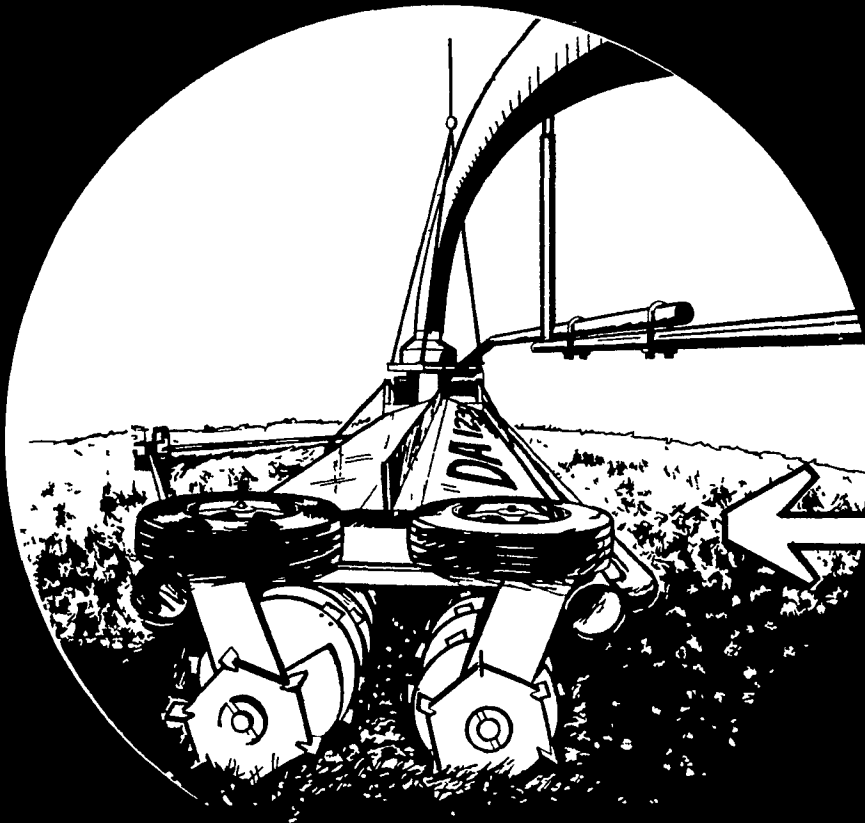
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