

U.S. Beef Supply Expected to Rise 33.3 pct. by 1980

The Nation's beef supply in 1980 is projected at 29 billion pounds, nearly one-third more than in 1970 and matching anticipated needs by the decade's end, the U.S. Department of Agriculture

(USDA) reported today. USDA's Economic Research Service, enlisting the opinions of 295 experts from the livestock raising industry, outlined beef production trends and influences on prospects through 1980 in its report. Key to the increase in the beef

supply will be more beef cows for additional feeder calves. Between 1950 and 1970 beef cow numbers went from 16 million to 37 million to help double beef production. The experts forecast the beef cow herd at 46 million in 1980. Nearly three-fourths of the ex-

pansion is expected to come in the Southeast, Northern Plains, and Corn Belt. Industry people felt that \$30 per 100 pounds for Choice steer calves (450-500 pounds) would maintain a relatively stable beef cow inventory. A \$35 price would stimulate it. This latter price level was held most likely by the experts.

Other factors that will increase beef production: more forage with greater utilization, higher calving rates and lower death losses, heavier cull cow weights.

Combining indications about domestic beef production with those of imports and exports led to the forecast of 29 billion pounds of beef in 1980 providing a per capita consumption of 126.7 pounds, against 114 pounds in 1970.

A copy of "Cattle Raising in the United States," AER 235, is available free on postcard (please include zipcode) or telephone (447-7255) request from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Bill to Exempt Silos From Property Taxes Introduced

If business and industry can get a special tax break on machinery, tools and storage areas, why not agriculture too?

That's the question being asked by State Reps. Kent Shelhamer, D-Columbia; Lester K. Fryer, D-Berks; Paul Yahner, D-Cambria; and Joseph Zeller, D-Lehigh.

And the answer may lie in legislation proposed by the four that calls for the exemption of farm silos from property taxes in 65 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties with only Philadelphia and Allegheny counties excluded.

"All we are asking is the same treatment for agriculture as business and industry now gets in

Pennsylvania," the four maintain. "Under the present property tax structure, machinery, tools, appliances, and storage areas for industrial equipment are exempted from the property tax. We feel the same exemption should be extended to silos and other structures used by farmers for processing and storing animal feed."

"Under such an exemption," notes Rep. Shelhamer, "a farmer with a \$20,000 silo, for example, could save as much as \$200 a year in property taxes, contingent on the rate of assessment that prevails in his county."

The proposal, which has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee, has the full support of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association.

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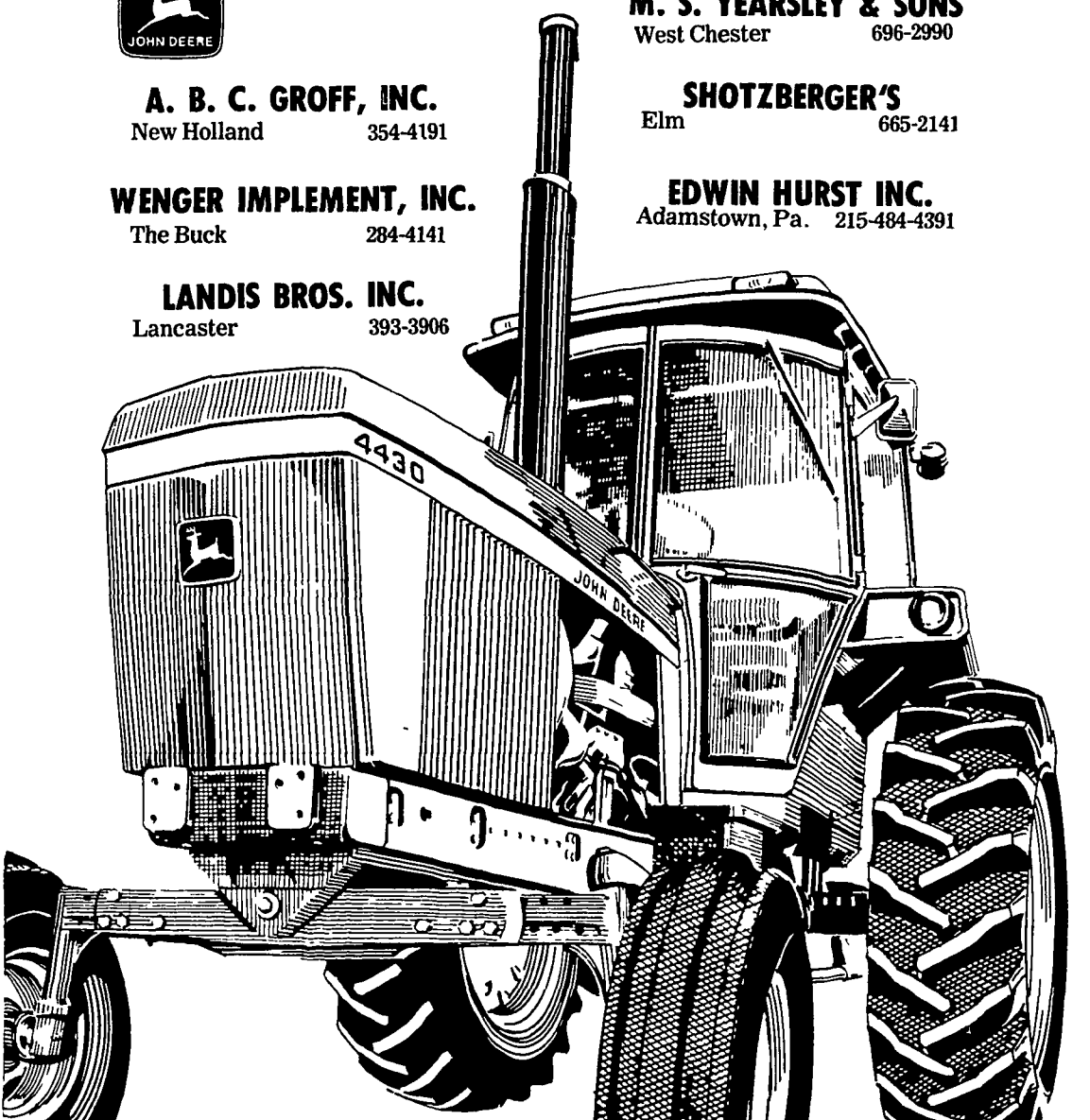


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USDA Halts DES Certification Prog.

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the discontinuance of its certification program covering livestock fed diethylstilbestrol (DES). After Jan. 13, 1973, it will no longer be necessary to certify that cattle or sheep have been withdrawn from feed containing DES at least 7 days before slaughter.

This action is being taken because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare banned the use of DES in feed as of Jan. 1.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will continue its extensive monitoring program for DES. As in the past, any finding of DES residues will be turned over to FDA, which has legal jurisdiction over feed additive usage.

During the 1972 DES survey, APHIS found 104 of 5,116 random samples of sheep and steer livers positive for DES, a 2.0 percent rate.

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