

New Grade Standard Proposed for Poultry

A special U.S. grade standard that would better reflect the true market value for many turkeys used in making further processed food items, such as boneless roasts, has been proposed by the

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Under present standards, turkeys with high meat yield, but having appearance defects, are given lower consumer grades,

sometimes resulting in the farmer-producer failing to get a fair market return for his product. The new grade standard will require the same high quality meat, as well as a high meat yield, but will allow appearance defects that in no way affect the use of turkeys for further processing. The yield of high quality meat per bird is the key factor used by manufacturers in selecting turkeys for further processing.

Consumer grade standards for turkeys are based on both appearance and quality of the meat. These standards will remain unchanged.

The proposed special standard will provide for one grade: U.S. Grade A - For Further Processing. The grade shield will appear only on master shipping containers, and not on individual turkeys.

Officials of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which administers the grading service, noted that in recent years the further processing of turkeys has increased substantially. Over half of those slaughtered last year in the U.S. went into the manufacture of such items as rolls, roasts, fillets, and ground turkey.

A second part of the USDA

proposal would amend the consumer grade standards for ducks to allow those of high quality with missing wing portions to be classified as U.S. Grade A. Under the proposal, ducks with wings torn in processing, and removed at the second joint, would still be classified as Grade A.

The yield of top quality meat would not be appreciably affected since wings of water fowl contain minimal meat. Provisions of this proposal already apply to geese.

Copies of the proposals, to be published in the July 5 Federal Register, will be available from the Poultry Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Persons desiring to comment on the proposals should send written views in duplicate to the Hearing Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, by August 6, 1973.

Americans are consuming vast amounts of prepared convenience foods with much of the kitchen work done by the processor. The cost of this built-in service has gone up far more than the cost of the basic food item itself.

Merrimaids Elect Queen

The Lampeter-Strasburg Merrimaids held two meetings, July 2 and 9, and both took place in the Martin Meylin Junior High School.

On July 2, the president, Sue Groff, gave reminders on upcoming 4-H County events. Sue Witmer gave a County Council report and Kathy Henkel gave a report on Club Congress that was held at the Pennsylvania State University June 25-28. The song leader led a song, followed by a demonstration speech from Diane Krantz. The meeting was then adjourned.

At the July 9 meeting Sue Groff introduced two 4-H Michigan guests staying with two of the club's members. They were Audrey Schroeder and Cathy Hartung. Their respective hosts were Sue Groff and Kathy Henkel.

Queens for the Queen contest were elected. Julie Bare with Barbara Cramer as alternate for Junior Queen, and Debbie Hess for Senior Queen. Following the elections, the club had a song and game. Jewell Hess and Carol Martin gave a demonstration and the meeting was adjourned.

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