Cattle Identification Regulations Strengthened

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently adopted regulations requiring most cattle two years of age or older to be backtagged or eartagged to identify the animals to their herd of origin before they are shipped across state lines.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said the new cattle identification regulations-which become effective October 23strengthen cooperative statefederal efforts to eradicate communicable livestock diseases such as brucellosis, tuberculosis and cattle scabies.

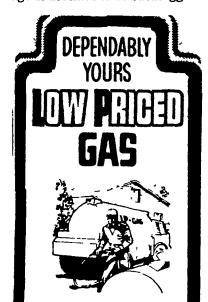
Disease eradication programs rely upon rapid trace-back of infected animals to their herd of origin. The newly adopted regulations broaden current requirements to include backtagging of cattle two years of age or older being shipped across state lines for any purpose-not just to slaughter--with the following exceptions:

- Steers and spayed heifers.

- Cattle shipped interstate from a farm, ranch or feedlot directly to (1) a stockyard posted under the Packers and Stockyards Act where they are backtagged upon arrival, or (2) an inspected packing plant, provided the plant maintains adequate identification of these animals by lot or similar means. (If lots are mixed at the packing plant, cattle must be backtagged before herd of origin identity is lost.)

-- Dairy and breeding cattle two years of age or older must be backtagged or eartagged--or identified by other approved means such as official brands--if they are being shipped across state lines.

- Purebred cattle permanently identified according to breed requirements before two years of age do not have to be backtagged



or eartagged when shipped interstate for purposes other than for slaughter.

The regulation prohibits removal of, or tampering with, identifying backtags or eartags until final destination. Exceptions to this rule must be authorized by the Deputy Administrator of APHIS's Veterinary Services. Individuals responsible for shipping cattle across state lines are also responsible for seeing that the cattle are properly identified.

The regulations were published in the Federal Register August 24, 1973.

Farmers who have jimsonweed in their fields should use herbicides at the proper time, clean harvesting equipment when they move from an infected field to a clean one, and should spot-weed their fields, says Dr. Fred E. Westbrook, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agronomist. The Extension Service official called for stricter control

called for stricter control measures because jimsonweed seed is showing up in increased volume in harvested soybeans and grain sorghum and this has caused marketing problems, particularly in the export trade.

Jimsonweed seed can be removed from soybeans by cleaning them at the elevator or processing plant. However, it is difficult to remove mechanically from grain sorghum because the seeds are about the same size.

Dr. Westbrook said the weed is spreading, particularly in the midwest, because farmers sometimes fail to clean harvesting equipment when they move it from field to field, and because of today's cropping practices, which include less rotation of crops and less tillage.

Herbicides can be used to control jimsonweed in grain sorghum fields. The best way to control jimsonweed in soybeans is to start with a "clean field," he said. This calls for the use of herbicides in off years when soybean fields are planted to other crops, like corn or grain sorghum. Small areas of jimsonweed in soybeans should be pulled by hand, he said. Infested areas in grain sorghum or corn fields can be spot-sprayed with a herbicide, he said.

Dr. Westbrook said if the

Propose Added Health Requirements For Livestock Exports

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed additional animal health requirements before livestock could be certified for export.

Specifically, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) proposal would require that swine:

- Be negative to a serum neutralization test for transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE) within 30 days prior to export; and

- Be from a herd free of TGE for the preceding 12 months and to which no additions have been made within 30 days prior to export.

The APHIS proposal further

Jimsonweed Control Urged

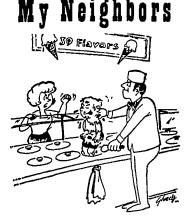
amount of jimsonweed seed in grain sorghum and soybeans continues to increase, it may be necessary to amend grade standards that would limit the percentage of the weed seed in the two crops. would require that all cattle for export--except those intended for slaughter--be treated for cattle grubs with an approved pesticide at least 10 and not more than 30 days prior to export.

The proposal was prompted by reports made to APHIS--the agency responsible for inspection and certification of the health of animals exported from the United States--that U.S. swine shipped to Ecuador and Colombia were reported to have caused extensive outbreaks of TGE in native swine and that cattle shipped to Japan and Taiwan were infested with grubs.

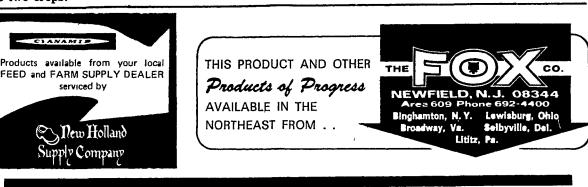
APHIS officials said that adoption of the proposed requirements would further ensure that only healthy animals would be exported. They are seeking comments, however, to determine whether or not the additional health requirements might limit the source of swine for potential export or substantially increase the cost for cattle exported.

Comments on the proposal-

scheduled for publication in the Federal Register August 15, 1973--should be sent to the Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Md., before Oct. 15, 1973. All written submissions will be available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.



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