

## System Proposed On Plant Quality Control Program

Public comments were invited recently on a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposal that would provide for the approval and use of quality control systems voluntarily installed by meat and poultry processing plants. The deadline for submitting such comments is March 22, 1974.

These plant quality control systems would in turn be monitored by Federal meat and poultry inspectors to augment their own observations and sampling of processed products in checking for wholesomeness and accurate labeling.

Dr. Francis J. Mulhern, Administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), emphasized that the proposal would not reduce the inspection of carcasses or processed products; rather, it would be increased.

He explained that many meat and poultry processing plants now operate their own quality control systems. These plant systems and the results of plant testing on products can provide a means for plant inspectors to more effectively monitor plant operations and products to determine the wholesomeness and accuracy of labeling.

Dr. Mulhern also announced that Nancy Harvey Steorts, special assistant to the secretary for consumer affairs, has initiated plans to bring together consumer representatives at various points across the country so they can view first hand some of the plant quality control systems presently in existence, to see how such a system could be

utilized by inspectors. "This is a new effort on our part, at the suggestion of Mrs. Steorts, to give consumers the background for commenting on proposals involving meat and poultry inspection," Dr. Mulhern said. Details of these plans will be announced later, he added.

To gain approval of its quality control system, an individual plant would have to demonstrate that the system was statistically sound, properly implemented, and carried out by trained personnel. The quality control procedures would have to cover the full range of operations

### Zimmerman's Lists Winners

Saturday afternoon was the scene of the drawing of 51 prize winners at the W. L. Zimmerman & Sons Department Store, Intercourse, Pa.

First prize, an eight piece set of Farberware stainless steel cookware, was awarded to Clyde J. Maser, RD1, Gordonville, Pa. Also awarded were 25 turkeys, and 25 half-gallons of ice cream.

### Any Day A Holiday

Fresh cranberries, cranberry sauce or relish, and cranberry juice cocktail all give eloquent definition to the words "holiday feast." But don't restrict these flavorful foods to holiday use—they're welcome additions to spruce up everyday meals, too, notes the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

carried out by the plant, and the results of all observations and analyses made available to the Federal inspectors at all times, according to Dr. Mulhern.

USDA would design a system for monitoring each plant's system, and would routinely check the results of the plant's analyses against their own. The approval of the plant system could be discontinued at any time by either the plant management or by USDA.

Copies of the full text of the proposal, which was published November 8 in the Federal Register, will be available from APHIS, Room 1658-South, USDA, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Comments on the proposal should be sent in duplicate by March 22, 1974, to the USDA

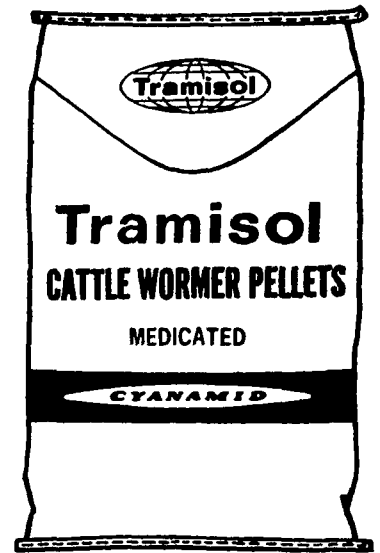
Hearing Clerk, Washington, D.C. 20250. Anyone interested in presenting his comments orally should contact the Systems

Development and Sanitation Staff, APHIS, USDA, Washington, D. C. 20250, to arrange for presenting his comments before the deadline. Written comments and transcripts of oral comments will be available for public review in the Hearing Clerk's office.

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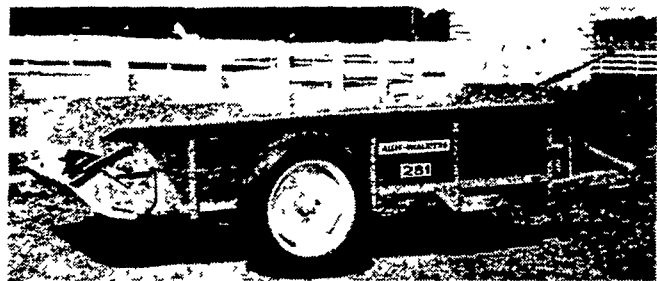
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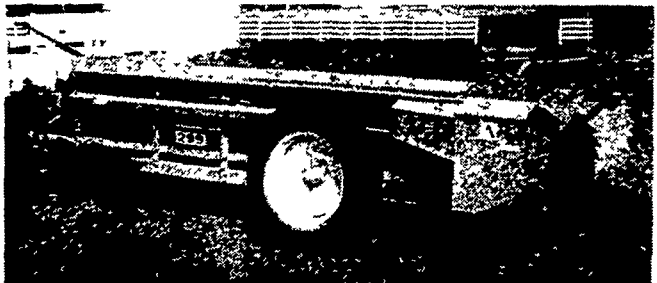
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