

**Metric System**

To help you prepare for the eventual change, Trudy Dougherty, Chester County Cooperative Extension home economist, passes on this layman's guide to the metric system.

There are three basic metric units—the gram for weight, the meter for length, and the liter for volume. You need to remember some prefixes, too. Milli, meaning one-thousandth; centi, meaning one-hundredth; and kilo, meaning one thousand times.

The gram is about the weight of a paper clip. The kilogram is slightly more than two pounds. The meter is a little longer than a yard. The millimeter is the diameter of a paper clip wire. The centimeter is the width of a paper clip. The kilometer is somewhat longer than half a mile. The liter is a bit larger than a quart, while five milliliters make a teaspoon.

A 37 degree day is nearly

# NHA Hopes to Ease Baling Wire Shortage

Shortages of baling wire needed last year during the hay harvest and the need for emergency freight rates to permit the shipping of two forty foot boxcars on one freight bill were among the main topics discussed at the Mid-Term Board of Directors Meeting of The National Hay Association, Inc., in Lake Worth, Florida.

Arnold Poppe, president of the trade association of hay shippers, brokers, dealers and receivers, appointed vice president Robert C. Horton, Kenosha, Wisconsin; Directors Ronald T. Anderson, Ellensburg,

99 degrees on our Fahrenheit thermometer, and zero is the freezing point of water and 100 the boiling point.

Get ready—the metric system is coming.

Washington, and Dick Spears, Manchester, Tennessee to serve as an ad hoc committee to "leave no stones unturned in their efforts to see that farmers who need baling wire are able to purchase this essential item."

Both baling twine and wire were in short supply last year but the wire shortage created the greatest problem. This wire shortage problem can be solved if steel mills in this country will recognize the necessity of producing more of this essential agricultural item.

Horton is chairman of this committee which will also address its attention to the need for more hay baling twine.

"The emergency need for railroad freight rates that will permit two forty foot boxcars to be shipped on one

freight bill at the forty thousand pound rate is based on two facts. Shortage and high cost of fuel are both creating problems in transporting hay by trucks from surplus to deficit areas. The energy need per ton mile to haul hay by railroads is many times lower than that required by highway carriers", states Benjamin Trumbull, Jackson, Michigan, Chairman, Transportation Committee of The National Hay Association.

After February 22, 1974 railroad freight rates will have been increased six times during the last four years. The minimum rates on the amount of hay that can be shipped in a forty foot boxcar are higher than the rates on hay in a fifty foot car, but fifty foot cars are seldom available for shipping hay. This is the reason

for the need for emergency rates on two forty foot cars at the forty thousand pound minimum rate. The two forty foot cars would be loaded to full visible capacity.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has been urged to authorize the railroads to make effective at once the change in rates on hay as suggested above. This arrangement is nothing new as it has been effective in times of drought in the past.

"The saving", continued Trumbull, "to cattle feeders if the hay moved in two forty foot cars on one freight bill at the forty thousand pound minimum rate from the Green Bay, Wisconsin area

to a destination in the Southern Territory which now carries a rate of \$22.40 per ton on a 30,000 pound minimum (and seldom can that much hay be put in one forty foot boxcar) would be \$4.00 per ton if our request is granted. The freight for the same distance on a 40,000 pound shipment is \$18.40 per ton.

Boxcars unsuitable for other commodities can be used for shipping hay.

Hay is an important ingredient in the pipeline that leads from the soil to the consumers' table where meat and milk are concerned.

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Instruction will be presented by Penn State faculty members who have specialities in the areas of animal science, veterinary science, agricultural engineering, and agricultural economics.

A registration fee will cover the cost of instructional materials.

For additional information and registration forms, contact the Agricultural

Conference Coordinator, 410 J. O. Keller Building, University Park, Pa. 16802.

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So. Lancaster: Feb. 19, 7 p.m. at U. Meth. Ch., Quarryville

Leb.-So. Dau.: Feb. 13, 10 a.m., at City-County Bldg., Leb.

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