

Neppco Board Opposes Livestock Loan Bill

The board of directors of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council (NEPPCO) meeting last week in Washington, DC, voiced opposition to the several guaranteed emergency loan bills currently before Congress. The bills would provide FHA backing of

loans up to \$350,000 per farmer to livestock and poultry farmers whose credit is being cut off because of depressed prices or poor economic conditions. The loans would be made by regular commercial banks at the going rate of interest.

The Neppco board, in voicing its opposition, termed the legislation a "bankers' bill" on the grounds that it would help bankers while further hurting poultrymen.

"If bankers are assured government backing on poultry loans at current high interest rates, it's unlikely they will extend open credit on more favorable terms to poultrymen," declared Neppco Executive Director, Dick Ammon. "That's why our Board was convinced this legislation would help bankers a lot more than it would help poultrymen and may, in fact, hurt many who had heretofore established good credit ratings locally."

In other actions, the Neppco directors voted support for a new Neppco pension & insurance program; approved a resolution complimenting the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its administration and enforcement of the egg inspection program and urging that egg inspection jurisdiction be retained in the Department; voted opposition to the Consumer Protection Act currently before the Senate on the grounds that it would greatly increase costs to consumers without protecting them over

Food Export Council Opens Headquarters

The Eastern U.S. Agricultural and Food Export Council, Inc. (EUSAFEC), of which Pennsylvania is a member, has opened headquarters in the World Trade Center in New York City to promote farm exports from the northeast area, Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale said today.

Other members of the export group include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

In establishing a headquarters office in cooperation with the Foreign Agricultural Service, EUSAFEC has appointed Kenneth O'Brien, a recent

graduate in international relations from Harvard University, as its executive director. O'Brien will coordinate export promotion and marketing activities for the group of states.

Exports from the northeast region total over \$250,000,000, McHale said, and are increasing. Farm exports important to the region include fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy and poultry products, livestock, tobacco and a wide variety of processed foods.

"Pennsylvania Food export marketing activities, administered by the Bureau of Markets, will be coordinated with the new headquarters office," McHale said. "These include cooperation with the Foreign Agricultural Service in trade shows in many parts of the world, trade missions and the handling of foreign buying teams coming to this country."

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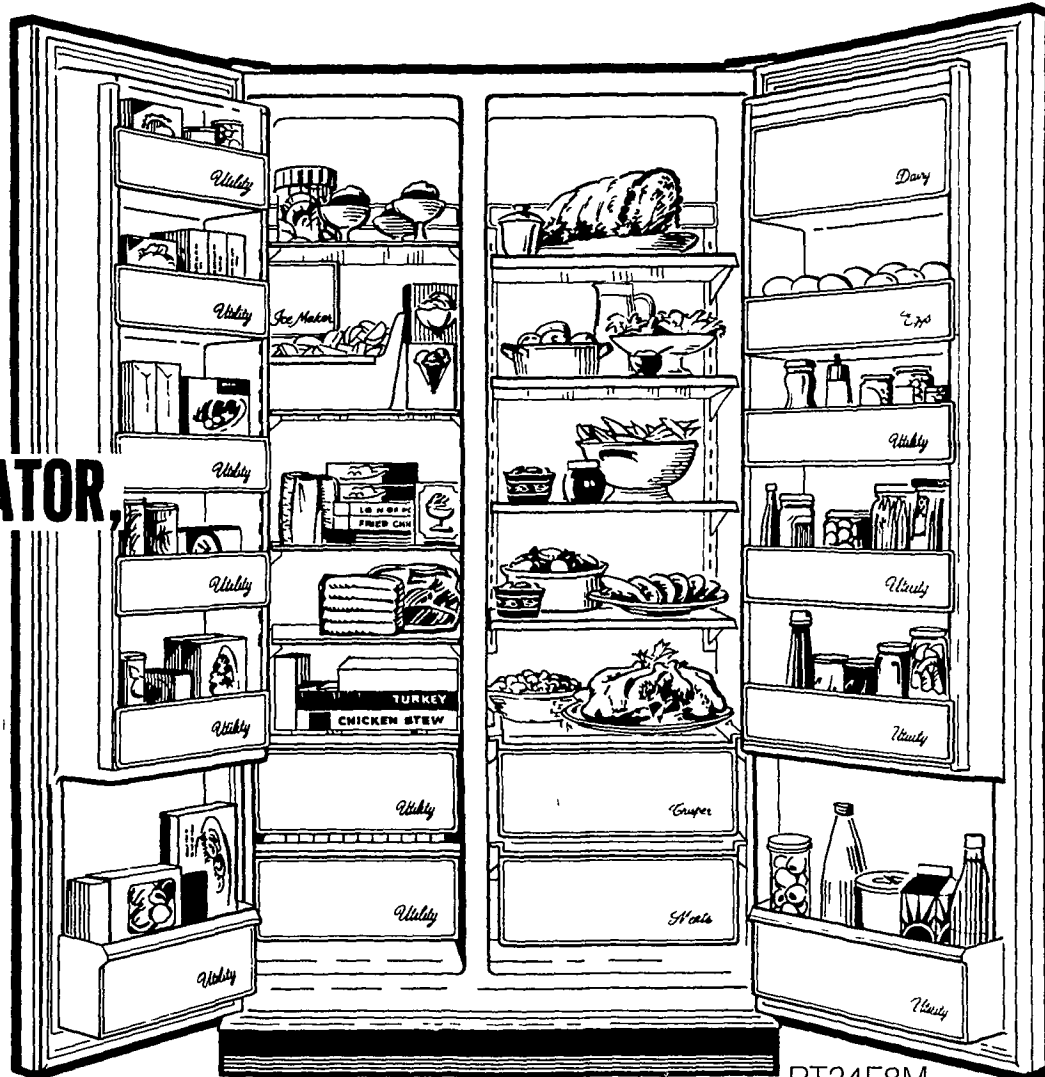
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