

## Import Regulation To Curb New Castle Disease

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) import regulations for poultry products have been extended to include similar products from all other birds if they

originate in or pass through a country infected with exotic Newcastle disease.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said changes in the Federal code, effective Nov. 7, restrict imports of carcasses, meat and other products—including non-hatching eggs—from countries where exotic Newcastle disease is known to occur. Previously only products of poultry and some closely-related game birds were restricted; other sections of the federal code regulate imports of live birds and hatching eggs.

APHIS officials said the amended regulations will help to prevent the re-introduction of exotic Newcastle disease, a highly destructive infection of poultry and other birds. One major outbreak in southern California during 1972-73 resulted in the destruction of over 12-million birds before the disease was eradicated.

The amended regulations provide that:

Poultry disease surveillance and inspection in exotic Newcastle-infected countries must meet APHIS standards and follow procedures used successfully in the United States before imports of non-hatching eggs will be permitted.

Flocks from which non-hatching eggs originate and neighboring flocks must be found free of disease, and all shipments must be disinfected and packed according to prescribed procedures.

Carcasses, meat and products of poultry or other birds must be packed in hermetically sealed containers and cooked by commercial methods after packing so they may be stored without refrigeration.

Carcasses of game birds (migratory species of ducks, geese, pigeons, and doves) may be imported if they have been eviscerated and the heads and feet removed.

Museums, educational institutions or other establishments may import carcasses or products if they demonstrate that they can store, process and disinfect the materials without introducing disease into this country.

Any other imports of the regulated products may be made only with the approval of the APHIS deputy administrator for veterinary services on a case by case basis.

In addition, the amended regulations enlarge the list of foreign countries that are considered free of exotic Newcastle disease and therefore exempt from these regulations. Formerly only

## Eastern Head Says Dairymen Require Stable Milk Prices

"A hungry world needs food and the American farmer needs an incentive to produce that food," exclaimed John C. York, General Manager of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative in Syracuse.

The world-wide cry for expansion of farm production will only come about after farmers are given adequate price incentives, noted York. However, equally important is that once expansion is developed, the government must be prepared to guarantee a stable price and provide storage for the expanded harvests, he stressed.

The dairy leader was quoted as saying, "To encourage farmers to produce with no assurance of stable prices after they produce, could spell suicide to the agricultural industry. Prices that swing too far in either direction will only create disruption in both the production place and the marketplace. Essentially this is what has happened to the dairy industry. Last year, after the price freeze was lifted, farm milk prices rose rapidly. Then sub-standard imported foreign products were brought into the United States by our government, and from March to July of this year, dairy farm prices tumbled by as much as \$1.82 per hundredweight. This is yo-yo pricing.

Canada was listed; eight other exotic Newcastle-free nations have now been added: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Ireland and Sweden. Notice of the action is scheduled to be published in the Nov. 7 Federal Register.

"It is easy for people not engaged or involved in agricultural production to talk about managing agriculture and producing food for the world. It is quite different to develop a program to provide for stable agricultural prices essential to our economy. Our agricultural production is being used as a trade weapon to aid our balance of payments problems.

"Farmers cannot be expected to produce food for the world and pay for the cost of inventorying it without U.S. taxpayers paying their share of the costs. Currently, the dairy industry has a sizeable inventory of cheese and non-fat dry milk powder created by yo-yo pricing and yo-yo programs emanating out of Washington. Much of the storage cost and resale losses of these dairy products will be a burden to the farmer. He is already strapped by reduced farm prices on one hand and inflationary costs on the other. The United States and the world over will be better off if the general public and political leaders in this country quickly understand this fundamental fact.

"Food banks and food reserves are essential. They were part of our agricultural system in the past. But, unfortunately, they were eliminated because our leaders were looking backward—not forward.

"Farmers have not engaged in a nationwide strike, nor have they marched on Washington, or invaded the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture. They are orderly, hard working people who must be rewarded for their efforts. Their patience is being pressed to a point of despair. They must have assurance from our Government that they will receive stable prices; that a boom in production will not lead to a bust in prices.

"This is a national responsibility.

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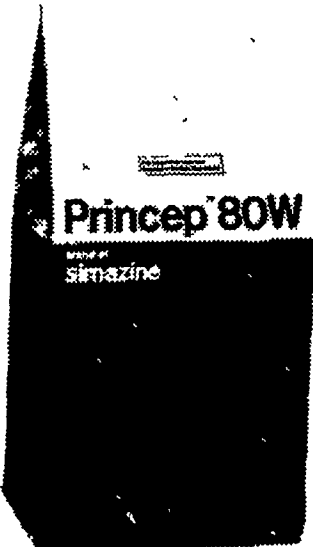


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