

Eating Out Takes Big Share of Food Dollar

Is a good home-cooked meal a thing of the past? Not quite. But it's a fact we're spending an ever-growing share of our food dollar in away-from-home eating places.

Of each dollar consumers laid out for U.S. farm foods in 1973, 29 cents went to public eating places and institutions, up from 24 cents 10 years ago. Put another way, we spent \$38.3 billion

eating out last year, and \$93.9 billion eating at home.

Public eating places include restaurants, cafeterias, snack bars, and other eating places operated mainly for profit. Altogether, they accounted for over \$29 billion of farm food expenditures last year, about three-fourths of the away-from-home market.

Institutions - including schools, colleges, hospitals,

rest and nursing homes, and airlines - served nearly \$9 billion worth of food in 1973. Until recently, institutional sales were growing faster than public eating places. But decreased school enrollment and a decline in hospital patients over the past 3 years have slowed the growth.

It costs more to market food served away from home than in the home. Last year, marketing costs absorbed over three-fourths of the expenditures associated with away-from-home eating, but only 57 percent of the at-home consumer expenditures. This reflects the added cost of preparing and serving food consumed away from home, compared to raw or semiprepared foods sold for at-home consumption.

Food groups vary in importance between at-home and away-from-home markets, depending on the types of meals served.

A larger proportion of breakfasts and dinners is served at home than in

Horse Advisory Group Meets

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is advising horse owners and others associated with equine activities of the possible contamination with anthrax spores of from 5,000 to 10,000 "Alaskan Hair Saddle Pads," sold nationwide since January, 1974. Anthrax represents a threat to both human and animal health.

The pads, manufactured by the Perforated Pad Company, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, contain imported hair, utilized in manufacturing the saddle cloth, which is the source of the anthrax spore. The pads, ranging in size from 26 to 28 inches to 30 by 30 inches and from three-quarters to one

inch thick, present one side of cotton duck quilt and the other greyish-black animal hair. A small blue label includes the name of the manufacturer and one of the following six style numbers: 238, 238R, 500, 500R, 832, and 832R.

While it is not thought that any danger presently exists, as most of the pads have been recalled, anyone having purchased the product since January, 1974, are advised to place and seal it in a double plastic bag and contact the county health department for disposal instructions. No attempt should be made to sterilize, incinerate or otherwise dispose of the pad because of serious contamination risks.

The manufacturer of the saddle pads voluntarily agreed to refund the price of the pad to all purchasers. Consumers who have purchased one or more of these pads since January, 1974, should contact the retailer from whom it was bought to

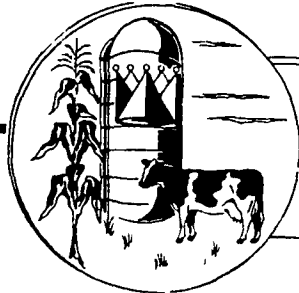
obtain a refund.

In humans, anthrax infections may start with a blister or pustule and can develop into a depressed area of dead tissue with a dark crust. Fever and other symptoms may not appear until the disease is severe.

The Animal Health Section, Maryland Department of Agriculture, reports that anthrax in animals is not uncommon in the United States. Anthrax symptoms in horses include fever, chills, colic, loss of appetite, depression and muscular weakness. It affects all livestock, household pets and birds.

An acute febrile disease, it can be fatal for humans as well as animals if untreated. It is transmissible from a product bearing anthrax spores through skin contact, inhalation or from ingestion or contaminated food. It is, however, not contagious and, if treated in time, a cure can be effected.

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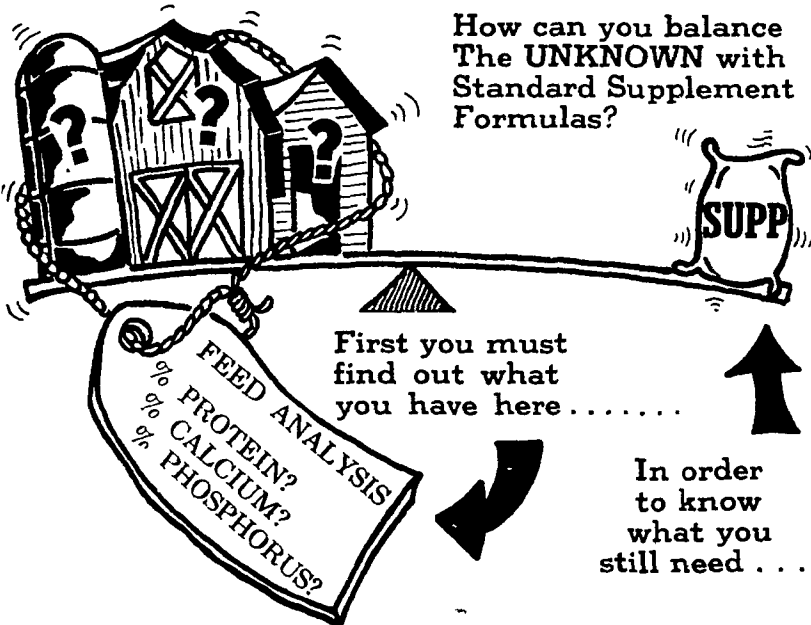
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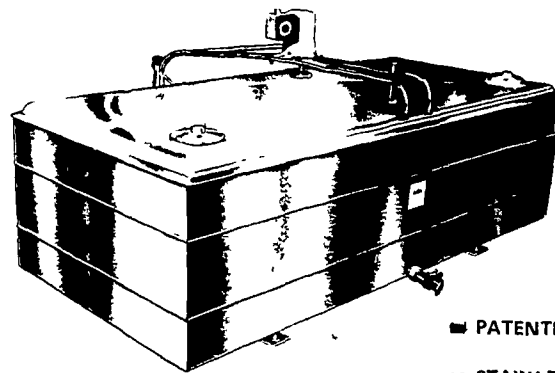
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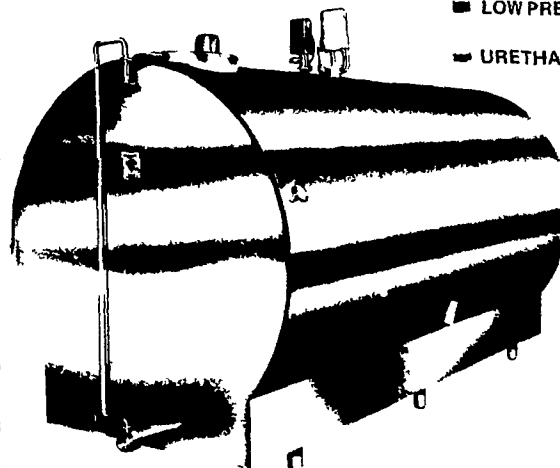
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