

## Changes to Grain Inspection Proposed

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently proposed several amendments to the regulations for official grain inspection under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The

changes are needed to bring the regulations in line with current grain merchandising and transportation practices, to clarify certain inconsistencies in the regulations, and to provide additional guidelines for official inspection agencies.

One amendment would require the use of diverter-type mechanical samplers in sampling bulk grain for export as it is loaded into ships. This requirement would become effective Nov. 1, 1975. USDA studies show that diverter-type mechanical samplers provide more consistently representative samples than other sampling methods.

Two other amendments would require that overtime appeal inspection services be requested by 2 p.m. the day before the services are needed and that a designated official grain inspection agency give 90 days advance notice when requesting that its designation be cancelled, amended, transferred, or suspended.

These and other proposed amendments are scheduled to appear in the Federal Register on Dec. 4. Copies are also available from the Grain Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

USDA will accept comments on the proposed amendments until Jan. 20, 1975. Written comments should be sent in duplicate to the Hearing Clerk, Room 112-A, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Official grain inspection

services are administered by the Grain Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. Official inspection is available upon request at any designated inspection point, and grain sold by grade for export must be officially inspected.

## Farm Youth Calendar

**Wednesday, December 18**  
Red Rose Baby Beef and Lamb Club Christmas Party at the Farm and Home Center 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 20**  
Penn Willow 4-H Club Christmas Caroling and Party at the Conestoga Elementary School in the evening.

**Saturday, December 14**  
Farm Women Society 13 Family Christmas Party at the Ronks Fire Hall 6:30 p.m.  
Farm Women Society 12 Christmas meeting and covered dish supper at the Shady Maple 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 18**  
Farm Women Society 24 meeting at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling.

**Saturday, December 21**  
Farm Women Society 28 banquet at Historic Strasburg 6:30 p.m.

## Sheep-Goat Imports Change

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed dropping a requirement that Canadian sheep and goats being exported to the United States for immediate slaughter be inspected by a veterinarian before shipment from the farm of origin.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said the proposal would change no other regulations or safeguards against spread of livestock diseases when animals are imported. Sheep and goats consigned to slaughter would still have to be inspected and certified by Canadian veterinary authorities as free of communicable disease or exposure thereto.

APHIS officials said any sheep or goats imported without the on-farm in-

spection would have to be slaughtered within two weeks after entering the United States.

Sheep and goats imported for other purposes would still have to be inspected and certified free of disease at the farm of origin. APHIS veterinarians explained that this regulation, now in force, is designed to stop the introduction of communicable diseases of sheep and goats—including scrapie, a slow acting degenerative disease that may spread to other animals and may take three years to show obvious symptoms.

Both Canada and the United States have on-going scrapie eradication programs. Veterinary officials in the two countries maintain surveillance, destroy infected flocks, and trace the distribution of sheep from infected premises. Long quarantines and bloodline investigations are required for sheep imported from scrapie-infected countries, except from countries that have scrapie eradication programs comparable to the United States.

The proposed amendment to the federal code will be published in the Dec. 5, Federal Register. Public

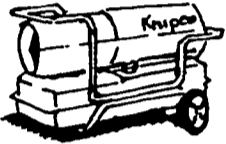
comments should be submitted by Jan. 6 to the deputy administrator for veterinary services, APHIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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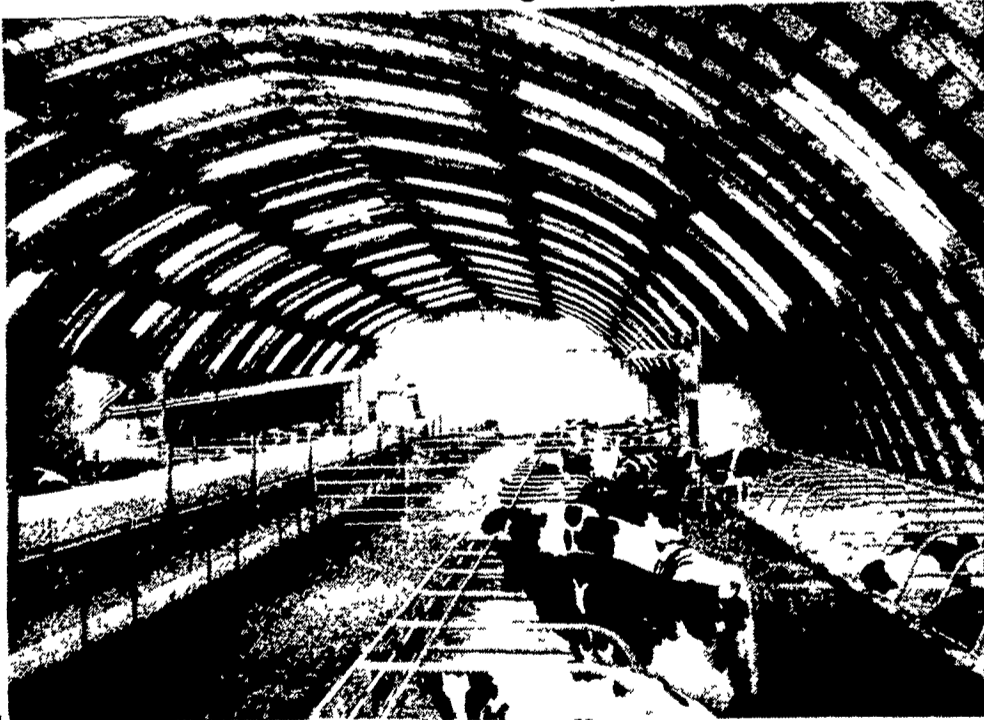
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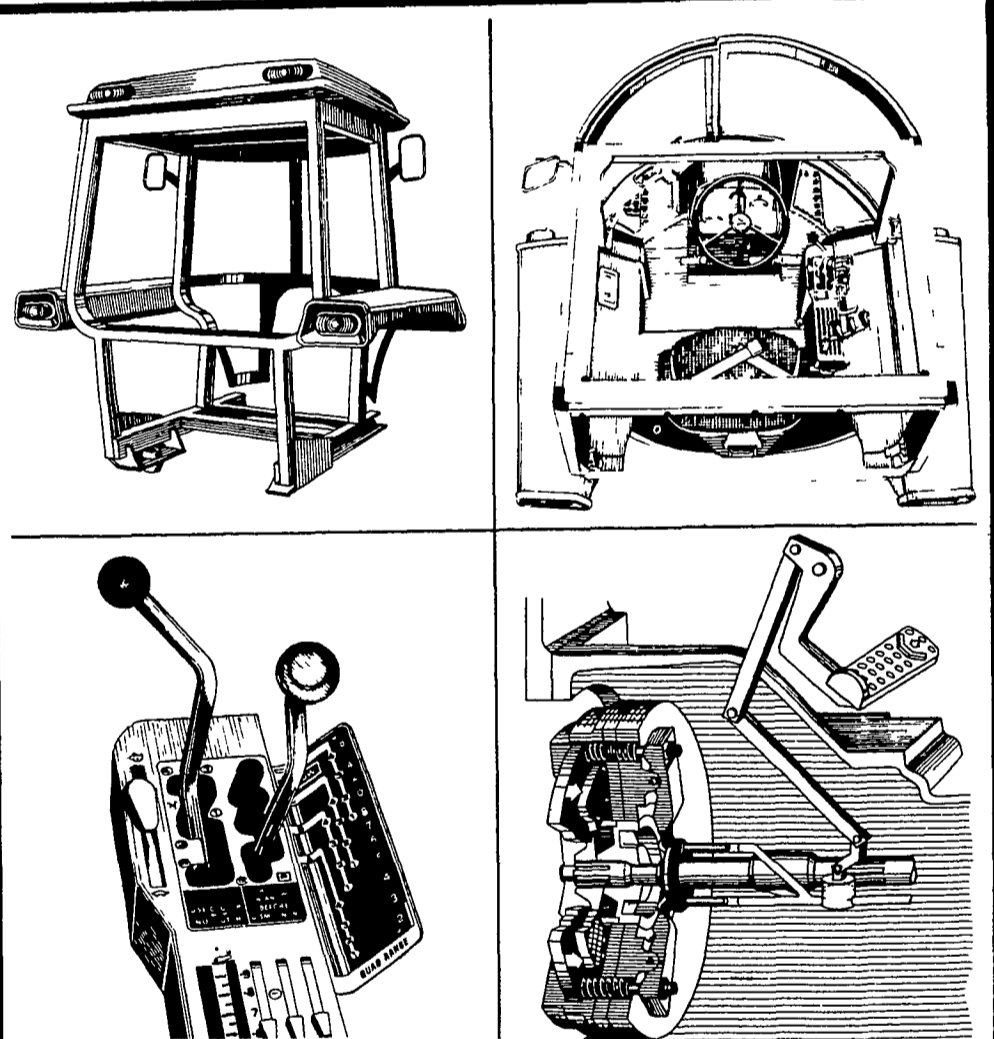
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