

Beefmen Take Cattle To Butz

Western stockmen drove a herd of bawling, mooing range cattle to Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz's doorstep Thursday in a protest designed to publicize their beef over rising costs. The stockmen sought to

give Butz 10 steers, but the secretary said the law prohibited him from accepting the Herefords. Leaders of the drive called the protest a success, saying it united cattlemen and consumers in drawing at-

tention to beef prices.

The 2,000-mile trail drive from the Dakotas and Montana ended at dawn Thursday when the stockmen herded the 47 head of cattle into a temporary corral set up on the grassy Mall across from the Agriculture Department.

The drive produced one of the most bizarre endings in history for a trail drive. As the stockmen prodded the cattle into the temporary enclosure, a few joggers

loped across the Mall. Gulls from the tidal basin wheeled and cried overhead and the sounds of subway construction and morning rush hour traffic sounds mingled with the beeve's bellows.

One sign posted on the portable holding pen said: Ranchers can't afford to feed me, consumers can't afford to buy me."

Twenty steers were scheduled to be slaughtered Friday, with the meat given to needy families in the

District of Columbia. The remaining 27 were scheduled to remain on exhibition through Friday.

Two 550-pound steers, two calves and two cows that will be sold and a rodeo steer were brought along - to attract public attention to the livestock producers' story of sharp losses, high feed costs and consumer resistance while "middlemen get fat instead of the cattle."

Ten steers will be fattened to market weight on a Maryland farm in a demonstration of the economic squeeze, said coordinator Leroy Schecher of Bison, S.D., said.

The cattlemen, allied with the Consumer Federation of America, wanted Butz to

sponsor 10 more feeders in a similar, government-run test at USDA's Beltsville, Md., research station.

Carol Foreman, executive director of The Consumer Federation of America, said Butz was unresponsive to consumer requests for various actions to expose real costs and profits in the meat business but "he certainly understood the problem of the meat producer."

The secretary's spokesman said Butz urged the protesters to take advantage of their publicity to get their facts across. In a formal statement, Butz later said most of the 14-month squeeze was due to inflation, although middlemen profits contributed.

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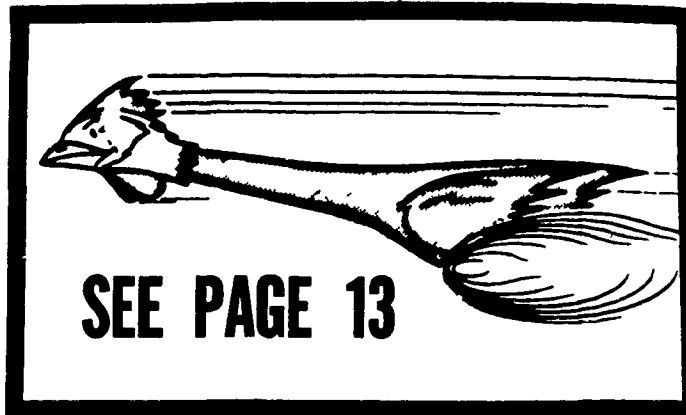
Farm Equipment Safety Program

The Eastern Lancaster County Adult Farmer Program being held at the Hinkletown Alternative School will sponsor a program on the "Safe Operation of Farm Equipment on the Highway" on Wednesday evening, December 18, 1974. Speaker for the evening will be Trooper Edward Rowlands of Troop "J" Pennsylvania State Police, Lancaster Pa. Trooper Rowlands has been the Safety Education Officer in Lancaster since 1971.

Slow moving farm equipment and oversize loads are responsible for many accidents each year. Trooper Rowlands has many ideas on how to protect yourself while operating farm equipment on the highways.

The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening December 18 at the Hinkletown Alternative School. The school is located approximately 1/2 mile north of Route 322 on Wannier Road just east of Hinkletown. Interested persons are invited to attend, refreshments will be served.

xxx
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