

Gossett Explains Beef Grade Changes

USDA beef grade changes announced March 6 should benefit both the cowman and the consumer by providing improvement in the financial stability of an ailing beef industry and by providing quality, leaner, low fat beef for the nation's consumer,

says the executive officer of a leading beef breed association.

Dr. J. W. Gossett, executive vice president of American - International Charolais Association of Houston, said the changes would encourage maximum

production of quality lean beef at reduced cost while "providing the quality of beef homemakers in most areas prefer, that is, beef of satisfactory taste and flavor without excessive fat."

Announced Thursday, March 6 by the USDA, the grade changes go into effect April 14 and follow recommendations of most segments of the beef industry. Foremost in the changes is the emphasis which the new system places upon cutability of carcass beef.

Cutability is an expression of leanness of beef and is measured by five different yield grades. Carcasses having a smaller amount of exterior fat have a higher "yield" of boneless trimmed cuts from the primary parts of the carcass, making them of more value—economically and nutritionally—to the industry.

"The cutability factor without question favors cattle that grow faster and thereby make that growth on less feed. These cattle are at the feed trough fewer days. They do not need an expensive layer of outside tallow to reach the quality of flavor and tenderness required by the consumer," Dr. Gossett explained. "It requires two and a half times as much feed or energy to produce a pound of fat as it does a pound of lean. Thus, energy requirements are less for the leaner kind."

As a result, Gossett

forecasts an increased demand for the Charolais-kind of feeder cattle and that these faster-growing cattle will be placed in a more competitive position in the market. Charolais cattle have a higher lean to fat ratio and naturally will have a better yield grade than the remainder of the cattle population.

"These kind of cattle have proved themselves to be the more efficient kind of beef," he continued. "Research and industry leaders alike have shown that the faster growing, leaner kind of cattle are the most profitable. With increased emphasis upon yield of lean beef by the grading system, there will be more incentive for the feedlot operator to finish this kind of beef and the producer to make that kind of feeder cattle available to feedlots."

Gossett also pointed to a new reputation for the present "good" grade of beef as a result of the changes. The narrowing of the current "good" grade by removing the lower one-third of the grade will emphasize the quality of this kind of beef,



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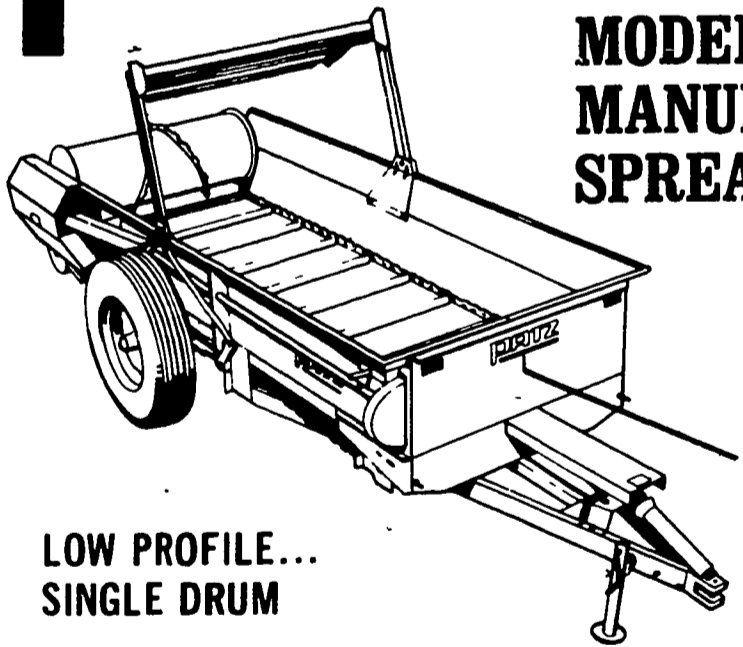
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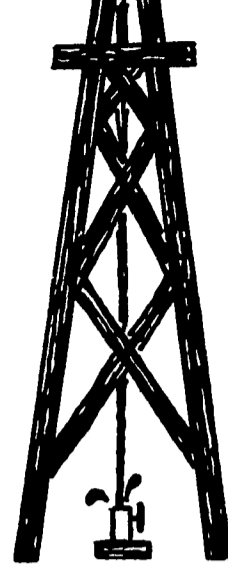
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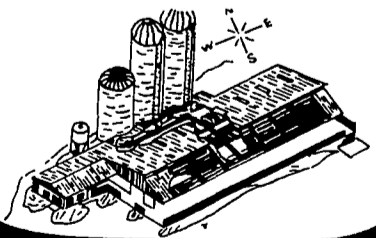
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