

Harrisburg Approved As Livestock Port

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Animal handling facilities at the Pennsylvania State Fairgrounds, Harrisburg, Pa., have been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a port of export for air shipment of livestock.

Officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said the facilities, located in the livestock portion of the Farm Show Building, meet federal requirements for handling and examining livestock prior to export. APHIS approval also provides for shipment of the animals through the Harrisburg International Airport.

All animals passing through livestock export terminals must be examined by APHIS veterinarians to assure that they are free of communicable disease and that they meet the health requirements of the receiving nations.

APHIS officials have previously approved use of the Farm Show Building for livestock exports under special temporary permits; however, with steadily increasing use, action was taken to formally designate Harrisburg as a port of export for livestock.

In recent years Harrisburg has become the principal export terminal for shipping Holstein-Friesian dairy cattle. During the six months from July through December 1974, fourteen

shipments totalling 1,461 head of cattle were processed at the State fairgrounds and shipped out of the Harrisburg airport.

APHIS officials noted that export operations must be suspended when major shows are held in the Farm Show Building during four weeks of each year: the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January, the Eastern Sports show in February, the All-American Dairy Show in September, and the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in November.

APHIS standards for approved export facilities include: Proper lighting and restraining devices for veterinary examinations; paved, skid-resistant floors for pens and chutes; safe gates and fences; adequate space for handling each shipment; separation of different lots of livestock; and provisions for feed, water and shelter.

In addition to Harrisburg, ten other locations have been approved for general livestock export by air: Richmond, Va.; Miami, Tampa and St. Petersburg, Fla.; New Iberia, La.; Houston, Tex.; San Francisco, Calif.; Portland, Ore.; Moses Lake, Wash.; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

New York City and San Juan, P.R., have been approved for limited shipments of horses by air or sea.

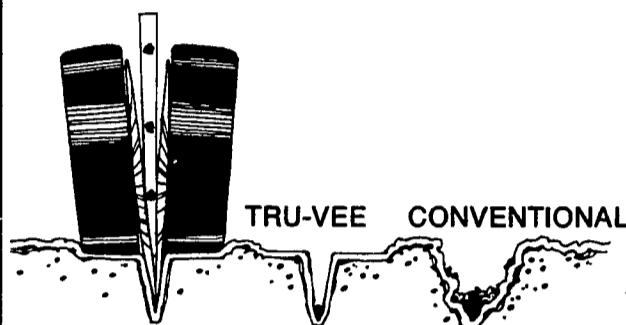
APHIS has also approved ten ocean ports, ten Mexican border ports, and about 50 Canadian border ports for the export of animals.

Notice of this action will be published in the March 6, Federal Register, and becomes effective immediately.

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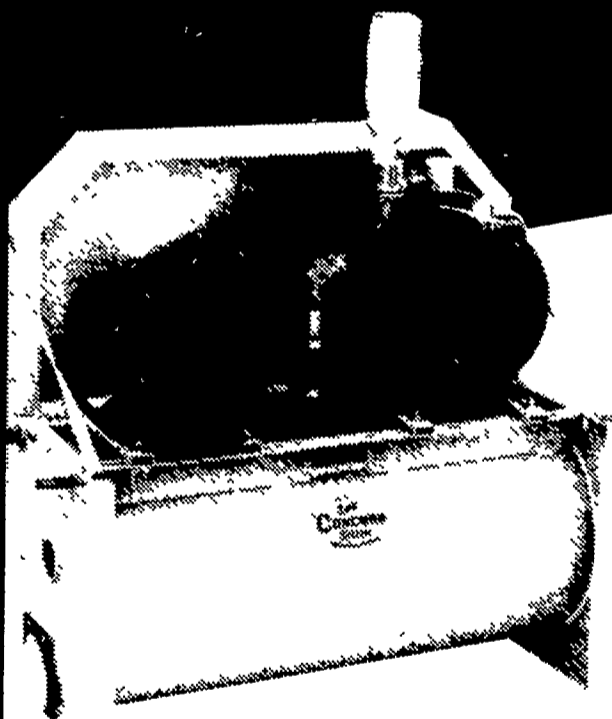
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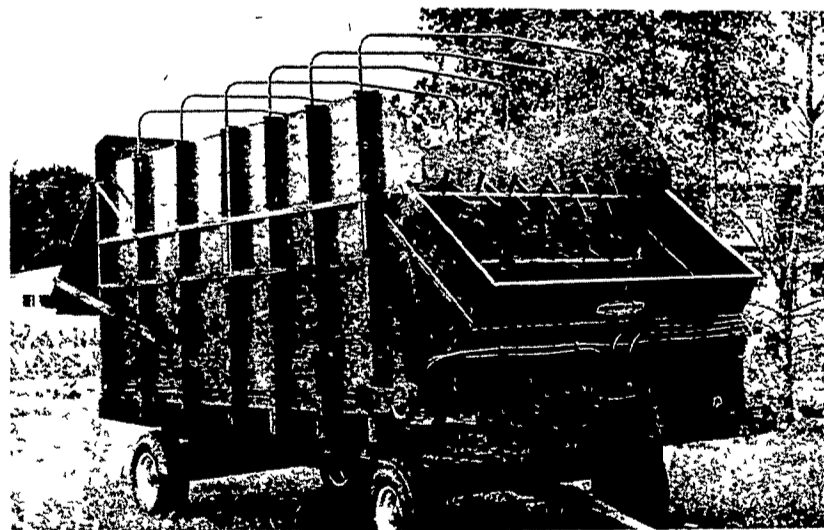
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