

Neppco Spells Out Poultry Troubles for Congressmen

A statement concerning the poultry industry of the Northeastern United States and its ability to provide adequate supplies of eggs and poultry meat products to consumers at reasonable prices was sent this week by the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council (NEPPCO) to Senators and Representatives from the 14-state area covered by NEPPCO.

The 7-page statement is a summarization of discussions with over 1,000 poultry farmers attending some 17 meetings held throughout the Northeast from mid-December to mid-April and addressed by NEPPCO officials. It was drafted by NEPPCO President, Dr. John W. Dodge, and Executive Director, Richard I. Ammon, to provide Congress

and interested federal agencies with not only the grass roots thinking of poultrymen in the Northeast, but also their recommendations for remedial actions.

At each of the meetings poultry farmers were asked: "What factors are having the greatest influence on your ability to produce high quality food, get it to the consumers of the Northeast at a reasonable price, and at the same time allow you a reasonable return on your farming investment or allow you to make a decent living?"

While the answers and resulting discussions varied somewhat from area to area, the factors or issues mentioned at all the meetings included:

1. The cholesterol controversy involving eggs and particularly the Federal Trade Commission's action against the National Commission of Egg Nutrition.

2. The high transportation costs and poor service offered by Eastern railroads in hauling needed grain and feed ingredients into the Northeast, together with current proposals to abandon some 5,800 miles of so-called light density track.

3. High farm taxes and a multiplicity of land use restrictions imposed upon agriculture by local, county and state governments.

4. A plethora of regulations by a growing number of Federal agencies with overlapping authorities and too often staffed by persons who do not understand farming or the problems of the poultry farmer. Poultrymen are incensed at filling out the increasing number of government reports. They look upon all of this as a great waste of Federal tax revenues and suggested seven ways the

money could be better used to assist both them and the consuming public.

5. The widening spread between farm prices and retail or consumer prices.

6. The impact on Northeastern poultrymen of "tax shelter" farming and the availability of easy money for corporate farming which poses a threat to their continued existence - all because of others' needs to hide profits.

7. The present high and complex import levies of one kind or another imposed on U.S. egg and poultry products by countries that have easy and often subsidized access to U.S. grain products.

8. The need for a nationally coordinated and financed program of research, consumer education and promotion of eggs, poultry and the products of each.

9. Antiquated laws that cause trucks to deliver food and other goods into metropolitan areas and return empty or force truckers to use circuitous routes, all of which helps to increase the price of food.

In a letter accompanying the statement, NEPPCO officials asked Congressmen for their comments and any

action they may be in a or eliminating these position to take in reducing problems.

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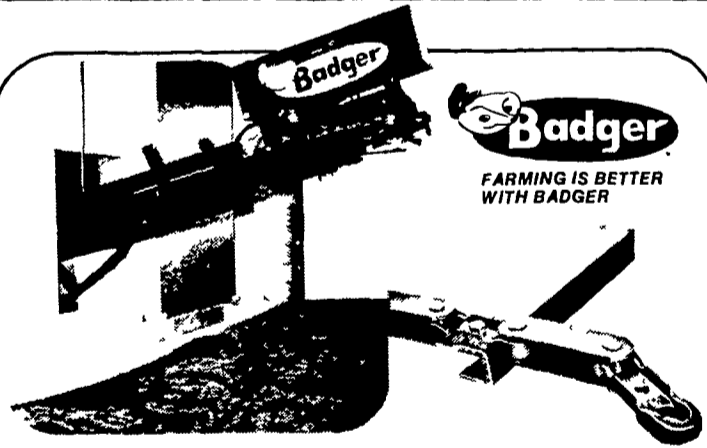
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