

Grain inspection law submitted

WASHINGTON — Legislation designed to update and improve inspection procedures under the 59-year old U.S. Grain Standards Act was introduced jointly on Sept. 9 by Chairman Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., of the House Agriculture Committee, and Rep. William C. Wampler, R-Va., ranking minority party committee member.

The bill as introduced was submitted at the request of the Administration, and does not necessarily represent specific views of the legislators. Actually, Chairman Foley on August 1 expressed concern about current grain inspection procedures and scheduled public hearings by the Committee to see what changes in the law may be needed to prevent recurrence of recent scandals in inspection of grains being exported out of the United States.

The newly introduced bill, along with others on the subject which have been introduced in the House, will be considered by the Committee at hearings beginning Friday, September 19, and continuing the following week, on September 22, 23 and 24. Witnesses the opening day will be Members of Congress and officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Spokesmen for the grain

trade, and for existing grain inspection agencies will testify at the following sessions.

"All of these measures will serve as a basis for our study," said Chairman Foley, "and we hope to come up with meaningful legislation that will not only prevent a repetition of past irregularities but will improve the effectiveness and reliability of the present inspection system."

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, requesting introduction and passage of the new measure, said:

"We believe this legislation will rectify the concerns now being expressed which center upon the ability of certain official inspection agencies to objectively inspect grain and to control the actions of some of their employees."

Carried out under the 1916 Grain Standards Act, inspections now are made by employees of state agencies, trade groups or private companies which have been licensed by the USDA. There are 111 officially licensed inspection agencies, 23 of which are operated by states, 41 by grain exchanges, chambers of commerce and board of trade, and 47 through private inspection agreements. The USDA itself employs 226 supervisory-type inspectors, but they do not do original grain inspection. They

supervise licensed inspectors and work on appeals from original decisions.

The newly-introduced bill would retain the Federal-State private inspection system, but would authorize the USDA to perform original inspection on an interim basis in certain situations — such as in cases

where there has been a suspension or revocation of a license of an inspection agency, or in the absence of a designated inspection agency for a particular area.

The new bill also contains provisions designed to prevent conflict of interest situations, forbidding licensing of agencies where any of their officials or

employees have financial interests in companies engaged in transportation, storage, or merchandising of grain.

Other provisions call for redesignation of inspection agencies every three years, and for the withholding of a license from firms found in violation of the Grain Standards Act or convicted

of violation of other relevant Federal laws.

The estimated annual cost of the program under the new legislation was placed at \$9,277,000, of which \$7,857,000 would be recovered from fees, and \$1,420,000 provided in appropriated funds. The current inspection system costs \$3,126,000 annually in appropriated monies.

Holsteins classified

Harvey T. Bomgardner of Annville reports that his Registered Holsteins were classified for body conformation recently. The scoring was done by an official classifier of Holstein-Friesian Association of America, Brattleboro, Vermont.

Dairymen enrolled in this herd improvement program receive a numerical score for each animal evaluated. The True-Type Holstein represents theoretical perfection and has a value of 100 points on the classification score card. Each animal is scored, receiving a rating of Ex-

cellent (90 points or more), Very Good (85 through 89), Good Plus (80 through 84), Good (75 through 79), Fair (65 through 74) or Poor (64 points or below).

Including animals previously scored, the Mil-Harv Farm herd has 0 Excellents, 14 Very Goods and 47 Good Pluses.

To provide a more complete image of each animal, the classifier also uses comparative terms to describe twelve major parts of the animal's physical characteristics. This "word picture" serves as a guide for planning a breeding program to improve the herd.

The information from the classification of the herd will be summarized by the Holstein Association on its high speed computer. Returned to the breeder, these reports provide useful information for selection in the herd. The data is also published and available as reference for the herd improvement programs of Holstein dairymen everywhere.

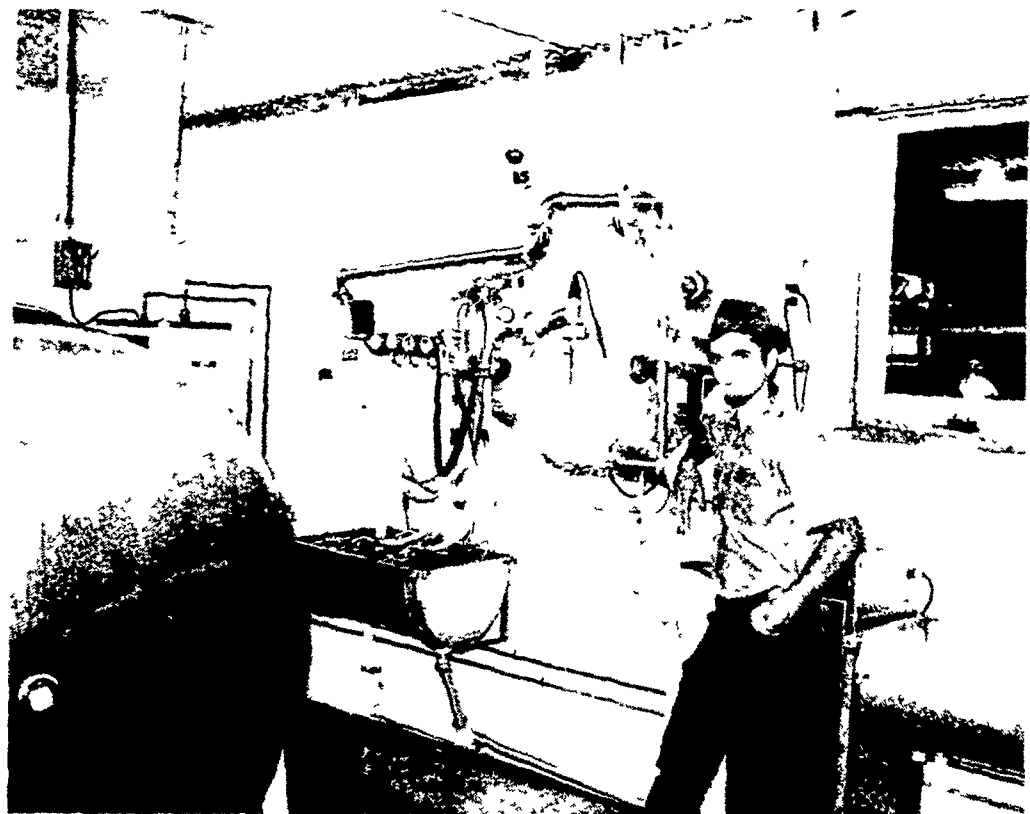


Charter Oak
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