36-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, Oct. 4, 1975

Milk import regulations strengthened to prevent diseases

WASHINGTON - Tougher restrictions on imports of milk and milk products from countries infected with footand-mouth disease (FMD) and rinderpest were announced recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or are shipped through (USDA).

Animal and Plant Health or rinderpest. Inspection Service (APHIS) said stronger regulations were needed on nonfat dry milk and certain other milk products if they originate in

East Germany to keep importing feed

Germany will import corn and soybeans for feed during the next 5 years to help satisfy rising meat consumption, according to a report released last month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The United States will remain a competitive corn supplier and will be the likely source of soybean meal.

While growth in East German livestock production will more than cover increased consumption of meat and milk products, domestic production of grain and oilseeds will not match consumption, and concentrated feed imports are expected to increase. Averaging 2.8 million metric tons grain equivalent (GE) in 1966-70, concentrated feed imports could reach 3.7 million tons by 1980, ignoring reexports or stockpiling. Protein meal imports may well rise from 0.8 million to nearly 2 million tons GE in 1980. However, the proportion between oilseed products and grain imports will depend on the price ratio of these commodities.

In the past, the USSR has been East Germany's principal grain supplier while West Germany has provided the main share of oilmeals. East German grain imports from the United States averaged 300,000 tons during 1966-70, but amounted to 700,000 tons - all of it corn - in fiscal year 1975. By 1980, East German grain imports will mostly be corn, and the United States will remain a competitive supplier. Currently, East Germany buys West German soybean meal, processed from U.S. soybeans. But by 1980, East Germany will likely buy soybean meal directly from the United States, if West Germany's membership in the European Community restricts its ability to grant special trade preference to East Germany.

WASHINGTON, - East to amalgamate, agricultural production to specialize, and further vertical integration to occur.

Officials of USDA's countries infected with FMD

APHIS officials em-phasized, however, that imports of fresh, chilled or frozen milk and milk products traditionally have not been permitted from these infected countries.

Effective since Sept. 25, the new regulations provide the following with respect to products originating in or shipped from such infected countries:

- Cheese, butter and butteroil are specifically exempt from import restrictions.

- Concentrated liquid milk or milk products may be imported if they have been processed by heat treatment in hermetically sealed metal containers so that they can be stored without refrigeration.

- Dry milk or milk products may be imported only for transport under government seal from the port of entry to approved warehouses and approved processing establishments for use in human food products.

-Other milk or milk products may be imported only with the prior permission of APHIS, and only under conditions that will create no threat to the health of U.S. livestock.

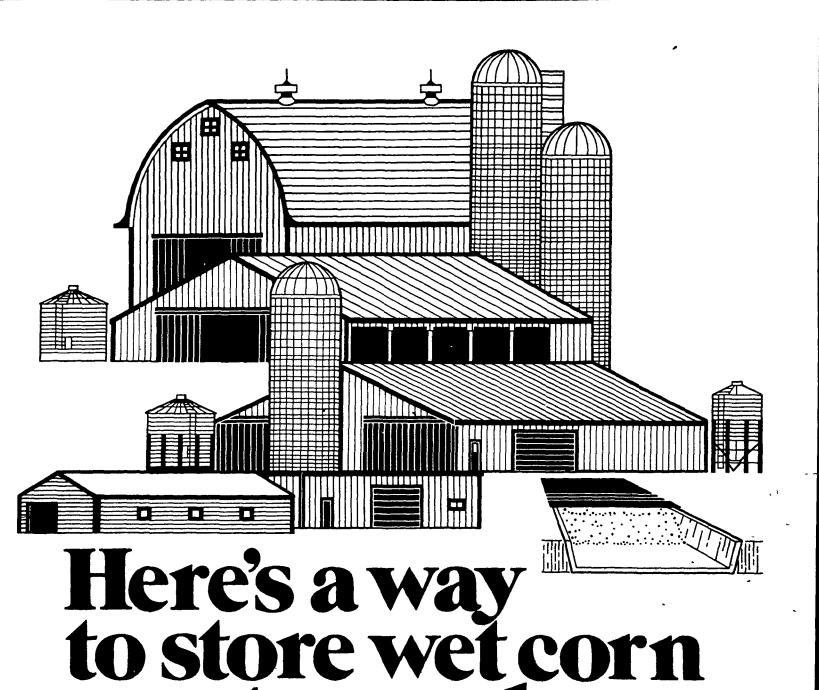
- Small amounts of milk or milk products may be brought in — with APHIS permission — for testing or analysis.

Products originating in and shipped from FMD and rinderpest-free countries may be shipped through infected countries enroute to the United States only if they are sealed in the country of origin and strict controls are taken to assure delivery of uncontaminated products.

Proposed regulations affecting imports of these products were first published in the Sept. 6, 1973, and March 6, 1974, issues of the Federal Register (USDA press releases 2754-73 and

616-74). After consideration of the many comments received on both, a change was made to delete that part of the proposal which would have permitted unrestricted importation of sterilized milk, and add this category of product to the group which requires special advance authorization from APHIS officials. Other proposed exemptions for consumersize packages of dry milk products and for small quantities for personal consumption were also deleted.

The full test of the new regulations was published in the Sept. 25, 1975 Federal Register.



No radical change is expected in East German agricultural and price policies. Farms will continue



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