

## Fowl sold at auctions must be pullorum free

**HARRISBURG** - Enforcement of recent regulations slated to go into effect May 15 will require proof that fowl sold at auctions originate from pullorum-free flocks. It was announced today by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Currently, the department's Bureau of Animal Industry monitors the movements of commercial flocks to protect against outbreaks of pullorum, a fatal, bacterially caused disease of poultry.

According to Dr. Edward T. Mallinson, chief of the bureau's Poultry Health Division, recent regulations concerning inter and intrastate movement of poultry including shipments to auctions are aimed at preventing and detecting pullorum both in commercial and backyard poultry flocks. "Outbreaks of this disease among backyard flocks can be very costly to the owner and poses a hazard to commercial hatcheries," said Mallinson. "These are the reasons for broadened enforcement and

drafts of regulations affecting poultry auctions."

As of May 15, poultry sold at auctions for raising or breeding will have to originate from flocks tested for pullorum disease. Poultry sold for slaughter within two weeks of purchase can pass through without restrictions.

The regulations will affect chickens, turkeys and barnyard types of waterfowl and game fowl such as pheasants, quail and guinea fowl.

Mallinson explained that anyone buying poultry at an auction for purposes other than slaughter should request proof that they are from a tested flock.

Mallinson added that people interested in good sources of breeds should check the list of fowl exhibitors. This list is available at the department's Bureau of Foods and Chemistry, Poultry and Egg Division.

Mallinson stressed that the new regulations place the responsibility on the seller for insuring that birds are free of pullorum disease. He said that information on where to get birds bled for

tests can be obtained from the department's Bureau of Animal Industry. "We have a list of veterinarians and lay technicians who can do the testing job," Mallinson said.

Poultry may also be sold at auctions if accompanied by National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPPI) certificates which assure that the birds originate from healthy flocks.

Of the 51 auctions in the commonwealth, only a few deal with poultry returning to farms, according to Mallinson. This makes the job of maintaining an effective surveillance relatively easy.

Mallinson cautioned that some birds arrive in the commonwealth by air parcel post. "Buyers of hatching eggs or poultry shipped by air should be careful that the originating flocks have been rated 'U.S. Pullorum Clean,'" said Mallinson.

Pullorum test requirements will not apply to pet birds such as parrots, parakeets, pigeons, canaries and certain types of rare, exotic water or game fowl.

## Milk orders altered

After approval by dairy cooperative associations, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has amended and merged the Boston Regional and Connecticut federal milk marketing orders and combined the marketing areas they now cover. The changes will become effective April 1.

The new single order will

be known as the New England federal milk marketing order.

H. L. Forest, dairy official in USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), said the required two-thirds majority approval of the merger by producers was determined by polling cooperatives representing a large majority of dairy farmers serving the market.

Terms of the merged order

are the same as those of the final decision of Jan. 26, which was submitted for the dairy farmer approval.

Minor changes have also been made in the New York-New Jersey federal milk order. This was done, Forest said, to accommodate the discontinuance of the "Connecticut order price differential," which has been used to price some milk moving between the Connecticut and New York-New Jersey markets.

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## Longwood program

**KENNETT SQUARE** - On March 10, Dr. Darrel A. Apps, newly appointed Head of the Education Department at Longwood Gardens, will present the last of the 1976 Wednesday Evening Lectures, Perennials for Your Garden. The lecture will be given at 8:30 p.m. in the Ballroom off Longwood's Main Conservatory. Ad-

mission will be by payment of the \$1.00 weekday admission fee to the gardens.

Using slides, Dr. Apps will discuss color, texture and form of herbaceous perennials, explain their use in the landscape and recommend selections for bloom in the garden throughout the growing season.

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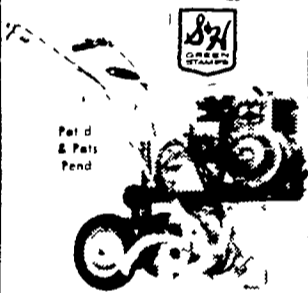
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