

Grain inspection, food stamps, and milk mktg. orders discussed

By DIETER KRIEG
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Grain inspection is a "very real problem, but I'm not sure if it's being put in the same context by the press," John Knebel told a gathering of farm editors here this week. The occasion was the annual meeting of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America, a professional association.

Knebel, U.S. Under-Secretary of Agriculture, informed the group that there had been a wave of indictments — 78 so far — and there would be more "within the next ten days."

The grain inspection problem is more complicated than it appears on the surface, Knebel noted. "It's awfully tough to show we mean business and still keep things going so as to not lose sales," the administrator said. The Senate was voting on the grain bill that same day. The outcome was 52 to 18 in favor of a measure proposed by Senators Humphrey and

Clark. That bill would put much emphasis on federal control, and President Ford has announced he will veto it. He favors a bill which would give local and private concerns more control. Knebel also said that USDA favors the President's stand, noting that the Department would like to see the "private sector" preserved and cut federal control.

"The basic philosophy behind that is free enterprise — it's the principle of the thing," he said.

Turning his attention to food stamps, Knebel said he expects the issue to stay within the Department of Agriculture, rather than be moved to HEW, as some have suggested. "There's a tremendously powerful lobby out there," he explained. "Little ladies in tennis shoes, church groups, labor, community action programs — they're all pushing food stamps." The Under-Secretary said the Ford Administration continues to be interested in

eliminating malnutrition but there are also plans in the works to eliminate five million people who are on food stamps. The sentiment is with the Department, and with farm editors, etc., that welfare reform is needed, Knebel said, but convincing Congress of the need is another matter.

According to USDA, the country does not really need a new food stamps program if Congress will allow USDA proposals to be implemented. "I don't know if Congress will like it," Knebel quipped.

Before closing the meeting, Knebel turned briefly to the question of federal milk marketing orders and encouraged the writers to take a look at what would happen if there were no such orders. He does not expect "startling developments" in the near future.

Knebel said he does not think President Ford would ever again impose trade restrictions. "I believe it would take a catastrophic situation for Ford to ever again impose trade restrictions; I wouldn't say it would never happen, but not again under Ford," he said.

Beef fitting meeting

A meeting of the Red Rose Beef and Lamb 4-H Club will be held May 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jay Rohrer farm, Manheim R7. A beef fitting and showing demonstration will be held for young club members and their parents. The Rohrer farm is located between Manheim and Mt. Joy and can be reached by traveling north on Rt. 283 to the first exit

past Salunga. Turn right at exit to Esbendash Road and take second road to right - Rohrer Road then first lane to right.

All interested members are urged to attend.

Read the Farm Women Calendar.

Brown Swiss auction sets new record

A new record average for registered Brown Swiss selling at public auction was set at the St. John Invitational Sale. Held March 6 at St. John's Dairy, Glendale, Arizona, 44 head averaged \$3544.32. The former high average was \$2763 for 50 head sold in the Texas National Imperial Sale in December 1975. At the St. John's sale 18 cows sold for an average of \$4761; 12 bred heifers, \$2508; 13 open heifers, \$2473 and one bull for \$8000. The sale, sponsored by Earnest St. John, owner of St. John's Dairy was managed by Norman E. Magnussen, Lake Mills, Wisconsin.

Interest at this sale was high as buyers came from the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Louisiana, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin.

The high selling cow of the sale became the second highest selling Brown Swiss female ever sold at public

auction. Needmor Lyric J consigned by the Lyric J Syndicate, sold for \$16,500. She was purchased by Maynard and Gordon DeMay, Empire Farms, Palmyra, New York.

Arbor Rose Stretchy Spicey at \$15,000 was the second highest selling animal of the sale, the fourth highest selling Brown Swiss female of all time. Consigned to the sale by Donald Meier, Scappoose, Oregon, this young cow in her first lactation was purchased by the Spicey Syndicate. Members of the syndicate are: Byron Blackburn, Ava, Missouri; Bert DeGroot, Chandler, Arizona; Joe P. Eves, Sun City; Ed Hall, Glendale, Arizona; Norman F. Magnussen and Marion C. Magnussen, Lake Mills, Wisconsin; Donald Meier, Scappoose, Oregon; St. John's Dairy, Glendale, Arizona.

Four vials of White Cloud Doris Jason semen also sold in the sale for \$1900.

Crop stocks reported down

HARRISBURG — Stocks of wheat, corn, barley and oats stored in Pennsylvania on April 1, 1976, totaled 57.5 million bushels, down six per cent from a year earlier according to the Crop Reporting Service.

Of the total on hand about 50.1 million bushels were stored on farms, leaving 7.3 million bushels in off-farm storages.

Wheat stocks totaled 3.2 million bushels, down 40 per cent from 1975. Farm stocks near 1.4 million were down 32 per cent, while off-farm holdings of about 1.9 million bushels were down 44 per cent.

Corn stored in Pennsylvania on April 1, 1976 at 45.4 million bushels was one per cent below a year ago. Farm stocks of 40.7 million were below last year's 41.0, while off-farm holdings of 4.7 million compare to 4.9 million in 1975.

Total barley stocks of near 1.8 million bushels were 26 per cent below 1975. Farm holdings approaching 1.6 million bushels were down 29 per cent, while off-farm

stocks at 248,000 bushels show a one per cent drop.

The 7.1 million bushels of oats stored on April 1, 1976 were eight per cent below 1975. Farm stocks of 6.5 million were eight per cent lower, while off-farm stocks at 557,000 showed a four percent drop.

Total rye stocks of 70,000 compare to 59,000 bushels on April 1, 1975, while on-farm soybeans at 205,000 were significantly below the 446,000 of a year ago.

Nationally, April 1 stocks of all wheat at 25.5 million metric tons were 42 per cent above a year earlier. Stocks of the four feed grains (corn, oats, barley and sorghum) totaled 86.4 million metric tons, 25 per cent above April 1, 1975 holdings. Increases from a year earlier for individual feed grains were 37 per cent for barley, 27 per cent for corn and 17 per cent for sorghum. Oats declined two per cent.

Soybean stocks at 23.4 million metric tons were 31 per cent above April 1, 1975.

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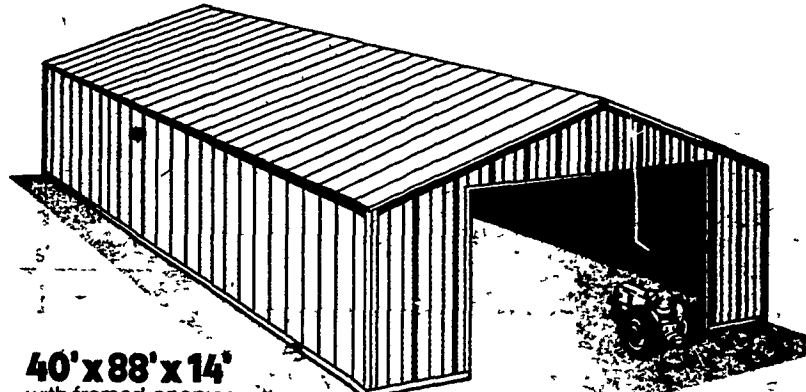
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