

New wheat standards passed

WASHINGTON — A revision of the official U.S. grade standards for wheat was announced last month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The changes, proposed in the April 27 Federal Register, were made to bring the standards in line with current production and marketing practices.

According to officials in USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the revised U.S. grade standards for wheat:

- Delete the three subclasses of Hard Red Winter Wheat, retaining only the general class designation;
- Modify inspection procedures so that the amount of heat-damaged kernels, damaged kernels (total), and foreign material will be determined on the basis of a wheat sample free from dockage and shrunken and broken kernels;
- Allow a newly developed purple-colored wheat to be

designated as Unclassed Wheat, a classification not available in the previous standards;

- Specify that Red Durum Wheat will also be designated as Unclassed Wheat, because Red Durum is no longer grown commercially in the United States;

- Delete the previously used special grades Heavy Wheat and Tough Wheat;

- Require that percentages of Western White Wheat, Unclassed Wheat, and Mixed Wheat be listed in the "Remarks" section of the official inspection certificate; and

- Adjust the limit for heat-damaged kernels in the U.S. No. 1 grade from 0.1 to 0.2 per cent.

One change proposed April 27 but not adopted would have required wheat containing more than 0.1 per cent ergot — a type of fungus — to be designated as Ergoty Wheat. AMS officials said further study is needed before new grade limits for ergot can be established.

The revision was published in the June 29 Federal Register. Copies can be obtained from the Grain Division, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Juice flow increasing

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania consumers used 60 per cent more electricity in 1975 than they did a decade earlier, the Pennsylvania Electric Association (PEA) reported recently.

Residential, commercial and industrial customers consumed 87.6 billion kilowatt-hours, compared with 53.7 billion in 1965.

PEA President Earl J. Miller said that a "conservation ethic" has helped slow the historical trend of a doubling in consumption every ten years in the decades following World War II.

"But in the next decade, we can expect major growth in electricity use — nearly 70 per cent higher than today," he added.

Miller explained that industry and consumers are shifting the energy base away from depleting oil and natural gas to electricity. He cited estimates that the 1976 consumption of electricity in Pennsylvania will be 92.7 billion kilowatt-hours, and that this will increase to 114.5 in 1980 and 147.1 in 1985.

"These are more than just projections," Miller said. "The numbers mirror the growth of industry that is necessary if we will have jobs for the next generation of Pennsylvanians."

Correction

The two top land judges at the Lancaster County Conservation Field Day were Les Hershey and Bruce Kreider. The caption on page 18 of last week's issue incorrectly identified Kreider as Gary Akers. Lancaster Farming apologizes for the error.

Scientist claims public saves

\$2-billion with feed additives

NEW YORK, N.Y. — American consumers save more than two billion dollars annually for meat when antibiotics are fed to cattle and swine, the FDA Subcommittee on Antibiotics in Animal Feeds of the National Advisory Food and Drug Committee was told recently.

In addition, Dr. R. G. Eggert, American Cyanamid Company, told the Subcommittee that an increase of 103 million bushels of corn and about 23-million bushels of soybeans would be required to produce the same amount of meat if antibiotics were banned.

Eggert focused his presentation on antibiotics which are disease preventive as well as growth promoting.

The scientist stated that waiting until animals are clinically ill before taking action is uneconomical. If the sick animal recovers, he must first regain lost weight

before he can make new gains. Much disease can be prevented by using antibiotics in the feed during periods of stress when animals are especially prone to illness.

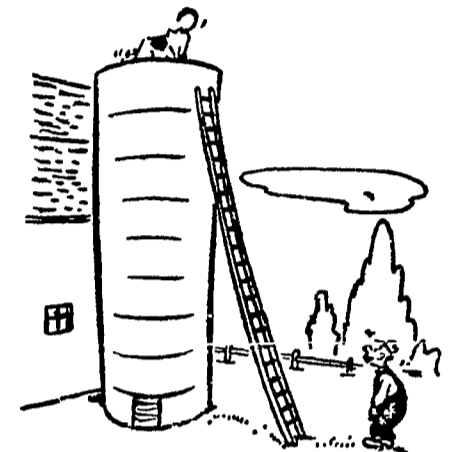
"More than a billion dollars a year are being saved by the prophylactic use of antibiotics in the feed of poultry, swine and cattle," stressed Eggert.

He said that tetracycline antibiotics are a major factor in both the cattle feeding and hog raising businesses. He cited an experiment conducted on a commercial hog farm in Iowa which involved 600 pigs in four treatment groups. The treatment group receiving a chlortetracycline combination during the

starter period had by far the lowest mortality rate. The other groups received either no antibiotics in their feed or a non-therapeutic feed additive.

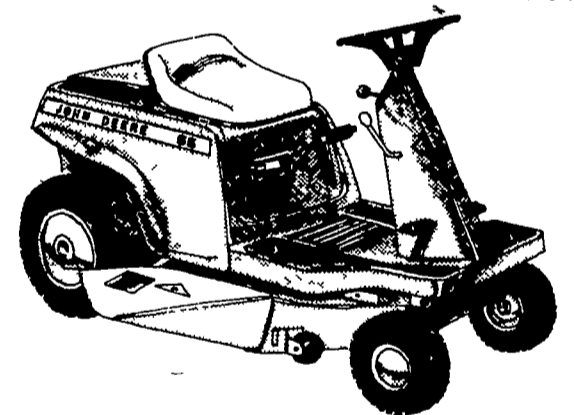
Based on 1975 prices, the group receiving the antibiotics combination had an economic advantage of \$10.35 per pig over the groups receiving no antibiotics. If this economic advantage of \$10.35 per pig was applied across the 1975 pig crop (83.5 million), there would be a potential savings of 864 million dollars.

The Subcommittee of the FDA advisory group is reviewing the use of antibiotics at low levels to determine whether additional controls on their use is needed.



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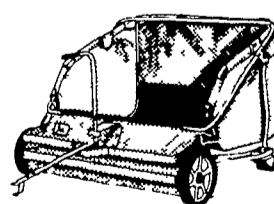
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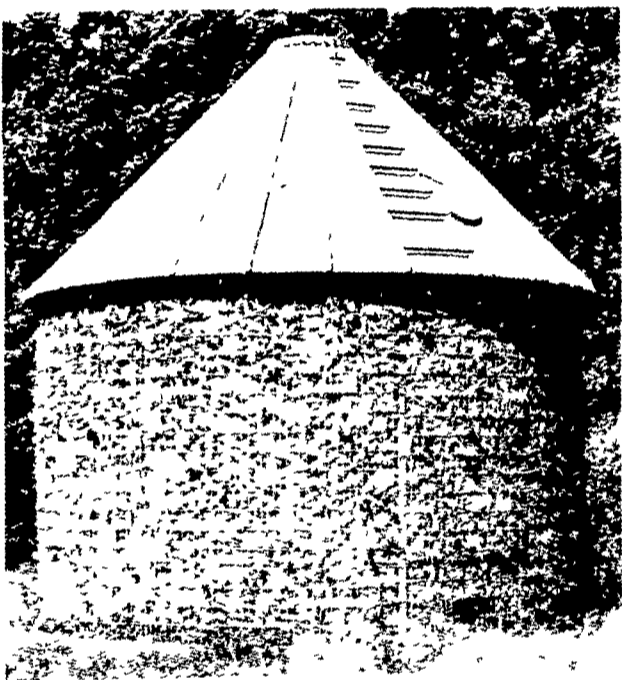
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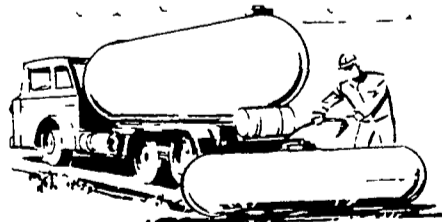
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