

Meat import quotas welcomed

DENVER, Colo. - President Ford's imposition of meat import quotas is welcome news to hard-pressed cattlemen, Wray Finney, president of the American National Cattlemen's Association, said last week. Finney commented after Ford announced that he was triggering quotas for 1976, as provided by the Meat Import Act of 1964. The announcement followed an October 8 meeting in Lawton, Okla., between the President and Finney and a group of southwestern cattlemen. For the

past several weeks, ANCA and other industry leaders have been emphasizing the need to keep meat imports from exceeding levels permitted under the import law.

"The quotas are particularly important at this time," Finney said,

"because record large domestic meat production, along with increasing imports, has resulted in depressed prices in all segments of the cattle industry. Unless there is a significant market upturn, more cattlemen will be forced out of business,

Poultry declines

HARRISBURG, Pa. - While poultry production in the Commonwealth declined slightly during the week ending October 2, production continued above 1975 levels, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Placements of broiler threatening future supplies of beef."

The total import quota set by President Ford for 1976 is 1233 million pounds, divided among 13 exporting nations. The base point for quotas is determined by a formula related to domestic production.

The U.S. had previously entered into import restraint agreements with exporting nations for this year. However, imports from some nations have gone over, or have threatened to go over, the restraint levels.

In its latest quarterly estimate of 1976 imports subject to the Import Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that the total would be 1250 million pounds (product weight). This is 17 million pounds greater than the so-called "trigger" level; and, under the law, this requires the President to impose quotas. The 1233-million-pound quota level is slightly above the previous restraint total but is at the same level as the '76 trigger point.

It is noteworthy that this is the first time that quotas actually have been imposed by any Administration. In the past, limitations on imports have been achieved only through voluntary restraints.

chicks were 1,579,000. The placements were one per cent below the previous week, but 11 per cent higher than the same week a year ago.

Average placements during the past 10 weeks in the commonwealth were 18 per cent above a year earlier.

In the 21 key poultry producing states, placements followed the same trend. Placements were 52,738,000, down 12 per cent from the previous week, but 13 per cent more than the same week in 1975.

Average placements in the 21 key states during the past 10 weeks were 11 per cent above a year ago.

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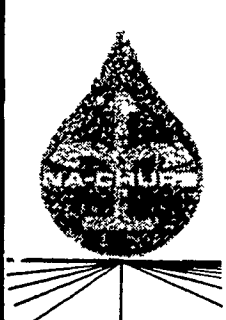
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