

Cutting out meat won't ease world food problems

SIOUX CITY, Iowa - Eliminating or dramatically reducing meat consumption in America to provide more food for the world, is a misleading, oversimplification of the world food problem, a meat industry leader said here last month at the Mid-western Conference on Food and Social Policy.

"Using guilt to tap the genuine feelings of altruism and brotherhood, which most Americans hold, will not make any contribution toward easing the world food crisis," said National Live Stock and Meat Board President David H. Stroud.

Stroud defended the production of cattle, hogs and sheep, including those which are grain-fed, as an efficient, not wasteful, utilization of resources to produce food.

"The eat-less-so-others-will-have-more concept disregards the realities which have made U.S. agriculture the most efficient food producer for this country and the world," Stroud said. "Top among those realities is the fact that any reduction in meat consumption will only send negative economic signals back through the economic system, resulting in an overall reduction of both meat and grain supplies."

He said America became "the food producing wonder of the world" on the basis of individual enterprise, profits (or hope for them), pride in land ownership and maximum achievement through efficiencies based on scientific research and sophisticated technology.

"When one studies the agriculture of the underdeveloped and starving

nations, one constant is found, a low per capita productivity. Even the growing population problem is but a complicating factor to the productivity problem," said Stroud.

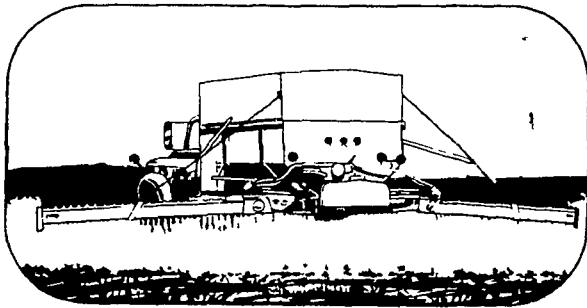
The livestock and meat industry executive said the answer to the world food problem is to aid other nations to boost their own productivity. He stated that necessary social and political reform within various countries should encourage production and place a higher status on the efforts of farmers.

He also said that livestock are far more efficient at converting grain to meat than many industry critics contend.

"I'd like to put to rest the absurd notion that livestock require 16 pounds or 21 pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat. That is a ridiculous figure," Stroud said. Cattle, over their lifespan, average about a 3 to 1 ratio, hogs are also about 3 to 1 and sheep can reach Good and Choice grades without receiving any grain at all, according to Meat Board scientists.

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American Egg Board releases cooperative funding applications

PARK RIDGE, Ill. - Applications, guidelines, and criteria for the new state cooperative funding program were mailed by American Egg Board October 26 to all state association leaders or other state contracts of record.

The cooperative funding criteria were approved by the AEB Board at the Fall meeting.

To be eligible for a portion of the funding available through this program, state proposals must:

1. Constitute a specific identifiable promotional effort rather than general support for a total program.
2. Be more efficient to pursue at a state or regional level than at a national level.
3. Place emphasis on additional or expanded promotional programs.
4. Be consistent with the national effort.
5. Promote eggs in general, not individual brands or states.

Proposals which meet the criteria established by the

Board should be submitted to the AEB office according to the format established by AEB so that proposals can be compared on an equal basis. To be considered for 1977 funding, applications must be submitted to the AEB

office by December 15, 1976. Anyone who has not received an application and would like to apply for cooperative funding should contact the AEB office, 205 Touhy, Park Ridge, Ill 60068.

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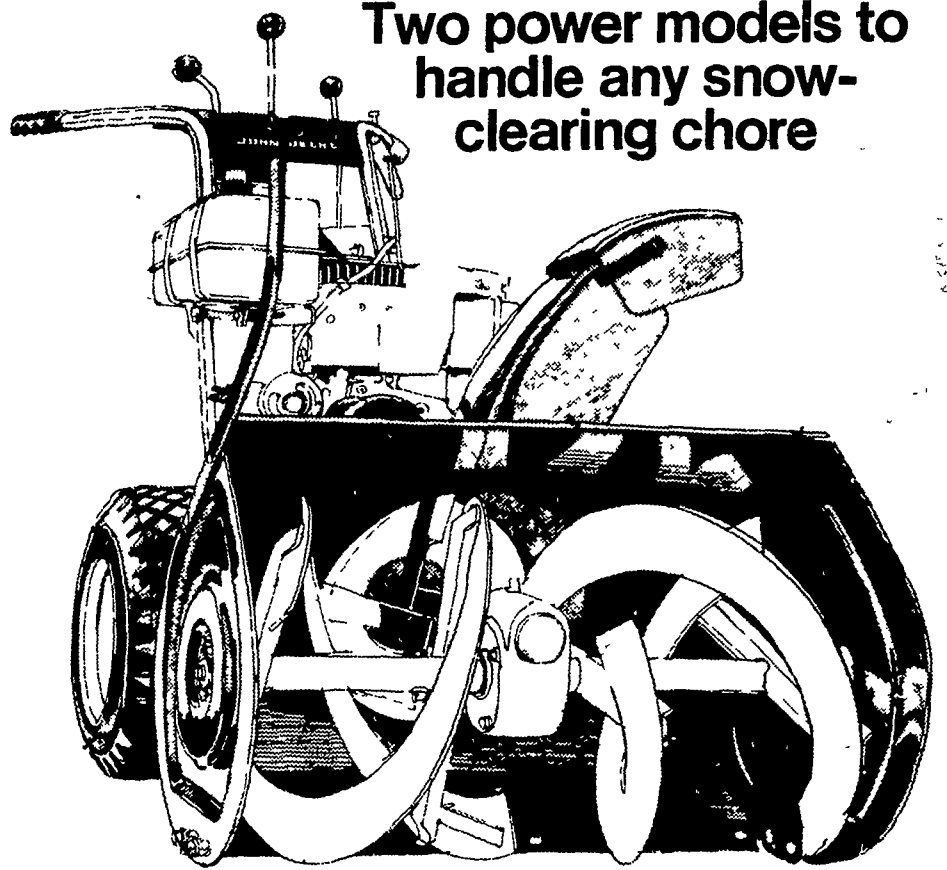
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