

Meat industry to be heard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Apparently in response to the outcry from cattle and meat industry people about their recent controversial report, the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs has scheduled one day of hearings on March 24 to hear witnesses from the meat industry.

"We fully recognize the problems the Committee report might have caused to your industry," a staffer said. "The Committee is not trying to put anyone out of business. It is trying to bring about better nutrition knowledge that will help everyone."

"The Committee has acted upon advice it has received from leading nutritionists from around the country," the staffer explained. "Their advice has been that these recommendations may be helpful but they certainly will not be harmful. The diet we eat today is not doing us any good. It is better to be safe than sorry."

United Egg Producers requested that the egg industry's side of the cholesterol story be heard by the Select Committee. The aide promised that if additional time is allocated for hearings, the egg industry

would be given an opportunity to be heard.

UEP members are asked to take special note of this schedule of hearings for the meat industry and apparent refusal to hear the egg industry. A letter to senators should express personal feelings on this matter, suggests the UEP. The Select Committee is made up of the following Senators: Senator George McGovern, South Dakota, chairman; Herman Talmadge of Georgia, Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota, Robert Dole of Kansas, Henry Bellman of Oklahoma, Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, Alan Cranston of California, Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania, Charles Percy of Illinois and Mark Hatfield of Oregon. (From UEP's United Voices).

Applications due for leader's school

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Maryland rural leaders are invited to attend the 10th annual USDA "National Rural Development Leaders School" to be held April 24-30 at Pocono Manor, Pa.

Applications for the school are due by March 18, and those seeking to attend or learn more about the program should call Dr. Jerry Clement of USDA in Washington at 202-447-2573.

The school will be limited to 120, and draws its participants from 14 northeastern states running from Maine to Virginia. Cost of the school is \$80, which includes meals, lodging and

incidental costs. Participants must furnish their own transportation to and from Pocono Manor.

Topics to be covered include setting area priorities, marshalling resources, design, and implementation of programs. The school is tailored to provide local leaders with an understanding of the rural development process.

"This program can help Maryland local leaders learn how to utilize rural development resources, particularly those on the Federal level," said Marvin Benoff, executive secretary of the Maryland Rural Affairs Council.



Caribbean Peaches

Chill two medium peach halves, sliced, with two tablespoons syrup and 1/4 teaspoon rum flavoring. Just before serving, top with one teaspoon toasted coconut.

Special loans considered for condemned livestock

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sen. Robert P. Griffin (R.-Mich.) has introduced a new proposal (S. 751) to authorize the secretary of agriculture to make financial assistance available to agricultural producers who suffer losses as the result of having their agricultural commodities or livestock contaminated by toxic chemicals dangerous to the public health, or whose agricultural commodities or livestock have been contaminated so as to adversely affect the economic viability of the farming operation.

According to a spokesman for the senator, the new legislation proposes a system of special loans to affected farmers not to exceed \$250,000 per farm at a three per cent interest rate. The new bill would extend these benefits to farmers whose livestock are not only condemned or quarantined, but also to those whose livestock are declared to pose a possible danger to the consuming public if slaughtered. The decision on possible danger could be made by state or federal inspectors. The secretary of agriculture could also extend the loan benefits to farms "whose economic viability has been affected."

Currently, the proposed legislation does not include poultry. The spokesman noted that this exclusion was an oversight by the sponsor and would be corrected when hearings are called. (Note: Most people believe the term "livestock" includes poultry. This is why poultry is not currently included in S. 751.) (From UEP's United Voices).

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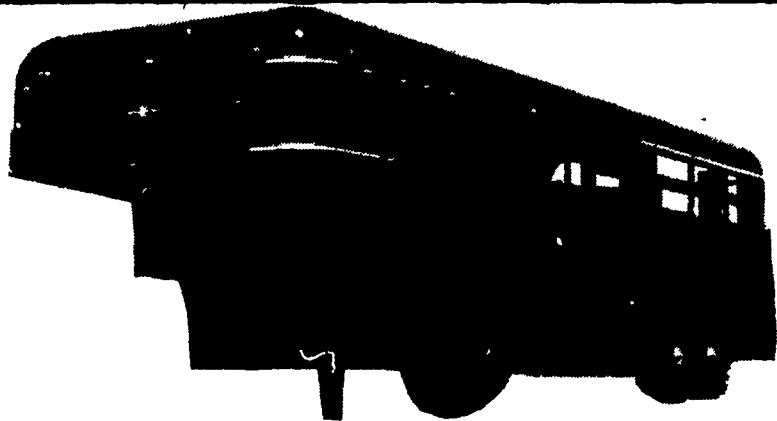
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