

Poultrymen asked to exercise caution

By JOHN HOFFMAN
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HARRISBURG, Pa. — The poultry and egg industry as well as all of the agricultural community should exercise caution in their effort to be heard on the matter of the publication of Dietary Goals for the United States. As executive director of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, I, of course, participated in the letter-writing campaign on behalf of our industry and made several personal calls to Senator Schweiker's Washington office, Senator Schweiker having served on Senator McGovern's Committee. I strongly approve of this effort, but I also recommend that we stay out of the general news media on this issue. There is a danger we could give this report notoriety. I'm aware of the government's claim about the popularity of this document, but the term popular with the Government Printing Office is a misnomer with regard to its per cent of the total population. You may well ask yourself when, as a private citizen, you last sent for a government publication on anything from the hundreds of

thousands available! I can assure you that this document will not be read by millions of American consumers - not even thousands! It will, of course, be widely read by the professional communities such as physicians and nutritionists as well as those directly affected such as agriculture. But reference to a government publication is not likely to change the American lifestyle. However, since the document does give some kind of official credence to one point of view while ignoring a contrary point of view, agriculture must protest - but quietly! There are those who contend, right or wrong, that the egg industry put the words cholesterol and eggs together for the American public with all their clamoring. So far only the beef industry has been publicly associated with the Dietary Goals for the United States. Let's keep it that way. We must keep the ultimate impact in proper perspective so that we don't add to it. I often ask myself if the cholesterol controversy hurt the egg industry as much or more than a change of eating habits, why aren't there more empty cereal bowls sitting at tables in restaurants in the morning? All I ever see is dishes stained with egg yolk. So, let's get on with the battle with the Senate Select

Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, but let's not tell anybody we're doing it!

Maple syrup standards reviewed

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed to revise U.S. grade standards for maple syrup for reprocessing. USDA invites comments on the proposal until April 1, 1978.

In an earlier proposal published in the Oct. 28, 1975 Federal Register, USDA had proposed to combine the two sets of grade standards. However, according to officials of USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service (FSQS), comments received

on the first proposal indicated that there is no need for U.S. grade standards for syrup intended for further processing.

Under the proposal, USDA would retain only two grades, U.S. Grade A and U.S. Grade B, for maple syrup. The 1975 proposal provided for U.S. Grades A, B, C, and D to cover the range of quality, including color of the syrup. Maple syrup packers said current sales indicate that consumers prefer syrup in

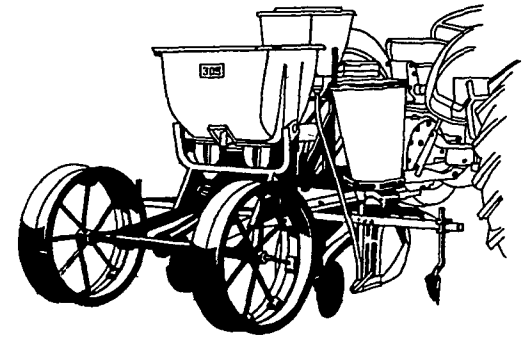
colors ranging from light to dark amber. The present proposal would provide for a U.S. Grade A product in a choice of light, medium, or dark amber. U.S. Grade B would include syrups darker than dark amber. USDA uses color guides to evaluate the shades of syrup.

To qualify as U.S. Grade A, the syrup would also be required to have a good characteristic maple flavor and be practically free from off flavors and odors as well as from any defects that

affect edibility or shipping quality. U.S. Grade B syrup would have similar requirements to Grade A but less strict.

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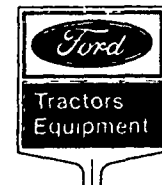


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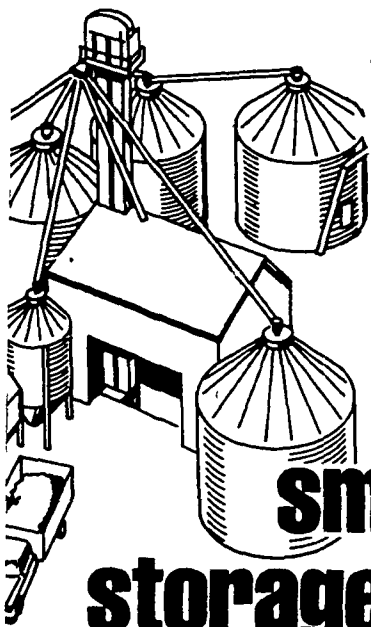
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