

## Livestock Marketing Congress 77

# Beef spokesmen refute Ralph Nader

Alberta - Take  
ocate Ralph  
g out against  
es are the  
industry's  
shortcomings.  
from some of  
ry's most  
spokesmen,  
a recipe for a  
ing discussi-  
livestock in-  
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t Livestock  
ngress, held  
result was  
remost con-  
sman being  
virtually all of  
reaction to  
e 16 consisted  
Huston, vice  
the National  
Meat Board;  
ke, former  
the Canadian  
Association,  
yns, professor  
economics at  
of Manitoba.  
the panel  
ader, director  
For Study of  
aw, spoke on  
Consumers'  
responsibilities  
roduction and  
He listed as  
ts the right to  
safety, and to

Consumers' respon-  
sibilities, he said, include  
learning what to buy and  
what not to buy, "sharing  
their bounty" with the rest of  
the world, and supporting  
action to de-speculate  
markets.

Nadar was criticized by  
Huston on several points.  
After Nadar said  
mechanically deboned meat  
"may lead to bacterial  
contamination and less food  
value," Huston said the  
technique has been used for  
years by the fish, and other  
food industries.

And, Huston noted, during  
this time of a world concern  
over food shortages, "should  
we block an opportunity to  
save several million pounds  
of nutritionally good meat  
products over this misun-  
derstanding?"

Nadar was also critical of  
the use of additives, particu-  
larly nitrite, in meat  
products, saying it raises  
"the risk of cancer." Huston  
noted that nitrite is used to  
prevent botulism. It can  
combine with protein in  
some products to form  
nitrosamines, which have  
been found to induce cancer  
in animals "when fed at very  
high levels."

But, Huston said, the  
nitrosamines are only found  
in bacon cooked at very high  
temperatures, and only "in

parts per billion. Remember  
that 'parts per billion' is like  
saying one ounce of ver-  
mouth to 10,000 tank cars of  
gin."

Huston also added that  
American Meat Institute  
tests show that these  
nitrosamine products were  
only formed in 10 of 144  
products, only in bacon  
products, "and in less than  
10 parts per billion."

Huston also disputed  
Nader's claim that he  
proposed beef market  
development programs  
would be paid for "by the  
consumer." "It's an industry  
self-help program, 100 per  
cent financed and paid for by  
the cattle producers of this  
country, if they vote it in."

Noting that Nader had said  
that nutritional information  
was a consumer "right,"  
Huston said, "One of the  
primary concerns of the  
cattle industry of America is  
to implement a nutrition  
education program (if the  
Referendum passes). We

couldn't agree more that  
consumers need to better  
understand" how to use beef  
products.

"I can assure you, if the  
Beef Referendum passes,  
the Beef Board will welcome  
your input on developing a  
meaningful nutrition  
education program in our  
schools," Huston said.

Huston also criticized  
Nader's support for the  
proposed new Agency for  
Consumer Protection.  
Huston said the idea that a  
new federal agency was  
needed because other  
federal agencies "aren't  
doing their job ... is  
ridiculous."

Dr. Loyns said "As a  
sweeping generality, I would  
suggest that the livestock  
industry is one industry  
where consumer interests  
are reasonably well ac-  
commodated."

Turning to chemical ad-  
ditives, he said he objected  
"to the kind of absolutism  
that's involved" in banning

any additive. "Very  
definitely, where there's a  
substantial, clear,  
unquestionable health  
hazard involved, ban (the  
additive.)"

But, he said, "where  
there's a questionable  
hazard, or where it's in-  
finitely small ... I think one  
has to look at it very  
carefully in the context of a  
trade-off." The world food  
situation, Dr. Loyns noted,  
"is sufficient reason to rule  
out this absolutist ap-  
proach."

Parke said he felt Nader  
was "very cynical and  
negative from the producer's  
standpoint," and added that  
"much harm has been done  
to the industry under the  
label of health protection."

Parke also noted that "In  
Canada, the whole beef  
production chain has been  
looked into very carefully,  
and it has been found there's  
no one major villain  
anywhere in the marketing  
system."

Program session  
moderator J. Marvin Gar-  
ner, executive vice presidnet  
of the National Pork  
Producers Council, reacted to  
Nader's statements that  
packing plant standards  
were higher in countries  
such as Denmark and  
Sweden than they are in the  
United States.

Comparing this nation's  
packing industry to those in  
smaller countries, Garner  
said, "is like comparing the  
Corvair to the 747."

This year's Congress  
theme was "A Question of  
Balance: The Role of  
Government, Consumers  
and Industry in Livestock  
Production and Marketing."  
The Congress is conducted  
annually by Livestock  
Merchandising Institute,  
Kansas City, Mo., as an  
exploration of livestock  
economics and industry  
issues, with particular  
emphasis on marketing.

## Crops look good

HARRISBURG -  
Haymaking was reported as  
the principle activity of the  
Commonwealth's farmers  
during the six days rated  
suitable for fieldwork during  
the week ending June 27,  
according to the Penn-  
sylvania Crop Reporting  
Service.

While many operators

enjoyed ideal conditions for  
their work, others were  
hampered by high humidity  
and light rain which made  
drying of hay difficult. Two  
frontal systems brought  
showers and thunderstorms  
on Monday and Saturday,  
but soil moisture is still rated  
short by more than half of  
the respondents and

adequate by the remainder.  
One good soaking rain would  
be much more welcome than  
the few light rains and  
thunderstorms which have  
been received.

The week was good for  
haymaking with all  
respondents rating the crop  
as good or fair. There has  
been variable growth of the  
crop statewide, due to dif-  
fering weather conditions.

Pastures are still showing  
below normal use to the lack  
of rain. The first cutting of  
alfalfa is now 91 per cent  
complete, well ahead of the  
78 per cent completed last  
year at this time. The second  
cutting of alfalfa has begun  
in some areas. Clover-  
timothy harvest is now 76 per  
cent complete with southern  
counties reporting 85 per  
cent completion rates.

Corn height is reported at  
14 inches statewide, one inch  
shorter than last year. Corn  
averaged 11 inches in the  
northern counties, 14 inches  
in central and 17 inches in  
southern areas. While cool  
winds kept the crop yellow  
last week, the fields are  
rated in good condition.

Soybeans are now virtu-  
ally planted, five days  
ahead of last year's  
progress. The crop is  
reported fully planted in the  
north and central counties,  
with some acreage still to be  
planted in the south.

The state's tobacco is now  
90 per cent transplanted,  
slightly ahead of last year.  
Central counties report  
transplanting complete,  
while southern counties  
stand at 88 per cent trans-  
planted.

Barley is rated at 50 per  
cent turning yellow, 22 per  
cent ripe and 11 per cent  
harvested. The current crop  
is nine per cent ripe in the  
north, 16 per cent ripe in  
central areas, and 40 per  
cent in the southern counties.  
Barley is reported to have  
short straw, but heads look  
very good.

Wheat development is  
slightly ahead of 1976, with  
the crop at 60 per cent  
headed and 37 per cent  
turning yellow. Wheat is 34  
per cent turning in the north,  
32 per cent turning in central  
counties and 48 per cent  
turning in the south.

Oats are now 68 per cent  
headed, just ahead of last  
year's crop progress.  
Northern areas are at 58 per  
cent headed, central areas at  
73 per cent and southern  
counties are at 77 per cent  
headed. Statewide, oats are  
reportedly four per cent  
turning yellow with the best  
progress in southern  
counties.

Strawberry and cherry  
harvest are active in central  
and southern counties, and  
ready to begin in the nor-  
thern areas. Farms with  
irrigation had very good  
strawberry crops, and  
cherries were of good size  
where available.

Peaches are doing well,  
and apples are sizing nicely.  
Tomatoes are growing well  
in many areas and some  
tassel is reported on early  
sweet corn. Beet and turnip  
harvest is occupying  
operators in some areas.

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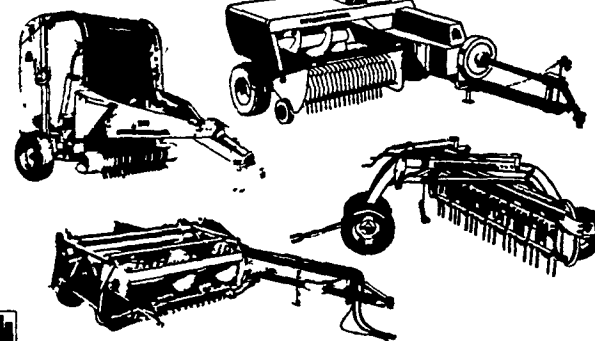
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