

## Conf. committee approves CFTC bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Senate-House Conference Committee Thursday reached agreement on legislation extending the life of Commodity Futures Trading Commission for

four years and strengthening regulation of the \$1.1 trillion commodity futures industry. Senator Herman E. Talmadge of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture,

Nutrition, and Forestry who headed the Senate Conference, said the bill will provide greater safeguards for the investing public and for producers of agricultural commodities, which make

up a substantial part of futures trading.

The Conference-approved bill now goes to the House and Senate for final Congressional action.

The Conference eliminated a provision added on the House floor that would have required all export sales of any commodity (except onions) to be reported within 48 hours to the Commission. Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland and

a number of commodity groups strongly opposed the reporting provision. Under existing law, major export sales are reported on a regular basis to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The bill contains many new provisions designed to strengthen regulations of futures trading and to protect investors against fraudulent activities. It is also intended to provide greater stability in futures trading, which frequently significantly affects prices farmers receive for agricultural commodities.

The measure provides much stiffer criminal

penalties - both in fines and prison terms - for persons in the futures industry who are convicted of embezzlement, false representation, theft, fraud, market manipulation and other unlawful activities.

The bill as agreed to by the Conference calls for a study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of potato marketing and potato futures trading, including rules and regulations of the Commission over such trading. Recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes growing out of the study would be submitted to the Congress.

## Unwanted mushrooms appearing now

NEWARK, Del. — Mushrooms are fine for soups and steaks. But when they pop up in one's lawn and garden - that's a different story.

Mushrooms, or toadstools, are the fruiting bodies of certain fungus organisms. These fungi grow on rotting wood, leafmold and other organic matter in and on the soil. The recent rainy weather has favored their development and they're suddenly springing up all over the place.

Chief objections to

mushrooms are their poisonous reputation, unsightly appearance and damage to turfgrass. Few of them are really poisonous, but one should play it safe, and warn children never to eat wild mushrooms.

Mushrooms vary in size, shape and color. Though interesting in themselves or in a woodland setting, they don't add much to the lawn of other garden areas. And in large numbers they can make it pretty slippery under foot.

Most mushroom fungi are actually beneficial, serving

to break down organic matter into soil-enriching humus. Among the exceptions are those that cause fairy rings in lawns. These are circles or arcs of dark green grass - sometimes with an inner area of weakened or dead grass. Mushrooms often appear in these rings during wet weather.

A person can eliminate unwanted mushrooms by mowing, raking or hand-picking. When practical, one can dig up the bits of buried wood or other organic debris from which they grow.

Fairy rings are harder to control than other types. A person can often disguise them simply by keeping the lawn well fertilized and watered. Sometimes, however, it's necessary to replace the infected soil with fresh, fungus-free earth. Another alternative is to drench the area with a solution of Captan fungicide.

## Conn. seed firm settles

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Derby Seed Co., Derby, Conn., has paid \$1,050 to settle a case involving alleged violations of a federal truth-in-labeling law. U.S. Department of Agriculture officials had charged the firm with violating the Federal Seed Act, a law intended to protect farmers and consumers who buy seed.

Clyde R. Edwards, seed official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the firm, in agreeing to the settlement,

neither admitted nor denied the charges.

The case involved three shipments of perennial and annual ryegrass seed to Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Rhode Island in 1975 and 1977.



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