

Emergency food bill approved

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry last week approved legislation authorizing the expenditure of up to \$500 million for the purchase of

U.S. agricultural commodities to meet urgent humanitarian needs abroad. At its wrap-up meeting for this session, the Committee approved the International Emergency Food Fund bill

as a substitute for various House and Senate proposals to establish a grain reserve stockpile to meet international food emergencies.

As approved by the Committee, the bill would create the special \$500 million fund for open-market purchases of wheat, corn, rice, peanuts or any other U.S. agricultural commodities for international distribution in food emergencies.

The substitute bill was offered by Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, ranking Republican on the Committee. The Carter Administration supports an emergency wheat reserve.

Under the bill as approved, the secretary of agriculture could purchase commodities for distribution in any foreign country suffering a major disaster or to assist developing countries to meet food needs when limited supplies in this country curtail assistance under the P.L. 480 "Food for Peace" program. The bill specifies that purchases must be made in such a manner as not to disrupt the orderly marketing of farm commodities in this country.

The International Food bill became a vehicle in Committee and for an effort by

Senator Richard Stone of Florida to create storage space to handle this year's sugar crop.

The Committee adopted an amendment by Stone that would accelerate the maturity date on 1977 sugar price-support loans to August 31, or the effective date of the International Food bill, whichever would be earlier. The amendment would also require the movement of this sugar out of the producing areas to make way for the new crop.

Stone said this action is needed to "avert a disaster," caused by huge surplus supplies of domestic and imported sugar. He said the storage problem is particularly acute in the canesugar areas of Florida and Texas.

The International Food bill was one of several measures approved at last week's meeting. Chairman Herman E. Talmadge of Georgia said this would likely be the final regular meeting at this session of Congress. The Committee's calendar of legislative business for the year has been cleared.

Other legislation approved last week would:

Provide for an assessment of the status of aquaculture in the United States and for the development of a

national plan to encourage and support aquaculture, including federal grants and a federally-insured \$100 million loan program. Aquaculture is the cultivation of fish and other aquatic organisms living in fresh and salt water. The assessment of aquaculture would be conducted by the Office of Science and Technology Policy in cooperation with the Agriculture, Commerce and Interior Departments and other Federal land state agencies.

Amend the Perishable Agricultural Commodities

Act by authorizing an increase in the maximum annual license fee for fruit and vegetable handlers covered by the Act from \$100 to \$300. An additional fee of \$50 per business unit over a base of 20 branch units up to an aggregate maximum of \$1000. The bill also would increase the exemption of retailers and frozen food brokers required to be licensed under the Act to those doing more than \$200,000 volume of business annually. At present, the exemption applies to those doing \$100,000 volume of business annually.

Sheep show entered

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Both Barbara Lynn and Margaret E. Herr, Nix Besser Farm, Narvon; and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Brubaker and Sarah Lynn Brubaker, Blue Acre Hampshires, Lancaster, have each entered a total of ten sheep each in competition at the 1978 Eastern States Exposition Sheep Show at the Big E, West Springfield, Mass.

Margaret Herr has entered two polled Dorset breeding sheep in junior and open competitions, and Barbara Herr has entered two market lambs in competition, and also six polled Dorsets in the junior and open shows.

Mr. and Mrs. Brubaker

have entered seven Hampshires in competition and Sarah Lynn, three.

Sarah Lynn will also compete in the "Big E" Lead Line contest in which young women model wool clothes and parade with their sheep shown at halter.

The Eastern States Exposition Sheep Show will also include market lamb judging, shearing contests, fleece judging, a Dorset decorator costume class and handmade wool articles.

Besides agricultural and livestock competitions, the Big E will also feature many free shows for the entire family, crafts, food, midway rides, and exciting exhibits.

The Big E runs Sept. 13 to 24.

NEBA open house set

TUNKHANNOCK -- Saturday, September 9, barn and laboratory doors will be open for inspection at NEBA-Sire Power headquarters, here. Open House '78 will start at 10:30 a.m. with facility tours and collection and laboratory demonstrations.

Open House is to be "family day" this year. NEBA and Sire Power members may purchase tickets from their technician or direct herd salesman for a token fee of \$2.00 per immediate family. Tickets will only be sold in advance by NEBA-Sire Power personnel.

"Bull sessions" featuring a parade of Sire Power's newly proven bulls will highlight the afternoon

program. Kiddie rides, clowns, and live entertainment should keep the whole family involved in activities. For lunch a beef bar-b-que will be served by Triton Fire Company.



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