

Brucellosis quarantine violations draw fines

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Four cattle dealers and a corporation have been fined a total of \$36,000 for conspiring to smuggle cattle across the Canadian border and violating animal quarantine regulations, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) spokesman.

Euclide Quesnel of Middlebury, Vt., William Donald LaPage of North Bangor, N.Y., Chester Lawrence of Malone, N.Y., William J. Neverett of Plattsburg, N.Y., and W.J.N., Inc., of Huntingdon, Quebec, Canada, have been found guilty of conspiracy to smuggle cattle from Canada

into the United States by federal district court in Syracuse, N.Y. A six-month investigation revealed evidence of the violations.

Paul Becton, director of the national brucellosis eradication program of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said Quesnel also pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful interstate movement of cattle. The animal quarantine violation of Sept. 20, 1977 involved the shipment of 27 adult cattle unaccompanied by owner's statements or other documents from New York to Middlebury, Vt., en route to Wilkinsonville, Mass. Of

these cattle, 24 were not identified by USDA-approved identification tags.

LaPage pleaded guilty of aiding and abetting the movement of the cattle from New York to Vermont. The court fined the two men \$2,000 each for violating the USDA regulations.

In addition, the court handed down the following fines and sentences for participation in the conspiracy: Quesnel received a \$10,000 fine and four years probation; LaPage received a \$5,000 fine and three years probation; Lawrence received a \$5,000 fine and three years probation; Neverett received a \$10,000

fine, three-month jail sentence and three years probation; and W.J.N., Inc., a \$2,000 fine.

USDA regulations on cattle movement help prevent the spread of diseases such as brucellosis. This costly disease causes reproductive problems in livestock and may be passed on to humans.

"Whether animals are shipped between countries, states, counties, or herds, the possibility of disease introduction into a clean area must always be considered and protective measures taken," Becton said.

The APHIS official continued, "Shipping documents provide a buyer with information regarding the origin of the animals and proper identification makes it possible to trace individual animals to the herd of origin if they are later found to be diseased."

"The buyer is not the only one who might lose when purchasing replacement cattle from unidentified sources. Whole counties have lost brucellosis-free status when disease, brought in by an infected animal, begins to spread," he emphasized.

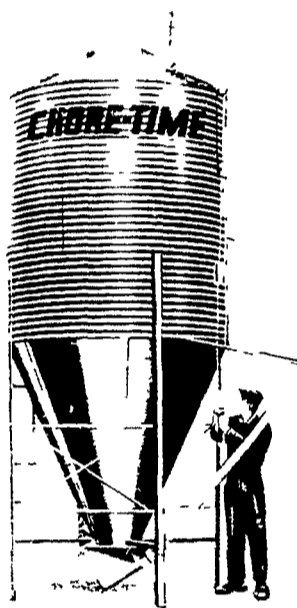
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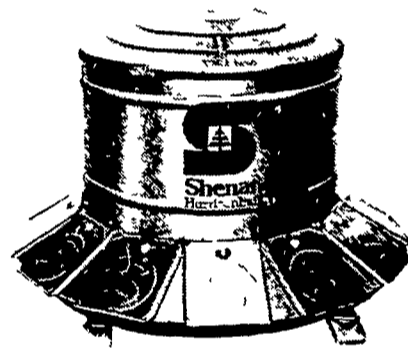


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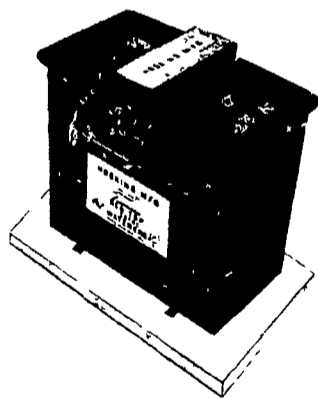
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