

Soybean group opposes export controls

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The American Soybean Association has expressed opposition to an amendment to Senate Bill 737 that would provide a system of petitioning and public hearings to establish controls or monitoring of exports.

In a letter to Senator William Proxmire, Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

Committee, ASA President Merlyn Groot urged the committee to carefully analyze the possible implications of such an amendment.

"Actions to impose export controls and monitoring in 1973, 1974 and 1975 were not only unsuccessful, they also created great chaos in the marketplace."

Groot cautioned that controls would have the

effect of signaling some of our best customers for soybeans and other commodities that there is reason for concern. This concern would induce them to rush into the market to cover their needs or "top off" their grain tanks and in fact, create a shortage.

"Export controls do not create supply or even provide a system of apportioning the supply in a fair and equitable manner,"

said Groot. They merely incite the market to unpredictable and usually undesirable consequences. There is no reasonable substitute for the law of supply and demand which allows the market to regulate itself if allowed to operate.

Recalling the disastrous impact of controls in 1973 when "we (the U.S.) turned our backs on our good

customers and friends around the world whose very lifeline depends on the U.S. farmer to supply their needs," Groot said. The U.S. has created lingering doubts as to the reliability of the U.S. as a dependable supplier. As a result, many countries are looking elsewhere to insure their needs.

Groot also cited the importance of agricultural exports to the nation's economy pointing out that last year soybeans con-

tributed nearly \$7 billion to the positive side of the U.S. balance of payments.

"In this time of export deficits, due to the petroleum drain, we can ill afford to jeopardize our agricultural trade," Groot said, pointing out that adequate provisions already exist for the Secretary of Commerce to impose controls. In the case of agricultural products, the Secretary of Agriculture must approve such actions, he said.

More farm accidents seen in Fall

MARIETTA — Did you know that the Fall and early Winter months are the leading times in the number of farm related accidents?

Or that animals and farm machinery are the two things most associated with farm accidents?

That's what a survey reported for 1978 notes for the state of Pennsylvania. It tried to determine the severity, frequency, types,

causes, time and place of accidental injuries.

They discovered that most farm accidents happen between 9 to 10 am. and around 3 p.m.

Farm people are most likely to be involved in an accident while doing routine chores.

The average measurable cost of accidents in 1976 was \$400.

Nearly 50 per cent of the victims were struck by an

object or were involved in a fall.

Family members were involved in 87 per cent of the accidents with the husband accounting for 41 per cent of all accidents.

Thirty per cent of the accidents occurred either in the barn or the barnyard. The next highest number of accidents was 10 per cent, which occurred in the field.

This survey was conducted by the Cooperative Ex-

tension Service and the Women's committee of the

Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. Over a 12 month period, the interviewers contacted over 1600 families throughout the state. In this sample, which represents approximately 3 per cent of the active farms in the state, there were about seven times as many accidents as there were cases of occupational illnesses.

Maryland cattle brucellosis free

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Dr. Hugh Binks, Director of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Office of Animal Health and Consumer Services, has been informed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that Maryland is among 14 states having no incidence of bovine brucellosis.

Latest USDA figures list 7,900 herds of cattle in

Maryland and show only five other states with larger cattle populations to remain free of the dread disease.

Brucellosis, also known as undulant fever, is a persistent infectious disease transmitted to humans in the milk of infected cows and is characterized by a recurrent fever, an enlarged spleen, sweating and pains in the joints.

Maryland cattle were first accredited as being brucellosis free in 1968 and have continued to be so distinguished, thanks in large part to the efforts of MDA veterinarians to inspect cattle brought into the state or transferred into new herds.

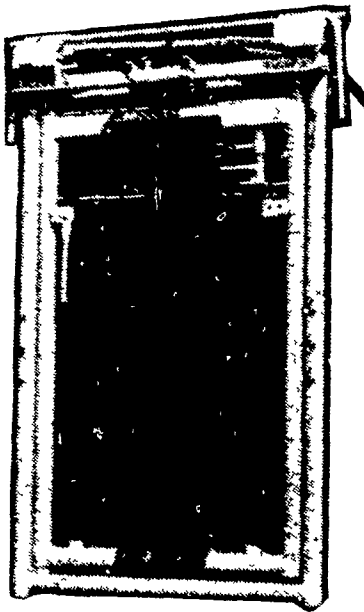
Binks says, "Just because we have enjoyed this long period of distinction, we cannot afford to become lax

in our efforts to maintain it. Only one infected cow could quickly spread brucellosis to an entire herd.

"A lot of the credit for this exemplary record must go to individual farmers and private veterinarians for their compliance with regulations to check cattle for disease when sold or purchased. I sincerely hope their diligence will continue. I am confident it will."

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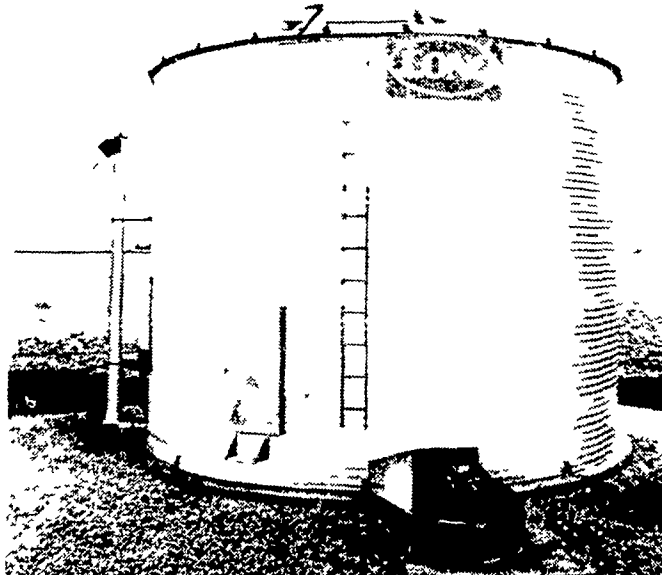
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