

## Study released on net weight labeling

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently asked for public comments on issues raised by a department study on net weight labeling of meat and poultry products.

The study, "Assessment of Proposed Net Weight Labeling Regulations," evaluates regulations proposed Dec. 2, 1977, in response to a petition by California and 47 other

states, and to complaints by many consumers.

The intent of the regulation is to enable states to enforce strict net weight standards at retail and to assure that the weight of usable meat and poultry purchased by consumers is at least equal to the weight stated on the package.

The department is providing a 60-day comment period to encourage con-

sumers, industry, state and local weights and measures officials, plus other interested groups to comment on the study, done by the department's Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service on request of the department's Food Safety and Quality Service.

The department's proposal drew about 3,000 comments indicating widespread disagreement

among both industry and consumers on the need for new net weight rules and their probable economic impact.

The report concludes that: -the proposals would succeed in achieving the two objectives defined by FSQS—consumers could be assured that the weight of usable meat and poultry purchased is equal to the labeled weight and states would be able to

enforce a more strict new weight standard at retail.

-the second objective (enforceable regulations for the states) could probably be accomplished as effectively under a system that allows free liquid as part of the product's net weight.

-the effects of the proposed rule change have been grossly misunderstood by both consumers and producers. Consumers have argued that, without a drained weight rule, they must pay for unusable water. Producers, on the other hand, have argued that the proposal will add to their costs because more product will have to be packed in each consumer package. The study concludes neither assessment is accurate since the amount of drained weight meat available for sale is constant regardless of the net weight rule in effect.

Notice of the availability of the study, including 10 specific net weight labeling questions, was published in the Aug. 31 Federal Register. The department will study the response to the labeling questions, as well as the ESCS report and the recommendations of the December 1978 General Accounting Office report on net weight labeling, before taking any further regulatory action.

Comments on the issue should be sent by Oct. 30 to the executive secretariat, Attn: Annie Johnson, room 3807-S, FSQS, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250. Call William Dubbert, telephone (202) 447-7470, with oral comments.

Single copies of the report are available free from the Office of Information, room 3606, FSQS, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

## Wallace Pill joins Delaware University staff

NEWARK — Dr. Wallace G. Pill has joined the faculty of the University of Delaware College of Agricultural Sciences, announces Dr. Charles R. Curtis, chairperson of the department of plant sciences.



Dr. Wallace G. Pill and secondary education in England.

Pill holds the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in vegetable physiology from the University of Missouri at Columbia, where his doctoral research concerned studies on water relations and nutrition of the tomato.

Pill holds a B.S. in landscape design from Oklahoma State University. He completed his primary

Pill comes to Delaware from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he was assistant professor of horticulture for four years.

In addition to varied university horticultural teaching experience, Pill also taught agricultural and non-agricultural subjects in Sierra Leone, West Africa, for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer.

As assistant professor of horticulture at Delaware, Pill will teach several courses involving ornamental plants and greenhouse management.

At the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Pill will develop a research program within the general area of horticulture, with emphasis on ornamental and vegetable crops.

## Delaware Valley Assoc. sponsors antique exhibit

LAMBERTVILLE, N.J. - The Delaware Valley Old Time Power & Equipment Association - a non profit organization proudly presents their Second Annual Antique Exhibit of working farm machinery on September 22, and 23, from 10 A.M. till dark. This show is free to the public.

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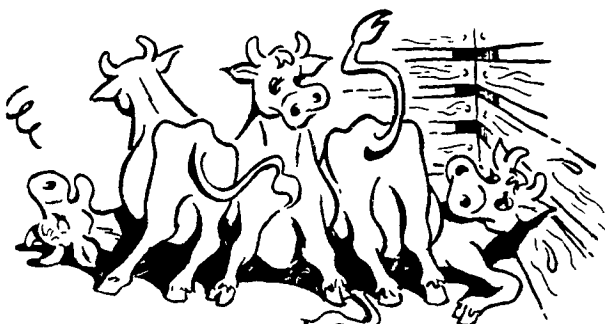
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