USDA says bacon free of cancer-causing chemicals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After one year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's nitrosamine testing program - an effort to reduce the presence of cancer - causing nitrosamines in bacon - has "overwhelmingly been successful," said Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman.

can be assured that virtually all bacon pumped with a nitrite cure is free from confirmable levels of nitrosamines," Foreman

"To date, all major baconproducing plants have been checked several times and are producing bacon in compliance with USDA "The American consumer regulations," Foreman said.

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"Only a few of the smaller plants remain to be monitored, and we expect that our cumulative knowledge will assist these plants in making any necessary adjustments," she said.

In December 1978, USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service began monitoring bacon samples to determine USDA's regulation that mation. there be no confirmable levels of nitrosamines in shown that when governpumped Nitrosamines are car- meeting cinogens that can form requirements, public safety during when nitrites used to can be served without cure bacon, combine with amines which occur on the industry," Foreman naturally in meat. The said. lowest level at which nitrosamines can be comfirmed on a general basis is hope to be as successful in 10 parts per billion.

been successful in reducing nitrosamines, but it has also stemmed industry fears that enforcement of USDA regulations would cause large numbers of bacon manufacturers to go out of business," Foreman said.

"Those fears have not materialized, primarily because USDA provided technical assistance to help manufacturers meet the regulatory standard. FSQS hired a number of consultants who were available free of charge to help manufacturers alter bacon nrocesina procedures to

if industry was meeting reduce nitrosamine for-

"The USDA program has bacon. ment assists industry in regulation substantial negative impact

"With this continued assistance to industry, we reducing nitrosamines if 'Not only has the program they occur in other products."

> During the first year of monitoring, FSQS tested more than 1000 samples of pumped bacon from commercial plants selected at random. Bacon with confirmable levels of nitrosamines came from only 12 of the 355 plants tested. These plants produce less than one percent of the bacon made annually by pumping a nitrite cure into pork bellies.

> the Today, testing program monitors only pumped bacon. More than 90

percent of the bacon produced in this country is pumped bacon.

In the monitoring program, when preliminary screening tests indicate a potential nitrosamine violation, the plants can alter their production procedures. After changes are made and further tests show the bacon is acceptable, the plant is returned to routine monitoring.

If plant management does not correct the nitrosamine problem, FSQS performs a precise confirmatory test. A plant producing bacon with confirmed nitrosamines is placed "in retention". All bacon is retained and released only after further testing shows that individual lots are free of confirmable nitrosamines. Results of nitrosamine tests are made public weekly through the FSQS Information Office.

Currently, four plants are "in retention" and 10 are having their bacon undergo confirmation tests.

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SHORT NOTICE FARM MACHINERY AUCTION

TRACTORS—NH GRINDER -BACKHOE



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1979 at 11:30 A.M.

For Steve Nemeth Jr., in New Jersey on the Hope Blairstown Rd. (Rt. 521) 11/2 mi. south of Blairstown, N.J. 3 mi. North of Hope, N.J., Arrows Posted. 11:30 surge milkerls, Jamesway water cups, some Patz cleaner parts, misc. items, 12 Noon Tractors — Oliver 1850 DL, Ford 6000 DL, Oliver 88 gas. Case 530 CK Backhoe loader DL. Ford C700 truck w/20 ft. hay body, IHC dump truck. New Holland Equip -354 grinder mixer A-1, 469 haybine, 275 baler w/kicker, Super 717 field chopper w/corn hd A-1, 2 chuck wagons, Oliver 4 btm 16" semi mtd. plows, 3-kicker hay wagons, J.D. 12 ft. hyd disc, Case 8 ft. disc, M.F. 35 hay baler, N.I. hay rake, Oliver grain drill, Kingwise 24 ft. elevator, Brady corn stalk cutter, A.C. blower w/motor, field sprayer, harrows, IHC 4 row corn planter. Stud pony. May be some ear corn and oats.

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A Happy and Healthy Holiday to All!

Centaurs 4-H horse club meets

FLEMINGTON, N.J. -The last meeting of the Centaurs 4-H Horse Club was on December 3, 1979 at the home of Mrs. Spencer, Club Leader.

Shelley Kephart gave a demonstration on the Morgan Horse.

Mrs. Spencer announced that she reserved June 8.

1980 for the club's 1980 Horse Show.

The club discussed a Christmas Roller Skating Party was held December 19 at the Whitehouse Roller Rink from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

The guest speaker for the night was Jay Mickle who is a farrier (blacksmith), who talked about problems of the

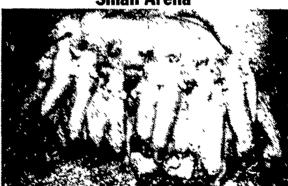
horse's foot. This talk was illustrated by slides he had taken.

The next meeting will be on January 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Spencer. The guest speaker will be a representative from the U.S. Equestrian Team.

Reported by Shelley Kephart, Club Reporter.

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