

Cattle group voices concern over counter-cyclical imports

WECOTA, S.D. — The counter cyclical beef import law, as passed by Congress and supported by the National Cattlemen's Association, will be one of the biggest hurdles cow-calf operators will have to overcome past economic losses, the Concerned Cattlemen reveal.

Under the new law, 480 million pounds more (product weight) beef will enter the United States in 1980, Chuck Bellman, spokesman for the group, says.

The Meat Import Act of 1964 which the U.S. has been operating under, would have allowed 1.2 billion pounds. The new Act will allow 1.68 billion pounds.

Bellman said the additional beef is equivalent to almost 200,000 head of cows. All fresh, frozen and chilled imports will be near to 6.75 million head or the total U.S. cow slaughter during years of non-liquidation.

In addition to fresh, frozen and chilled beef, live animals can be imported in unlimited quantities, he said.

Imported fresh, frozen and chilled beef is high chemical lean. Because it is low in fat content, it is mixed with fat

from choice U.S. slaughter animals and then sold as domestic hamburger.

A customs law says that "the manufacturer is the consumer," Bellman says. Once the beef is "consumed," it no longer needs to be marked "imported" and can enter the supply pipeline as a U.S. product.

The reason more beef will be allowed under the new law, Bellman says, is that a floor of 1.25 billion pounds has been established and the volume is tied to cow numbers. The NCA was the proponent of the "cow number theory." They also negotiated the 1.25-billion-pound base at hearings before committees in Washington, D.C.

Bellman said the Concerned Cattlemen and some other groups backed a price factor that would be the determinant of beef imports.

What NCA failed to recognize, he said, was that oversupplies of pork and chicken, as we are seeing today, could keep beef prices low even when cow numbers are diminishing.

A price factor to determine imports, Bellman contends, would have been sensitive to the needs of the cow-calf operator. It would

have considered the economic needs of the industry rather than overall demand for meat.

Cow numbers do not dictate price of beef.

Bellman said, because supplies of beef outside the United States fluctuate, often in a negative number.

Now that we have the new law, Bellman says, the in-

dustry will have to live with it. In the meantime, the world's largest importing country of beef, the United States, opens up its doors January 1 to even more beef.

"Under current policies, only when the U.S. consumer eats up all the beef in the world, the U.S. cow-calf operator will have a chance," he said.

Students pass snowmobile course

QUARRYVILLE — Safe snowmobiler patches and certificates have been issued to 21 snowmobilers. They earned their pocket-size certificates and Safe Snowmobiler patches by passing the examination given at the end of the Pennsylvania Snowmobiler Safety Course which was organized by Southern

Lancaster County Farmer-Sportsman's Association.

Other certified volunteer Pennsylvania Snowmobile Safety Instructors participating in teaching the course were: Jeff Mussmon, Ben Wenger, and Charles Peitzman.

The course is designed for youngsters 10 to 15 years old, but snowmobilers over 15

are also invited to take the course.

Persons who successfully passed the Pennsylvania Snowmobile Safety Course were: Danean Charles, James Charles, Steve Eberly, Ken Eshelman, Mark Grimm, Melissa Grimm, Michelle Groff, Mark Henry, Brent Herr, Troy Herr, Ronald C. Herr,

Jr., Kenneth R. Holston, Sherri Holston, Craig Huber, Daniel Roth, Michael Roth, Michael Slaymaker, Debbie Jean Stoltzfus, Bonnie Wilson, and Susan Wilson.

Questions on the snowmobile program in Pennsylvania may be sent to: Department of Environmental Resources, Snowmobile Unit, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, PA 17120.



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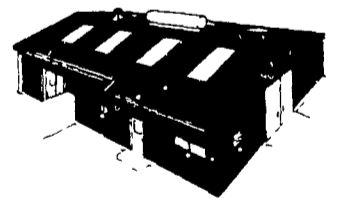
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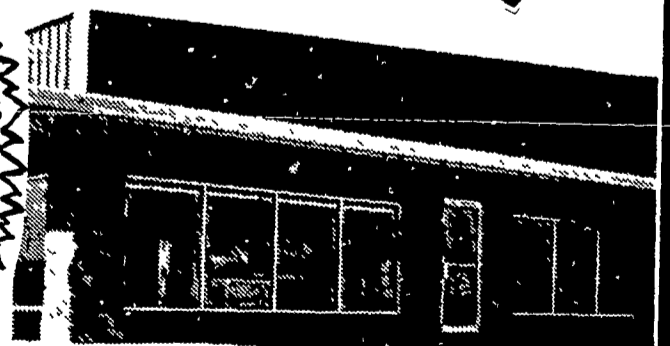
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