

Vermont cattle accredited free of tuberculosis

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Vermont has been declared free of tuberculosis in cattle, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials report.

A certificate officially accrediting Vermont as being free of bovine tuberculosis was presented to Commissioner William Darrow at Montpelier, Vermont by Dr. Gerald J. Fichtner, regional director for veterinary services with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Fichtner noted that eradication culminates nearly 60 year's participation by Vermont in the cooperative state-federal program against the disease, and nearly 90 years

of tuberculosis testing of cattle by veterinarians and federal or state officials.

Fichtner praised the state's intensive efforts over the years, noting especially the sacrifices required in the 1920's and 1930's when statewide testing of all cattle herd was undertaken. In 1932-34, some 3.7 million tests were made, which showed 139,000 animals with positive reactions—all of which had to be slaughtered, with state indemnities amounting to \$8,476,000.

Recognition as accredited free of tuberculosis in cattle requires achievement of these standards specified in the cooperative state-federal eradication program:

No cattle found infected in the state within the past five years or more;

Continued surveillance by animal health officials;

State enforced laws and regulations governing livestock dealers;

Record keeping that enables the state to trace infested animals found in marketing channels back to their herd of origin.

Vermont is the 17th state accredited free of tuberculosis in cattle. The others are: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah and Wyoming.

Although much progress has been made, APHIS officials warn that tuberculosis is still a threat. Only

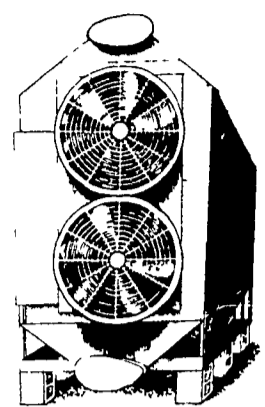
within the past two months, a herd in Shelby County, Ohio, was found infected after meat inspectors discovered evidence of the disease in the carcass of a slaughtered cow. Animal health officials are now tracing movements of animals into and out of that herd to locate and eradicate any spread of the infection.

APHIS officials urge dairy and beef cattle producers to avoid losses from the disease by buying only cattle that have been tuberculosis tested and found negative; and by purchasing cattle only from herds that have no history of the disease for five years or longer.

Livestock reacting positively to tuberculin testing are sent to slaughter, where post mortem examinations are made for gross lesions indicating the progress of the infection. Carcasses may be condemned.

If minor signs are discovered, they may be passed for use only after specified cooking requirements. States and/or federal indemnities are paid to help compensate owners for losses.

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Goat Assoc. meeting

PINE GROVE MILLS — The Pennsylvania Dairy Goat Association has announced their Spring meeting will be held on April 12 at the Pine Grove Mills Lions Club.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., with a buffet banquet being served at 2:30 p.m. The all-you-can-eat turkey dinner is being prepared by a local goat club, with a cost of \$3.25 per person.

Sidney E. Bernard, Extension food scientist from Penn State, will be discussing milk quality during the meeting.

For more information,

contact Danny Harter, Box 249H, R2 Bellefonte, PA. 16823.

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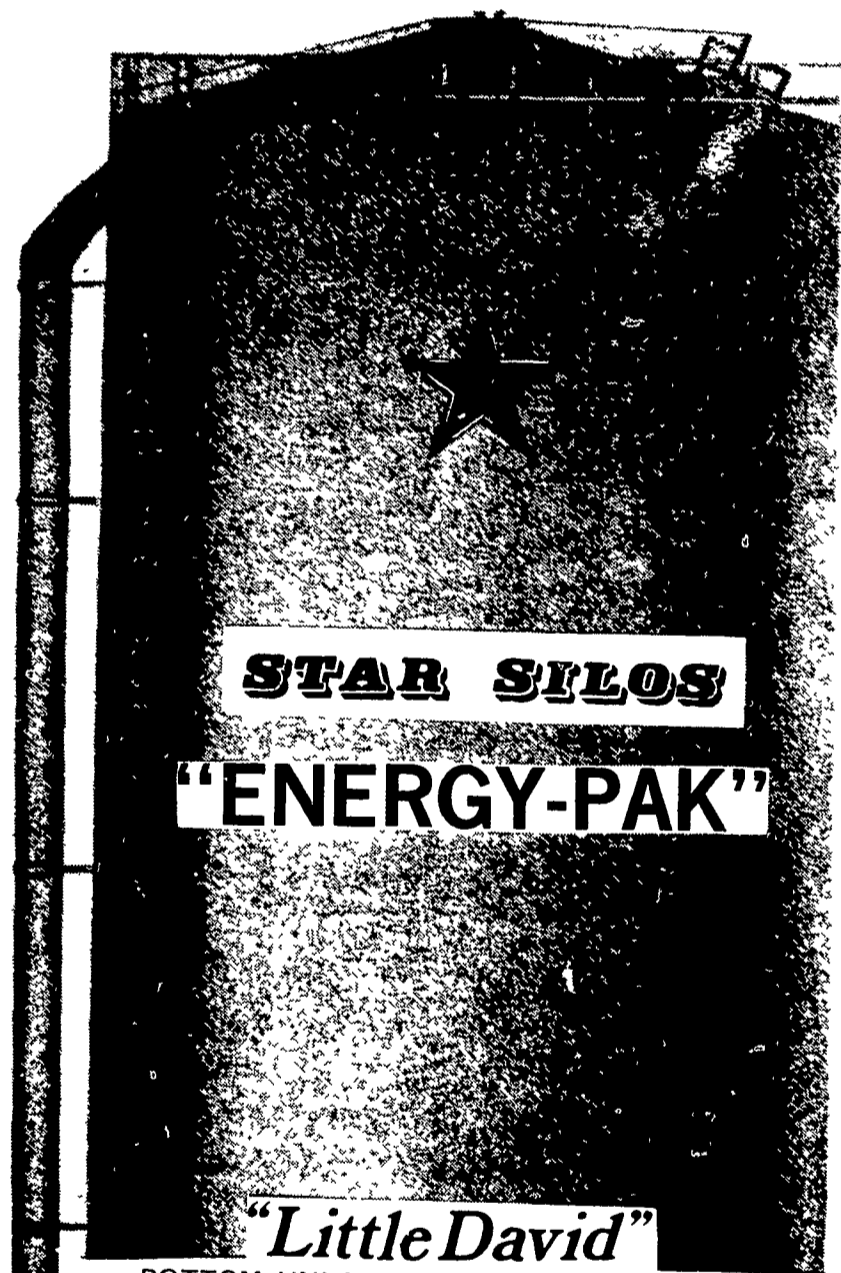
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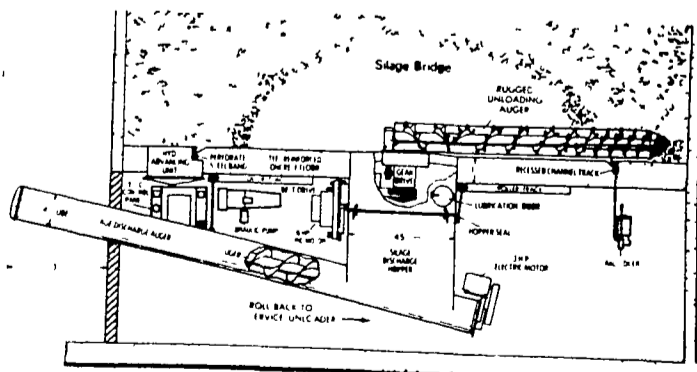
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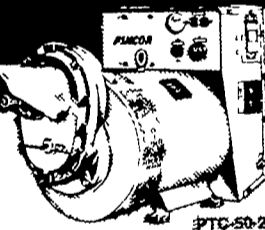
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