

# Conference committee clears emergency farm credit bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Senate-House Conference Committee Tuesday approved legislation authorizing \$2 billion in emergency loan funds for credit-pinch farmers.

The committee resolved differences in House and Senate versions of a bill to extend the life of the Farmers Home Administration's economic emergency loan program

through Sept. 30, 1981, and to increase the lending authority from \$4 billion to \$6 billion.

Unless the legislation is enacted, the economic emergency loan program will expire on May 15. All of the loan funds authorized under present law have been exhausted.

The bill now goes to the Senate and House for final

Congressional action. Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and a sponsor of the bill, told conferees that prompt action is needed because "thousands of farmers all across the country are waiting for money to plant."

The economic emergency

loan program, established by Congress as a temporary measure in 1978, provides an additional source of operating credit to farmers and ranchers unable to obtain financing from normal sources due to national or areawide economic stresses, such as a general tightening of agriculture credit, high production costs, and low commodity prices

Under the conference bill, interest rates for economic emergency loans would continue to be based on the cost of money to the government.

The Conference Committee agreed to a House provision increasing the maximum loan that the Department of Agriculture

may make for on-farm storage facilities from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The provision sets an 8 percent interest rate ceiling for such loans. However, the changes in the farm storage facility loan program will only become effective to the extent provided in appropriation acts.

## Agee pleads guilty to bait and switch

ANNAPOLIS, Md — Walter F. Agee, a 37 year old Pennsylvania man, pleaded guilty to 9 counts of operating a bait and switch meat scheme in LaVale, Maryland, according to Lacy DeGrange of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Weights and Measures

DeGrange said a hearing has taken place but the MDA was not contacted to appear since Agee pleaded guilty. He said all they know at Weights and Measures is what they read in the newspaper.

Agee had been arrested last November after he opened another store, known

as the Beef Quarter Meat Store, in Roscoe, Pennsylvania. The former resident of Indian Head, Fayette County, was released on bail set at \$75,000.

The former Pennsylvanian, who recently resided in the Keyser area of Maryland, was arrested

after warrants had been issued for his arrest as a result of an under-cover investigation by MDA and the Allegheny Health Department. (See Lancaster Farming February 9 issue, Section B7)

The investigation turned up meat that contained maggots, and sales with meat less than the quality and quantity advertised.

Since his plea of guilty, Agee has been free on bond continuation until the presentencing investigation is completed as ordered by Judge Getty. Agee was represented by Attorney Tim Finan

Sentencing has been scheduled for April 11, 1980, said DeGrange. It convicted on all counts, Agee could face a jail term of 30½ years and a fine of \$10,500

## Delmarva sets poultry short course

DELMAR, Md — The 1980 Delmarva Hatchery and Breeder Flock Management Short Course will be held Wednesday, April 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. at the Del-Mar-Va Convention Hall in Delmar, Md.

course is \$12 per person. This covers lunch, a copy of the proceedings, coffee and doughnuts.

The course is sponsored by the Eastern Shore Hatchery Association, Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., and

the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service.

For further information contact extension poultry specialist George Chaloupka at the University of Delaware Georgetown Substation 302/856-5250.

Topics to be covered during the day-long meeting include incubation, eggs—past, present and future, labor efficiency improvements on the broiler breeder farm, breeder vaccination programs—when and why, and a primary breeder update.

There will also be presentations on the effect of light during incubation on broiler performance, monitoring hatchery sanitation and vaccination techniques, parasite and insect control on broiler breeder farms, and a discussion of broiler breeder research.

Registration fee for the

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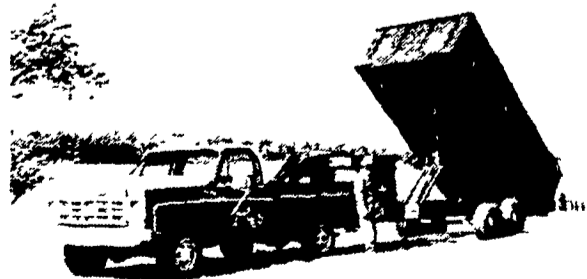
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