

Livestock marketers ask cutback in Packers Act funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Livestock Marketing Association is asking Congress to "sharply reduce or delete" funding for administration of the Packers and Stockyards Act, saying the Act is no longer needed as it relates to the livestock marketing sector.

In a statement Monday before the House Appropriations subcommittee on agriculture, rural development and related agencies, LMA said the estimated \$8.9 million sought by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enforce the Act in fiscal 1981 is "unrealistically and unnecessarily high."

This is particularly true, the statement said, "in light of the contemporary mood of the nation insisting upon fiscal restraint and in view of the historical developments in livestock marketing, which raise serious questions regarding the very need for these provisions of the Act."

The statement noted that when the P&S Act was adopted in 1921, there were only a few large terminal stockyards, which were regulated as public utilities.

However, "Congress has explicitly denounced the public utility concept," in a House report which accompanied the 1978

marketing rates and tariffs deregulation bill, the statement said.

The House report noted, "It is apparent, due to the tremendous growth in the number of posted stockyards, that the monopoly theory under which livestock markets were first brought under regulation by Congress in 1921 is no longer appropriate."

LMA said it is "also inappropriate to continue funding a program which has lost its vitality in terms of business practice and fiscal integrity."

The Kansas City-based trade group, which furnishes business services to over 1500 subscribing livestock markets, dealers, brokers, feedlots and livestock transporters in the U.S. and Canada, said "The costs to our subscribers of complying with the P&S Act are astonishing."

The statement noted the federal Office of Management and Budget, Congressional investigations and the General Accounting Office are currently looking in the paperwork burden imposed by the Act, and the costs of complying with the regulations.

LMA also pointed out committees of both the House and Senate have endorsed the Trade Group's Crime Prevention in Livestock Marketing Act as an amendment to the revised Federal Criminal Code. This act would provide for stiff penalties and imprisonment for a variety of interstate livestock marketing frauds.

Because enforcement of this act would fall to the Justice Department, "any expenditure by the Agricultural Marketing Service, or USDA's Office of General Counsel in this regard are duplicative and unnecessary. . . this leaves funding of the administration of the P&S Act by the AMS highly debatable."

Other highlights from the statement, which was also delivered Wednesday before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on agriculture, rural development and related agencies were a request that . . . no more lawyers should be hired for USDA's Office of General Counsel.

"In a day when citizens are literally outraged by the expanding role of govern-

ment in their everyday private lives, it would seem at best imprudent to furnish nine additional attorneys to further plague the private sector and almost by definition dream up still more regulation that has never been and will never be necessary."

LMA questions whether the process of administrative appeal of decisions under the P&S Act

to USDA's Judicial Officer should continue. The Trade Group's subscribers will continue to seek ultimate jurisdiction in the United States Court of Appeals.

USDA should not be allowed to pay "so-called public participants" in rule making procedures, a program for which the Department has neither "implicit or explicit" authority, LMA said.

Chester Co. to hold slipcovering and upholstery courses

WEST CHESTER — The Chester County Extension Service is offering classes in making slipcovers and reupholstering a chair.

In the slipcover course, a series of four meetings will include fabric selection, measurement and fitting, application of zippers, and making self-binding. A variety of details and techniques will be demonstrated. The classes will be held on Thursdays, April 17, 24, and May 1 and 8, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the extension office. The instructor will be Doris Hoag.

In the upholstery course, the orientation meeting will include preliminary steps in the preparation of the chair, the supplies that are needed and resources available to purchase fabric and supplies. In the work sessions the actual restoration is accomplished. The chair is

stored at the meeting place until the end of the work sessions. Boudoir and living room chairs that do not have diamond tufting are suitable: the chair must be structurally sound. Channel back chairs and sofas are not suited to beginners. The instructor will be Marion Dawson.

The same course will be offered at two different times. The week day classes will be held April 17, May 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

The evening/Saturday classes will be held on April 17, May 8, 16, 19, 21, 23, 28, June 4, from 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays, May 10, 17 from 9-3 p.m.

Deadline for these courses will be Tuesday, April 8. There is a fee for each of the courses. Classes will be conducted at the extension office. For further information call 215/696-3500.



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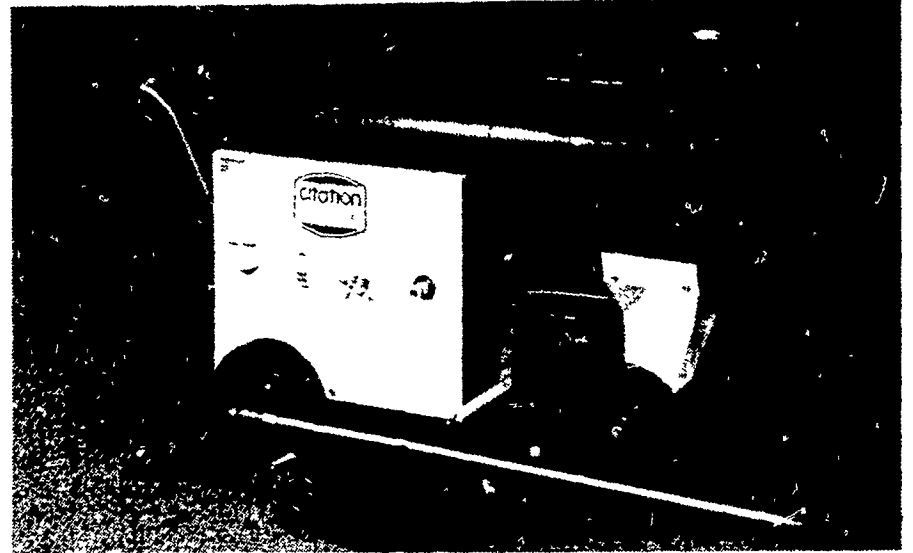
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