

LMA calls for hearing on Packers & Stockyards review



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KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Public hearings are the only way to achieve the true objective of the current review of regulations and policy statements under the Packers and Stockyards Act, according to Livestock Marketing Association.

The trade group's comments came in a statement filed May 26 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the latest phase of a general P&SA regulatory review.

During the first phase, announced in December, 1979, USDA proposed

revoking a regulation on public accommodations at livestock auctions and policy statements on lamb buying practices and the voluntary filing of surety bonds.

At that time, LMA called for public hearings on all P&S regulations. In response to these and other public comments, USDA in March announced approximately 40 more regulations, required reports and policy statements on which it wanted public comments.

The agency also said it was changing the categories under which the regulations

and policy statements were listed for review, a move LMA said, "would appear to deal merely with procedure rather than substance."

In repeating its call for public hearings, LMA's May 26 statement said "The challenge for public hearings on the true intent and purpose of the (review)...prompted as it has been by the Office of Management and Budget, is again issued in order to achieve the true objectives and purposes of these proceedings."

The Trade Group also

repeated its request for hearings on three specific areas of regulation and administrative decisions, those which:

...Prohibit members of the marketing sector from involvement in meat packing or processing businesses.

...Prohibit custom feedlots from being part of packing or processing businesses.

...Create "doubt and confusion" over legitimate business conduct in livestock production, feeding and marketing, which USDA generally calls illegal conflicts of interest.

Canadian cow import rules eased

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have eased import requirements for cattle from brucellosis-free provinces of Canada. Brucellosis is a contagious bacterial disease of cattle.

Pierre A. Chaloux, deputy administrator for veterinary Services of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said cattle from brucellosis-free provinces in

Canada could be imported under the same rules as those from certified brucellosis-free herds. These rules require a health certificate signed by a Canadian government veterinarian, a negative brucellosis test within the preceding 30 days, and maintenance of the herd of origin as a unit for at least a year before the shipment.

Five Canadian provinces

now are certified free of brucellosis: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland (including Labrador), and British Columbia. The disease has not been reported in these provinces within the past two years, no herds are under quarantine, and no vaccination for brucellosis has been performed there within the past five years.

Cattle shipped under these rules must travel through brucellosis-free provinces to approved U.S. border stations. Otherwise, they must be shipped in vehicles under Canadian government seals.

Chaloux said brucellosis-free provinces maintain

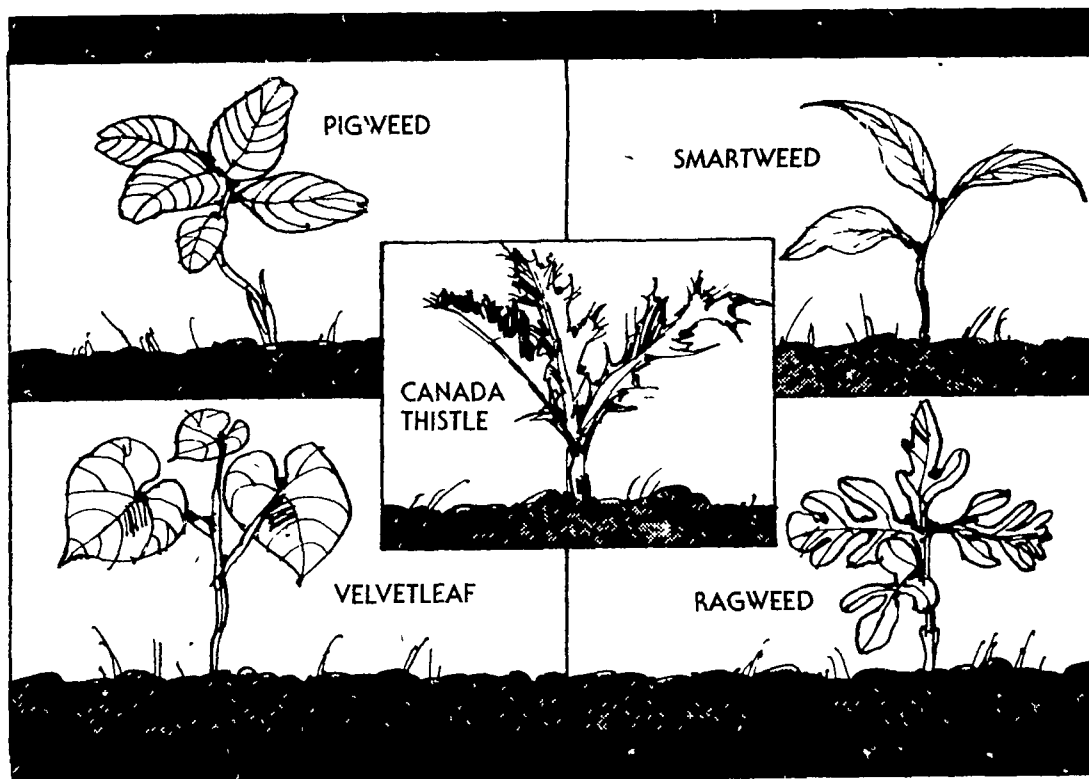
their status by testing the milk from dairy herds three times a year, and by requiring non-dairy herds to have at least five percent of each herd tested yearly while in market channels, or to have a complete herd test at the end of each three-year period.

Range cattle of the beef breeds from Canada's western provinces may be imported under rules similar to those for brucellosis-free herds. However, shipments from herds in other provinces — unless certified free — must meet other testing and certification criteria based on age, sex, vaccination, type of breed, and herd health status, Chaloux said.

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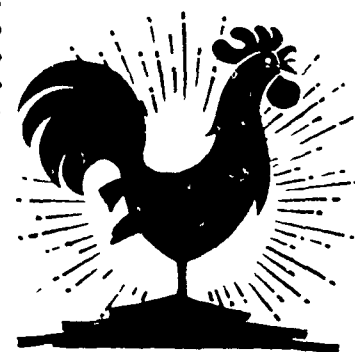


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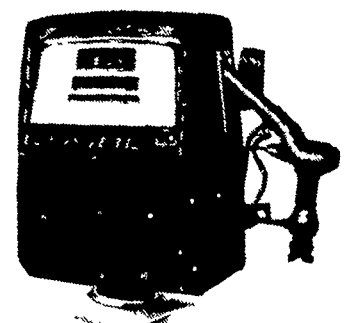
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