

P&S review neither complete nor meaningful says LMA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Despite "its avowed intentions," the U.S. Department of Agriculture's review of regulations and policy statements under the Packers and Stockyards Act is "neither complete nor meaningful," Livestock Marketing Association said recently.

The Trade Group's comments came in a statement filed with the Packers and Stockyards division of USDA. LMA officials also pointed out that this review should not be confused with LMA's recently-announced campaign to thoroughly reform and modernize federal livestock marketing legislation.

The P&S regulatory review, now in its second year, has resulted in only four proposed revisions in the 131 sections of regulations and policy statements on the books

when the review was first announced, LMA said. The proposed changes:

—would change the definition of who administers the P&S Act, and would change the term "Area Supervisor" of the Act to "Regional Supervisor";

—would enlarge the scope of the current policy statement on packer sales promotion program; and

—would make slight changes in the formula used to calculate the amount of the bond required under the Act from fixed facility markets, dealers and packers.

This proposal, which LMA said would "generally result" in a bond increase, is deficient "in that it fails to address the two real issues of importance in bonding "how the size of a bond relates to the risk involved, and how bond proceeds can be disbursed to injured parties

as expeditiously and efficiently as possible."

The "real significance" of this proposal is that it shows USDA still believes that livestock markets "are public utilities whose internal management and business practices are to be dictated by the federal government," LMA said.

The comments, filed on behalf of LMA by the law firm of Deas, Van Hooser, and Olsen, P.C., concluded by challenging USDA "to ensure that the need for, and the purposes of a regulation be clearly established, and that meaningful alternatives be considered and

analyzed before a regulation is issued.

"The mere rewording of a few regulations does not constitute a complete review."

In January, LMA launched a national campaign to replace Title 3 of the current P&S Act, which deals with the marketing sector, with updated legislation.

LMA's proposed legislation, said

General Manager C.T. 'Tad' Sanders, "is a reform from the ground up, not just mere tinkering with current regulations. While we are going forward with our campaign, we will continue to use any means at our disposal — including filing comments on this so-called review — to bring the realities of the marketplace to the attention of federal regulatory officials."

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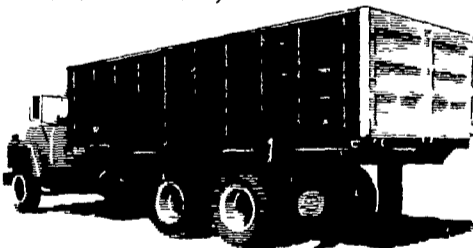
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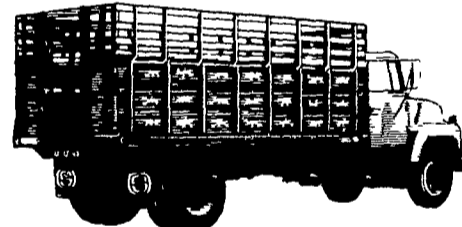
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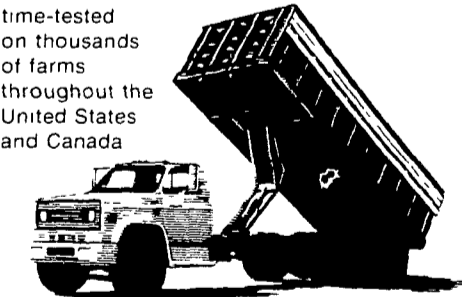


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