

Pork producers decide to take tough stand

LANCASTER — Pork producers are drawing the line; irresponsible attacks on their products will no longer be tolerated.

The National Pork Producers Council and the American Meat Institute have stepped forward to fight the irresponsible attacks leveled against meat products on a recent segment of the Mike Douglas Show.

NPPC and AMI requested and received equal time on the nationally syndicated Mike Douglas Show to respond to the derogatory statements about pork presented by Ralph Nader and Michael Jacobson, who is the director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

On the February 22nd show, Jacobson and Nader leveled an attack on bacon and hot dogs, naming them to the "Junk Food Hall of Shame." The segment climaxed with Jacobson and Douglas throwing the products on the floor.

Within days after the show aired, NPPC and AMI filed objections with the Mike Douglas Show. NPPC also notified the Federal Communications Commission, which controls broadcast licenses.

In his letter, Orville Sweet, Executive Vice President of NPPC stated, "Nader and Jacobson, by

use of innuendo, implication and unsubstantiated information, have created more consumer distrust in the nation's food supply.

"The flippant and irresponsible manner displayed by Douglas in handling this subject, so important to consumer health and the financial welfare of a traditional American industry, should be called to account," he wrote.

Sweet also demanded that equal time be granted, a demand that was recently met in an April 1 phone call from the show's producer.

In a similar letter, C Manly Molpus, President of AMI, pointed out the many inaccuracies in statements made by Nader and Jacobson.

"First, Mr Nader incorrectly stated that color is added to hot dogs," said Molpus. "Natural meat color is maintained by the use of small amounts of sodium nitrite."

Molpus also pointed out that Jacobson's inference that hot dogs were made entirely from fat is untrue. Hot dogs are manufactured from a mixture of meat and meat trimmings, and contain no more than 30 percent fat.

Jacobson also implied that consumption of bacon could be

harmful to human health. In an extensive review of the Newberne study, USDA and FDA found insufficient evidence to support a conclusion that nitrites induced cancer in experimental rats.

Further, Jacobson made no mention of the risk of botulism if nitrites are not used in the manufacture of hot dogs and bacon.

The taping date for the debate between Nader, Jacobson and pork industry representatives has not been confirmed, but is expected to be in late May or early June. The air date is, as yet, unscheduled.

Names county home economist

WILMINGTON, Del — Deborah J Amsden has been named New Castle county extension, home economist, according to Samuel M Gwinn, director of the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service.

She comes to the Extension Service from the University of Delaware's College of Human Resources, where she pursued a master's degree in life span development. She holds a BS in home economics education from Douglass College, Rutgers State University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Amsden has taught home economics in Bangor, Maine, and has demonstrated microwave ovens for a distributor.

She was also a teaching assistant in the Family Life class at the University of Delaware, and has

conducted several special interest workshops for the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service.

Amsden is a member of the American Home Economics Association and the National Education Association.

Greenwood vo-ag

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facilities. Our problem is finances. 'We'll be reviewing our budget for the coming year next month. If it turns out favorable, the chance of seeing a vo-ag program at Greenwood are 99 percent. However, if the budget turns out to be unfavorable, its chances are less than 50 percent.'

If the school board faces financial defeat again this year, Lyter said he plans to keep on trying for the vo-ag program.

"We won't give up on something the community wants and needs," he proclaimed.

Lyter said he realizes personally the importance of a vocational

agriculture program, having been enrolled in the curriculum himself while attending Greenwood. But, Lyter emphasized, the vo-ag program planned for today is much more structured than when he went through.

"Back then the vo-ag program didn't prepare a student for college. I had to drop out my senior year to pick up the credits I needed to go to Penn State and study ag engineering," he explained. "What we're planning is a high quality curriculum — not a place where students can dive out of work."

Two other Perry County schools offer a vocational agriculture program, Newport and West Perry.

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