

UEP reports proposed shell egg grading changes

DECATUR, Ga. — USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service published the proposed rules on shell egg grades and standards in the April 17 Federal Register, reports Cathy McCharen, United Egg Producers. The proposed changes were based on comments received from the advance notice published last May.

"Comments from egg producers,

packers, distributors, trade organizations, state agriculture departments, and consumers mostly agreed that review of standards were long overdue and the proposed changes were reasonable and necessary, with one exception," says McCharen.

"The elimination of grade AA was questioned since it wouldn't eliminate AA under state egg laws

and would create an economic hardship to producers and retailers who market this grade. The Department decided not to propose eliminating grade AA but did propose modifications in tolerances at destination for this grade."

The proposed rule would make the following changes in the voluntary shell egg grading

regulations, according to the Federal Register notice:

- * Eliminate the C quality classification for individual eggs.

- * Eliminate three wholesale grades - U.S. Trades, U.S. Dirties, and U.S. Checks - and the two U.S. Procurement grades.

- * Eliminate the consumer grade Fresh Fancy Quality and Grade A Quality control programs.

- * Increase the tolerance for undergrade eggs. Raise tolerances for Checked eggs at destination for all egg sizes and for Jumbo size eggs at origin. The tolerance for leakers and Dirties at destination would be slightly raised, and a small tolerance for Dirties would be provided at origin.

- * The minimum percent of eggs at a specified quality in consumer grades at origin and destination would be raised, except that the percent of eggs of the specified quality in Grade AA at destination would be adjusted to more accurately reflect what is in the market place.

- * The definition of origin grading would be clarified to indicate that this is a grading made at a plant where eggs are graded and packed.

For more information, contact UEP, 3951 Snapfinger Parkway, Suite 580, Decatur, GA, 30035 for a copy of the Federal Register notice. Comments must be received on or before June 16.

Send your written comments in duplicate to: Regulations Coordination Division, Attn: Annie Johnson, FSQS Compliance Program, Room 2637, S. Agriculture Building, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Migrant farm work meeting set for June 4

NORFOLK, Va. — Agricultural employers are invited to participate in a public meeting to comment on laws and programs administered by the U.S. Labor Department that impact on the use of migrant farm workers.

Three Labor Department

agencies will sponsor the meeting, scheduled for June 4 at 1 p.m. in the Holiday Inn Scope, Norfolk, Va. The session is for farm operators, crew leaders and workers in the Labor Department's Region III, covering Virginia, Maryland, Delaware,

Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Representatives will be on hand from the Department's Employment Standards Administration, Employment and Training Administration and

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Each oversees programs affecting migrant farm workers and their employers, such as housing standards, wages and working conditions and farm labor contractor registration.

Topics will include efforts to clarify regulatory requirements, protection of workers in the migrant stream and rights and responsibilities of growers, crew leaders and laborers.

Those interested in more information about the meeting may contact John Dower, regional monitor advocate, P.O. Box 8796, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101 (phone: 215-596-6411).

Elizabethville heifer brings top bid

LANCASTER — A 2-year-old Guernsey bred heifer, consigned by Calvin Mauser, R1 Elizabethville, brought the top bid of \$1850 from buyer Paul Kline of Utica, Ohio during the 321st Special Guernsey Sale

Bred to West Maltas Deacons Brutus, the heifer was sired by Hausleys Dari Fayvor, out of Terhn Sadie, classified 83

A consignment from Larry and

Kathleen Queripel, Benton, brought the second high bid of \$1800. The 7-year-old cow was purchased by George Aaronson, Columbus, New Jersey. Her 346 day lactation record as a 5-year-old with twice a day milking was 15,762 pounds milk and 743 pounds fat.

With a bid of \$1750, breeder and consignor L Ivins Smith, New Hope, sold his 2-year-old Guernsey heifer to Herman Ginder, Jr. of

Mt. Joy. The heifer was sired by Kellogg Minnies Choice, out of Shady Locust Doras Dixie.

Out of the 111 head of Guernseys sold at the 321st, nine head brought over \$1000. They averaged \$650. There were 109 registered animals sold, and only two grades.

Hunters compile best record ever

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania hunters compiled one of the best safety records ever during 1980, according to the final annual tabulation made by the Game Commission.

Statistics indicate last year there were seven fatal hunting accidents, the lowest number since record-keeping began in Pennsylvania in 1915.

In 1915, there were about a quarter million licensed hunters in the state. In 1980, there were more than a million and a quarter licensed hunters in the Keystone State. The total number of hunting-related accidents in Pennsylvania in 1980 was 201.

Hunting mishaps in the state have been declining rapidly since 1968, when there were 530 accidents. Game Commission safety officials believe the reduction has been largely due to hunter education courses and the increase use of fluorescent orange material by hunters.

Since 1969, it has been mandatory for all first-time hunters under the age of 16 to satisfactorily complete a hunter education

course before being eligible to purchase a hunting license.

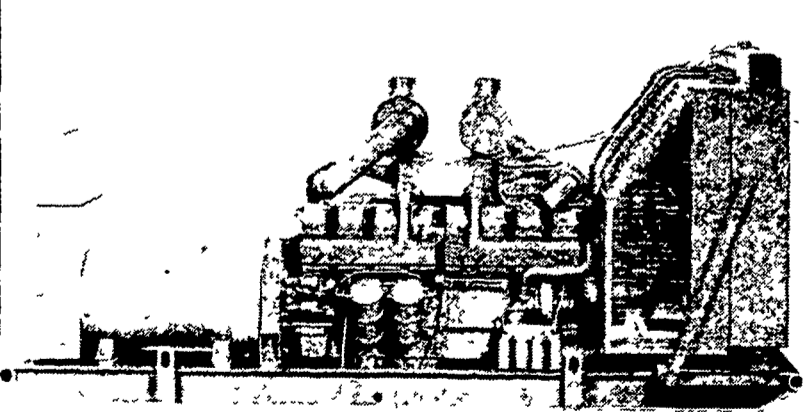
Last year, for the first time, hunters were required to wear fluorescent orange material while hunting bear and deer during the regular big game firearms seasons, and while hunting woodchucks. Woodchuck hunters must wear at least 100 square inches of fluorescent orange (a cap contains 100 square inches) on the head, while big game hunters must wear at least 100 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, or on the chest and back combined.

During 1980, there were sixteen persons shot in mistake for game. Fifteen of these persons were not wearing clothing of a conspicuous color, while the remaining person was wearing red.

Prior to last year, the lowest number of hunting accident fatalities on record was ten, a mark established in 1977.

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About 10,000 farms accounted for one fourth of all hog sales in 1979. There are still many small efficient swine operations in the U.S.



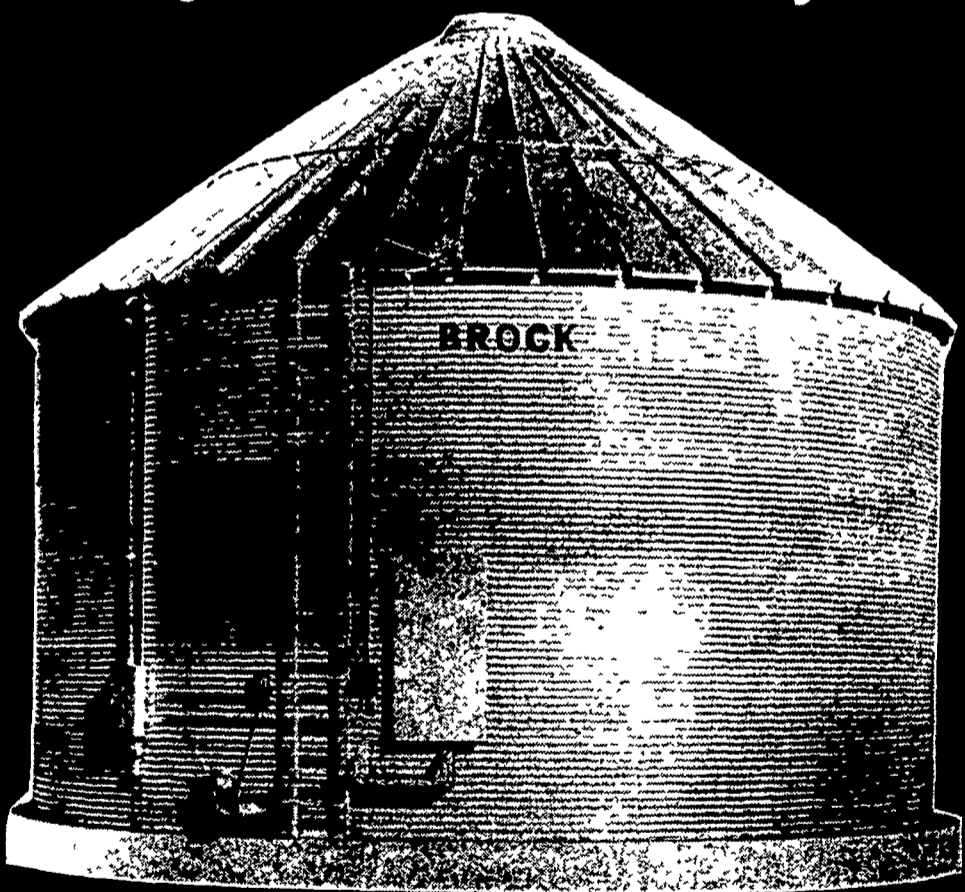
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