

To protect against food-borne foreign insects diseases

USDA cracks down on airport caterer

NEW YORK, N.Y. — U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have moved to withdraw approval for handling and disposing of foreign-origin garbage from Marriott Corporation's World Way West catering facility at Los Angeles International Airport, Los Angeles, Calif.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service deputy administrator Harvey L. Ford said he notified the corporation of his agency's intent to withdraw approval because Marriott has been in repeated violation of federal regulations requiring biologically safe disposal of food and food wastes from international flights.

"We are very concerned about food-borne foreign plant and animal insects and diseases," Ford said.

"Destructive agricultural diseases and pests might easily get into this country through food service wastes on these flights, even though the food is quite safe for human consumption," Ford said. "Effective disposal requirements are our principal means of protection."

Ford said the USDA rules require wastes of foreign origin to

be sterile and disposed in a landfill or incinerated.

"In March and May of 1980, Marriott employees committed apparent violations of our regulations, which involved putting foreign-origin garbage directly in trash compactors destined for a landfill, without necessary sterilization procedures," Ford said. "Another violation in December of 1980 involved improper disposal of airline meals."

"Without the required treat-

ment, agricultural pests and disease organisms could remain alive in the garbage and subsequently might be spread by birds, dogs or wildlife that scavenge landfills and other disposal sites."

After the first two violations, Marriott officials acknowledged that further violations could result in USDA withdrawing approval for the company to service incoming foreign flights.

"It's difficult to get an urban

population to understand the threat foreign agricultural pests and diseases pose," Ford said. "For example, the Dominican Republic has systemically destroyed and is replacing that nation's entire swine population because African swine fever, one of the world's most devastating swine diseases, was introduced from some outside source."

Improper disposal of food wastes from ships or planes caused the recent spread of African swine fever to western hemisphere

nations—Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti, Ford said.

"In addition to African swine fever, we are constantly concerned about many other pests and diseases that can easily be carried in food, foreign souvenirs, cargoes and other materials," Ford said.

USDA officials administer agricultural import regulations to prevent the entry of products containing such pests or diseases. USDA inspectors are stationed at about 80 ports of entry.

In Texas, seeing is believing

Video tape brings cattle to buyer

HOUSTON, Tex — The San Antonio based "Texas Charolais Sales Corporation", an affiliate organization of American-International Charolais Association, is now offering a new and exciting opportunity for buyers and sellers of Charolais cattle.

Sharon Schoenfeld, vice president, explains, "To look at individual animals in the herds of

each of our members, would cost a lot in time and money — now we have a way for a buyer to make an intelligent choice at an even more intelligent price."

The Sales Corporation has made it easy for its members to participate. Forms are sent to members, filled out and returned to the Charolais office in San Antonio. An appointment is then made with the owner-seller for the video taping animals.

In the field, each animal is

side for approximately one minute. Animals are mechanically separated by tape in the field into heifers, cows and bulls.

After all the required individuals are on tape, the film is sent to the lab where the animals are transferred to a master tape and receive index coding and audio descriptive information. The master tape is then made available for viewing by buyers at the Charolais Sales Corporation Office.

The Sales Corporation further enhances a buyer's selection process by using an indexing method. If, for example, a buyer is interested only in two-year-old bulls which weight 1,500 pounds or more and are sired by 'Bull X',

then only those bulls which meet the requirements will be shown.

Once the buyer has made a selection, final negotiation and sale is arranged with the seller.

All sales are by private treaty. The Sales Corporation acts only in getting buyer and seller together.

Members of the Texas Charolais Sales Corporation have the responsibility of providing the correct information on animals and having their animals penned at video taping time. Member's herds are updated every six months. The first taping is free to members. Buyers are charged nothing to view the tapes.


For more information, contact Jim Chittim at 512/249-2480 or Sharon Schoenfeld at 512/698-2349



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