

# LMA's Marketing Reform Act balances updated law with safeguards

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A revised version of the proposed Livestock Marketing Reform Act, recently approved by Livestock Marketing Association's executive committee, "balances the critical need for updated marketing law with safeguards for the producer."

That was the assessment of LMA President Lemmy Wilson, who stressed the revised version of the bill represents no structural changes in the original Reform Act announced in January.

This Act would replace Title III of the current Packers and Stockyards Act "with legislation more in tune with today's marketing realities."

The revised bill "reflects some of the comments and suggestions we've received since we began presenting the legislation to the livestock industry," Wilson said.

While the Reform Act represents a thorough, "from the ground up restructuring of marketing legislation, our bill fully provides the safeguards the entire livestock industry needs to maintain confidence in our free marketing system," he noted.

For example, the Reform Act would replace the current required "custodial account," through which a marketing business must

clear all its customers' transactions, with a livestock trust account.

"This trust account would provide buyers and sellers with the financial security they need, while giving the marketing business necessary flexibility to best manage these funds," Wilson said.

The Reform Act also provides for stiff civil penalties for failing to properly maintain the account, Wilson said.

And, he said, LMA's proposed bill significantly strengthens existing penalties for a variety of marketing frauds. "Any person convicted of fraud, embezzlement or theft under our bill, as well as any person conspiring to fix or control livestock prices, could be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned up to 10 years, or both."

The multi-billion dollar livestock business "will always attract a minority of crooks, con artists and flim-flam men," Wilson continued, "and we want them punished."

"We see this legislation as the only effective way to replace outmoded regulations and self-serving administrative decisions that are not only a burden on the marketing sector, but also are no service to the rest of the industry -

breeders, growers, feeders, and processors."

Marketing must have "the elbow room it needs" to continue its vital role in the livestock industry, Wilson said.

LMA is continuing its

discussions of the necessity for marketing law modernization with key members of Congress and their aides, and is now placing the revised bill in their hands.

A copy of the revised legislation

and an explanatory "Fact Sheet" are available by writing LMA, 4900 Oak Street, Kansas City, Mo., 64112.

LMA's executive committee is composed of its five elected officers.

## Conservation practices to keep in mind

# Grassed waterways carry runoff safely

CHAMBERSBURG — Grassed waterways and outlets are natural or constructed watercourses shaped to required dimensions and vegetated for safe disposal of runoff water from fields, diversions, terraces, and other structures.

"The grass-lined waterway is

one of the basic conservation practices commonly used by farmers", reports Charles S. Worrlow, III, soil conservationist in the Chambersburg Field Office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

"When rainfall exceeds the rate or volume at which the soil can

take in and store moisture, surplus water will pass over the land in the form of runoff. Waterways carry this water to a safe outlet at a safe velocity," he explains.

The satisfactory performance of a grassed waterway depends on proper size, shape, and grass cover to stabilize the channel.

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