

## USDA readopts offer rate system for warehouse space

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Beginning July 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will return to an offer rate system when contracting for grain storage space, Under Secretary of Agriculture Seeley Lodwick announced.

Only warehouses that meet standards of approval set by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation may be used to store grain pledged as collateral for government loans or to store government-owned grain, Lodwick said.

Under the current "modified offer rate system," warehousemen submit rates to CCC for review, and if the rates are above CCC specified levels, CCC negotiates the rates. If, after negotiations, CCC determines the rates are still too high, the warehouse may not be approved for storing government grain.

Under the "offer rate system" announced today, there will be no negotiations: all rates will be filed and all warehouses approved. The government will use the least expensive and if necessary will move the grain from present storage at a lesser cost facility, Lodwick said.

He said under the offer rate system — which USDA used from 1975 to 1977 — warehousemen must certify they are not changing the government more than they would charge other customers. Violations of this provision will subject warehousemen to criminal and/or civil penalties.

A list of the approved warehouses and their rates will be available for public review in state and county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices. Producers with grain under CCC loan may place

their crops in any warehouse approved by the CCC.

When farmers take out CCC loans, county offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service may deduct their storage and handling charges and forward these charges directly

to warehousemen, Lodwick said. The forwarded storage and handling fees then are deducted from the principal of the loan, thus reducing the farmers' interest costs.

In addition, he said, this prepayment provision should allow

warehousemen to offer lower storage rates for CCC-pledged crops.

The offer rate system gives the warehouseman more flexibility in setting storage rates on a competitive basis, Lodwick said.

## Broiler placements up

HARRISBURG — Placements of broiler chicks in the Commonwealth during the week ending May 23 were 2,486,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The placements were five percent above the previous week and five percent above the corresponding week a year earlier.

Average placements during the past nine weeks were two percent above a year ago.

Placements in the 21 key poultry producing states were 85,719,000, percent above the previous week and five percent above the same week a year ago. Average placements in the 21 key states during

the past nine weeks were four percent above a year ago.

Broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania under federal inspection during the week ending May 13 totaled 2,155,000, with an average liveweight of 4.08 pounds.

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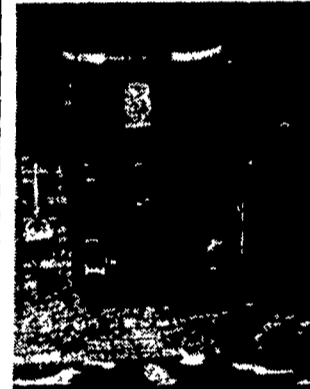
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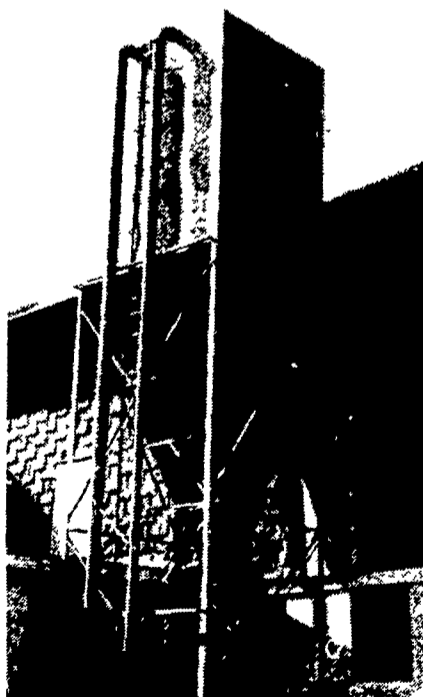
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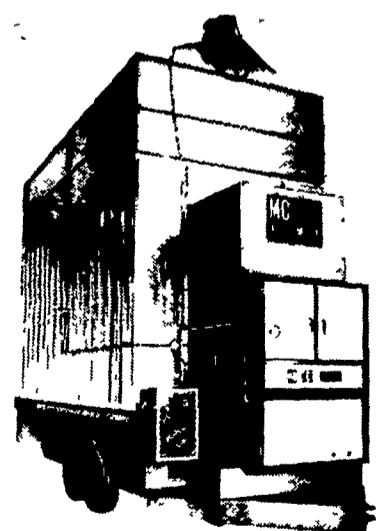
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