

USDA revises staffing requirement for cattle inspection

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Revised staffing requirements for inspecting slaughtered cattle became effective July 14, a USDA official announced. Public comments on the interim rule — which is also being published as a proposal — will be accepted for 60 days.

The requirements specify the size of the inspection team, the location of its members within the plant and the number of cattle the team is to examine each hour. The requirements update staffing guidelines issued in 1968.

"We are publishing the standards as an interim rule because current federal hiring restrictions require more efficient use of personnel," said Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection service.

Although effective immediately, the rule will be reviewed at the close of the comment period in light of all comments received.

Houston said, "The requirements distribute inspector workloads more efficiently,

enabling FSIS to reduce by approximately 40% the number of cattle post-mortem inspectors needed nationwide. The inspectors will be reassigned to other essential areas needing personnel."

The revised staffing requirements will increase the efficiency of inspection while maintaining consumer protection, he said.

Public comments should be sent by September 14 to: FSIS hearing clerk, room 2637-S, USDA,

Washington, D.C. 20250.

Notice of this action was published in the July 14 Federal Register. A background paper is available from FSIS Information, USDA, room 1160-S, Washington, D.C., 20250, 202/447-9113.

Assn. of County Agricultural Agents names winners

UNIVERSITY PARK — Five members of The Pennsylvania State University's Cooperative Extension Service staff have been named winners in the 14th annual Public Information Awards Contest sponsored by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

The contest, conducted by the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents, in cooperation with Rohm and Haas

Co., is designed to recognize excellence in the uses of mass media approaches to Extension teaching and information programs.

James Welshans, Clearfield County Extension agent and state contest chairman, points out that all winners will receive cash awards.

Winners by categories are: Maureen D. McCabe, Philadelphia County Extension agent, second place northeastern

United States winner in the radio program category.

Duane G. Duncan, Cumberland County Extension director, northeastern United States and national winner in the news photo story category.

Thomas E. Piper, Adams County Extension director, second place northeastern United States winner for a series of colored slides.

David M. Cox, McKean County Extension agent, second place

northeastern United States winner in the direct mail category.

Mrs. Carol J. Schurman, Indiana County Extension agent, second place northeastern United States winner in the feature story category.

Another Penn State staff member, Mrs. Janie French, Clearfield County Extension agent, was northeastern United States winner in the Scotts Horticultural Professional Improvement Communications Contest.

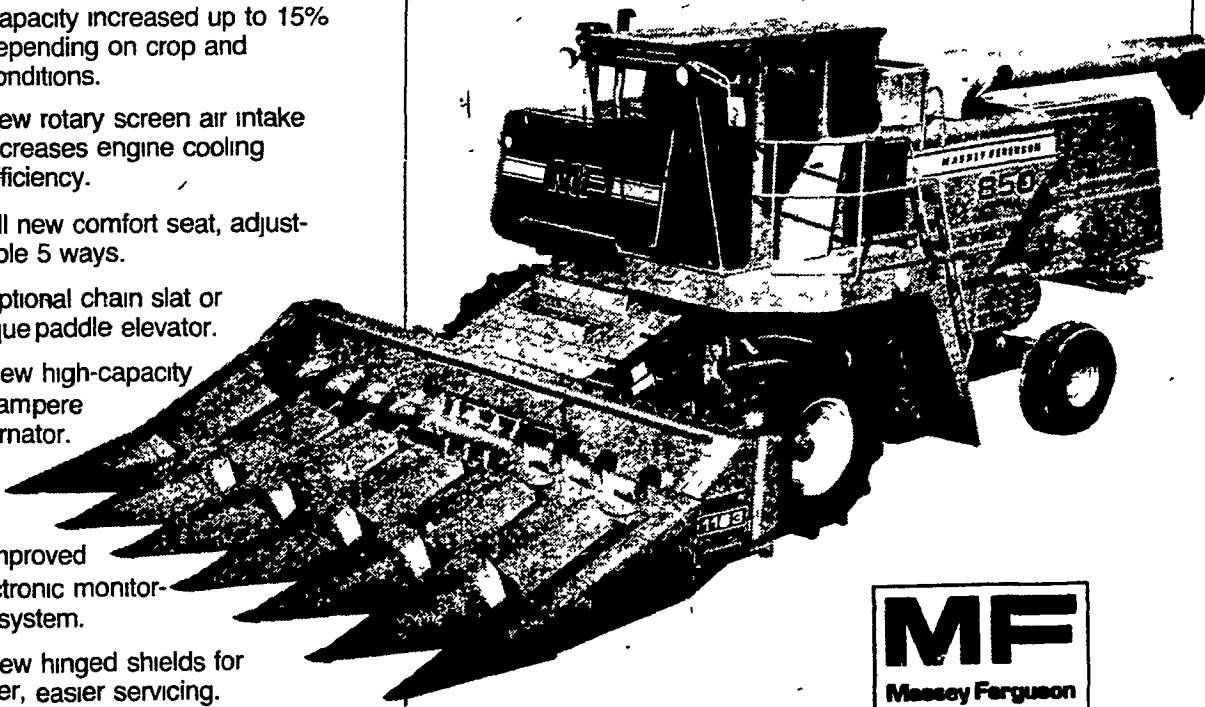
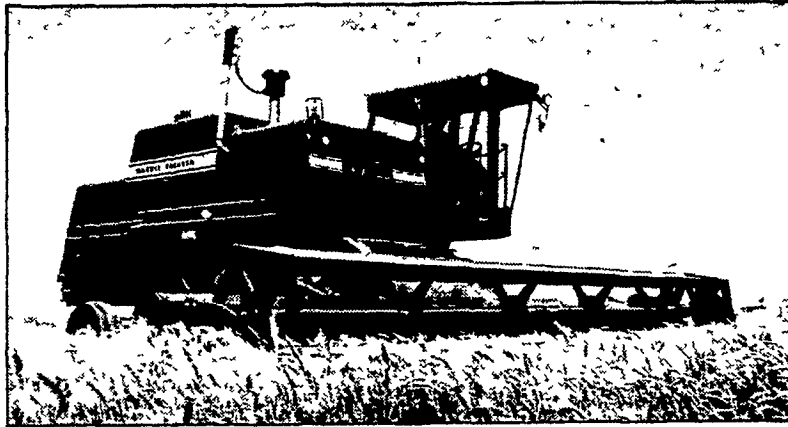
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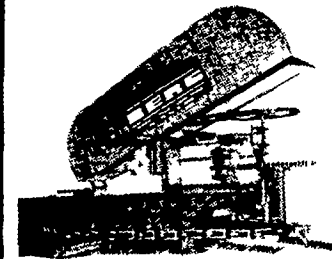
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