

LMA want Packers & Stockyards public hearing

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Board of Directors of Livestock Marketing Association voted unanimously here recently to ask for public hearings on the Packers and Stockyards Administration's internal review of P&S Act regulations and policy statements.

In a petition to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary John R. Block, LMA's law firm noted that the P&S review "Task Force" was composed solely of P&S employees and two attorneys from the USDA Office of General Counsel.

The petition is critical of the lack of industry representation on the Task Force. "Very few" of the persons who took part in 1980's 238.5 million livestock transactions in the U.S. "have had any way to present their views" to the internal Task Force, the petition said.

Because this present review "will have a significant impact on the entire livestock industry of this country," LMA wants nationwide

public hearings "so that those persons who will be affected by the regulations" can offer their views, the petition said.

LMA's petition also said there has been "little progress made, and few tangible results" since P&S began reviewing current regulations and policy statements in December, 1979. That review was begun in response to federal law and a presidential executive order, LMA officials pointed out.

The review of over 130 regulations has resulted in "minor, cosmetic changes" in four of them in 21 months, the petition said.

LMA President Lemmy Wilson, speaking to the Directors at their Sept. 18 meeting, said he was "amazed" when he learned that no one from any sector of the livestock industry had been asked to contribute their knowledge and experience to the Task Force's deliberations.

In spite of this, the Task Force's 82-page report has been given wide circulation throughout the entire livestock industry and to state government officials, LMA officials said.

Members of the Task Force were Harold Davis, chief of P&S's marketing practices branch; Kenneth Stricklin, chief of the livestock procurement branch;

regional supervisors Griffin Bonham of Omaha, C. DeWayne Crawford of Indianapolis and T.C. Harris of Bedford, Va., and from the USDA Office of General Counsel, Attorneys Thomas M. Walsh and Kenneth H. Vail.

Hearings to allow the livestock industry to comment on the report are crucial, the petition said, since the report "will undoubtedly be

used as the basic guidelines for the P&S's revised review of the P&S regulations." This revised review is scheduled to be completed by the close of fiscal 1983, according to P&S officials.

"Meaningful, substantive" comments from the livestock industry are needed "so that review can proceed to completion," the petition said.

Stream protection seminars climax Oct. 8

LANCASTER — What local agencies are doing to help protect Lancaster County streams will be the topic of a meeting on Thursday, October 8, 1981, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center auditorium, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The session is the last of three on stream protection measures sponsored jointly by the Lancaster County Conservation District, the Lancaster County Planning Commission, the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, and the Conestoga Valley Association.

Tom Johnston, administrator of the Lancaster County Conservation District, will discuss the Rural Clean Water Program for the Conestoga headwaters. Other discussion will focus on the roles of the Lancaster County Planning Commission and watershed associations in protecting streams in Lancaster County.

Anyone with any questions about the meeting or about stream protection measures in Lancaster County should contact Linda J. Reekie, Assistant County Planner, at the Lancaster County Planning Commission, 717/299-8333.

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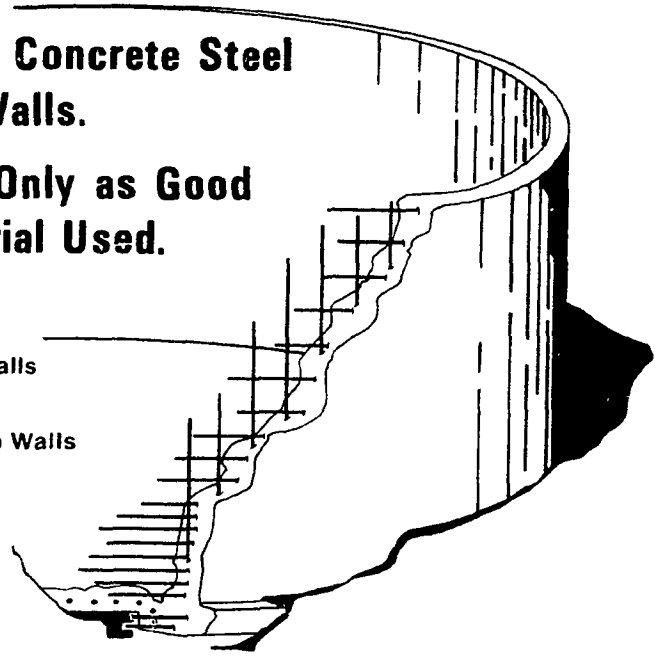
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