

Italy halts U.S. cattle, sheep imports due to bluetongue

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Italy has closed its import doors to U.S. cattle and sheep because of

bluetongue — a viral disease that affects some U.S. livestock. In taking the action, Italy becomes

the last member country of the European Common Market to halt such imports, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

and goats the disease causes abortions and birth defects.

standing embargo of U.S. cattle and sheep and instituted a quarantine procedure. Animals are permitted to move "down under" during the fall and winter in the northern hemisphere.

Duncan wins award

UNIVERSITY PARK — Duane G. Duncan, Cumberland County Extension director has been named national winner of the Public Relations in Daily Efforts Contest.

consisting of farm families and newspaper personnel, and Farm-City Breakfast for 56 public officials and farmers.

The Common Market adopted the restriction about a year and a half ago, but Italy had allowed U.S. cattle to enter Europe through its ports until now, said John Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Bluetongue is most prevalent in the southern and southwestern United States. A recent USDA survey showed most northern and northeastern cattle are nearly free of the disease.

"We spend a lot of time worrying about keeping foreign diseases out of the United States," Atwell said. "This is one case where we've got something other countries don't want and we'll be dealing with bluetongue for a long time to come."

The contest, sponsored by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and Elanco Products Company, is designed to recognize Extension agents who conduct outstanding public relations programs as part of their educational efforts.

The award winner also coordinated efforts in which dairy producers took milk cows to elementary schools to discuss the importance of milk production. Dairy producers devoted over 66 days in these presentations to 3,100 students.

During 1979, the U.S. exported \$40 million worth of cattle worldwide. Of this figure, \$2.5 million was exported to EEC members, including nearly \$1.5 million to Italy. By 1980, the EEC restrictions had cut U.S. exports to nearly \$330,000 to Italy.

Canada has long been concerned with bluetongue, Atwell said, but permits U.S. cattle to be imported after they have undergone rigid testing. During the past year, Australia dropped its long-

Duncan received an expense-paid trip to the national agents association annual meeting held recently at Cornell University.

His public relations programs in cooperation with several agricultural organizations resulted in two extensive mall displays. One display, seen by thousands of persons, included five truckloads of farm machinery, seven pens of livestock, 12 educational exhibits, and sheep shearing demonstrations.

Atwell said the embargo is based on the fact that some U.S. cattle are infected with bluetongue, a virus disease which affects cattle, sheep, goats and other ruminants. The disease is spread by small biting gnats—sometimes called sand flies, biting midges or "no-see-ums."

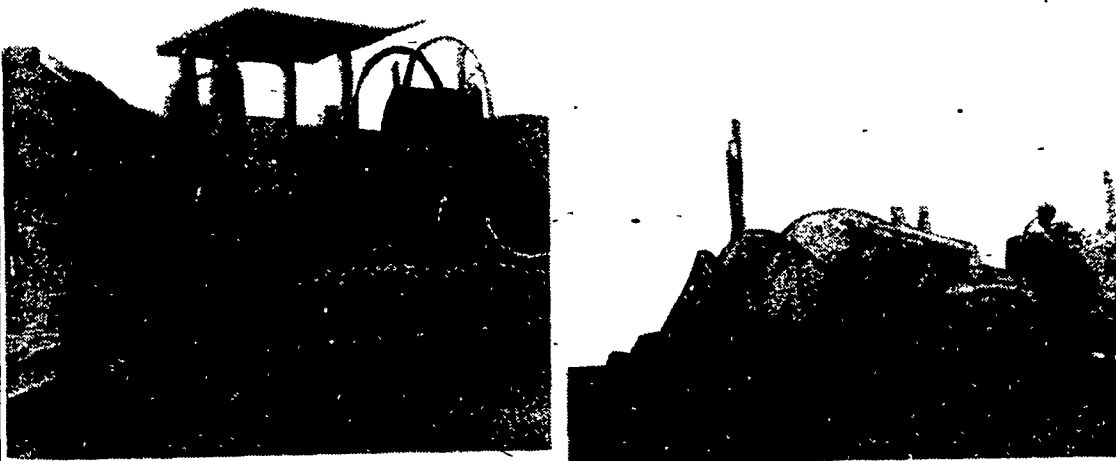
Somerset Co. DHIA

(Continued from Page D26)

Robert Hillegass	B3	35.0	94.5	38.1	3.8	1.44
Paul J. Pyle	B3	37.3	81.9	38.9	3.7	1.44
John Zehner	B3	60.1	95.7	47.6	3.0	1.42
Millford Valley Farm	B3	50.8	86.4	38.1	3.7	1.42
Tice-Platz	B8	57.6	85.7	36.8	3.8	1.41
Friendship Farms	B3	68.6	87.8	40.1	3.5	1.41
Rosetree Acres Farms	3	41.8	83.3	40.0	3.5	1.39
Larry Lohr	B3	102.7	93.0	36.3	3.8	1.37
Vincent Flannery	3	123.5	86.3	37.7	3.6	1.37
Robert D. Will	B3	60.3	84.4	35.9	3.8	1.36
Urbadale Farm	B3	35.4	76.5	35.7	3.7	1.33
Charles E. Maust	B3	28.0	86.2	35.5	3.7	1.32
Annie Berzonski	B3	74.7	83.5	32.3	4.1	1.31
Wincrest Farm	B3	56.5	81.7	31.2	4.2	1.30
Somerset Farms	B3	47.0	85.6	35.1	3.7	1.30
William R. Yoder	4	36.8	78.9	29.9	4.3	1.30
Jim Brocht	B3	56.0	68.5	34.6	3.7	1.29
A. J. Walker Farm	B3	38.5	74.7	34.7	3.7	1.29
Pax-Terra Jim Paxton	3	23.0	81.1	32.8	3.9	1.27
S. Holsopple & Sons	B3	38.3	88.1	35.0	3.6	1.25
Evan L. Maust	B3	57.9	83.8	32.2	3.9	1.24
T. Rich, Inc.	B3	126.0	77.0	32.9	3.7	1.23
Harold E. Hay	B3	49.9	90.6	33.4	3.7	1.22
Delbert & Ed Thomas	B3	89.5	81.4	35.3	3.4	1.21
K.W. & L.W. Saylor	B3	66.1	71.7	31.6	3.8	1.19
Little Piney Farm	B3	38.7	85.7	34.6	3.4	1.16
Ruppel D. Brant	B3	88.8	91.4	32.2	3.6	1.15
Emmert Weaver	G3	50.6	82.8	29.2	3.8	1.12
Glade Triangle Farm	B3	50.8	84.8	29.3	3.8	1.11
Hi Vue Farm	B3	44.5	67.6	29.6	3.6	1.07
John P. Slobozien	B3	22.0	81.8	31.5	3.4	1.07
Robert F. Shockey, Jr.	B3	54.5	79.2	30.6	3.5	1.07
Richard M. Webreck	B3	57.7	79.6	29.3	3.6	1.06
Mt. Davis Farm	B3	39.8	83.5	28.8	3.6	1.03
Bernard McKenzie	B3	45.7	83.0	27.2	3.7	1.00
Hays Park Farm	B3	71.0	74.4	26.9	3.7	1.00

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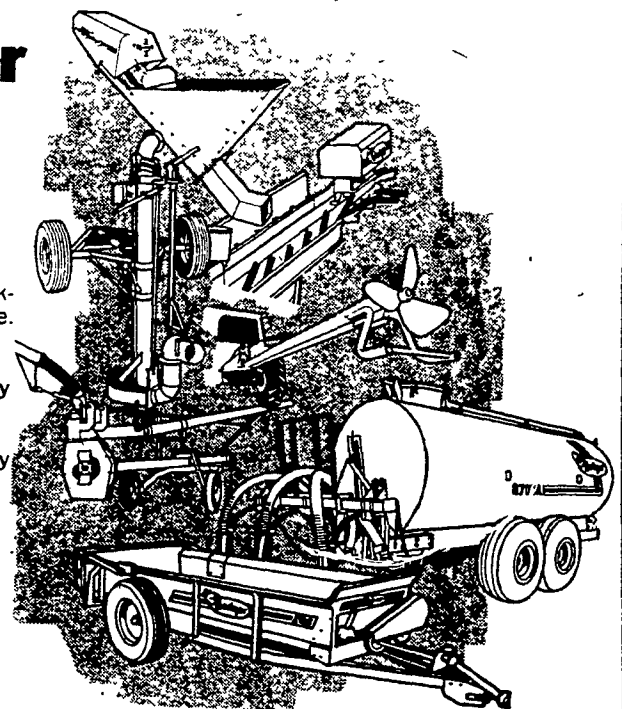


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