

USDA approves process for exclusive animal import

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have outlined a procedure whereby a single importer could have exclusive use of the Harry S. Truman Animal Import Center at Key West, Fla., for importing and quarantining a cattle shipment.

John K. Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said exclusive use for at least 50 head of cattle would be granted only when fewer than 50 quarantine spaces are requested by importers under the regular lottery method of allocation.

"Some importers have said they would like to import a shipment of cattle through the Truman Animal Import Center, but they did not want to mingle them with cattle being brought in by other owners," Atwell said.

"We can handle up to 400 cattle at the center for the required quarantine," Atwell said. "However, it is not economical to operate the center with fewer than

50; and sometimes we may not receive that many applications when a lottery is announced.

"Exclusive use would permit us to keep the animal import center operating, and at the same time meet the request of any large-scale importer."

Under the new procedure, importers would be invited to apply for exclusive use at the time a lottery is announced. If the minimum number of spaces is not used under the lottery system, APHIS officials would authorize exclusive use on a first come, first served basis. If the importer who submitted the first application declines or is found ineligible, USDA would offer the second applicant exclusive use.

Persons wishing to import cattle through the Truman center are required to deposit \$1,000 per head with their application, and, if accepted, they must then arrange for payment of health processing and quarantine costs.

The Truman import center was established on an offshore island at the tip of the Florida Keys to provide a safe method for importing cattle from countries affected with foot-and-mouth disease. These cattle would otherwise be ineligible for direct importation into the United States.

Cattle are brought to the center in single lots, although they may be

owned by a number of importers. They are quarantined on an "all-in, all-out" basis, which means that any indication of foot-and-mouth disease or certain other diseases in any animal will disqualify the entire lot.

The cattle are pre-tested under APHIS supervision at a pre-export isolation facility in the country of

origin before shipment to the Truman Center.

Notice of the new procedure was published in the Sept. 22 Federal Register. Public comments will be accepted until Nov. 23. Comments should be submitted to the deputy administrator for veterinary service, APHIS, USDA, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md 20782.

Pa. grain stocks down 26 percent

HARRISBURG — The October 1 stocks of corn, wheat, oats and barley in all positions of the Commonwealth totaled 42.1 million bushels, down 26 percent from a year ago according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The 21 percent decrease in corn stocks more than offset the five percent increase in wheat, ten percent increase in oats, and 25 percent increase in barley.

Old crop corn in all positions on October 1 totaled 11.0 million

bushels, off from last year's level of 14.0 million bushels. Of the total old crop corn stocks, 70 percent, or 7.7 million bushels, were stored on the farm. This is 30 percent below the October 1, farm stocks a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 3.4 million bushels, were up 11 percent from last year's level.

Wheat stocks in all positions totaled 11.1 million bushels. Wheat stored on farms totaled 2.4 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 8.7

million bushels, up two percent.

Oats stored in all positions totaled 16.9 million bushels, of which 14.9 million bushels were stored on the farm. Both on-farm and off-farm stocks increased from October 1, 1980 levels by seven and 38 percent, respectively.

Barley stocks in all positions totaled 3.0 million bushels. On-farm stocks were up 21 percent at 2.4 million bushels, and off-farm stocks were up 48 percent from a year ago.



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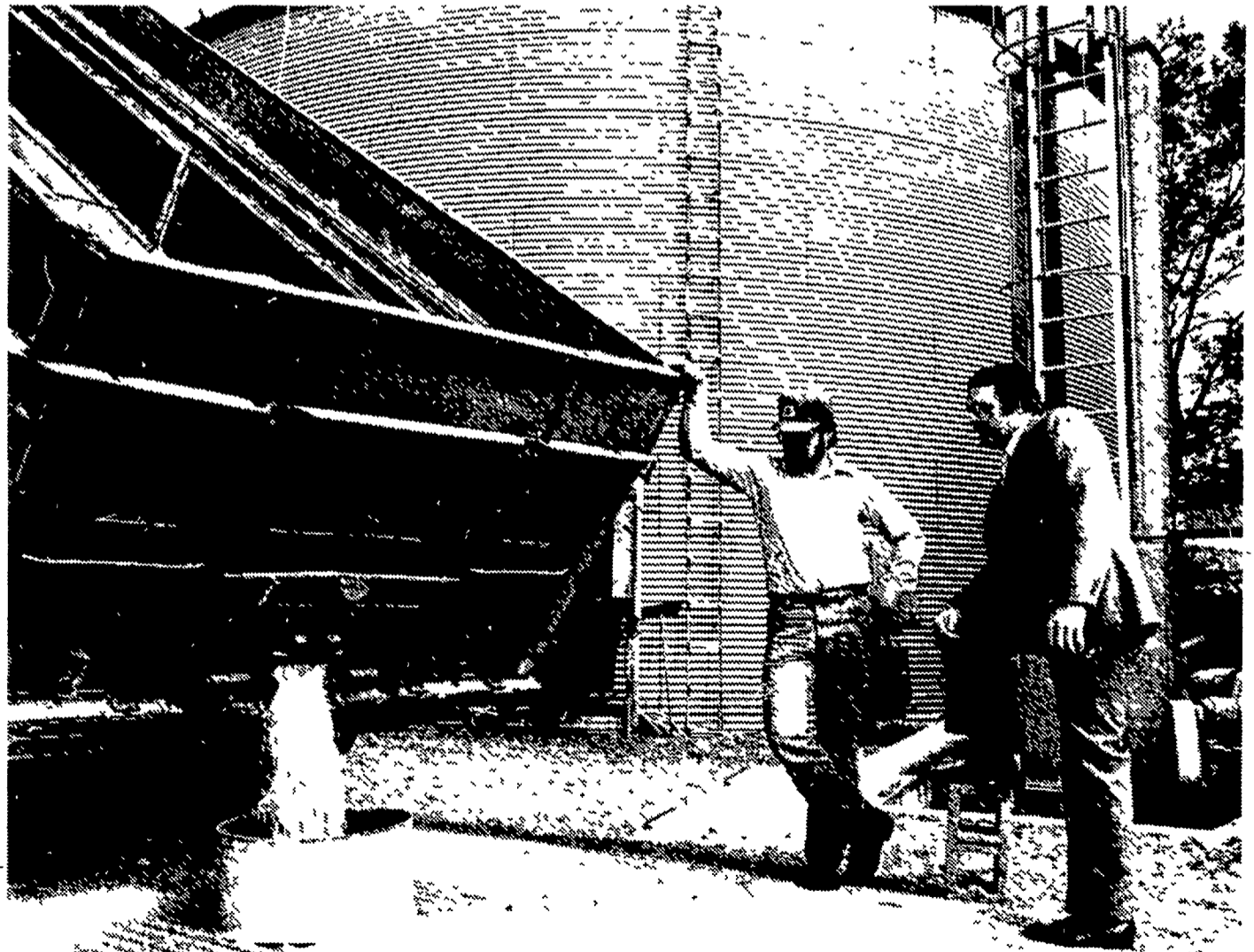
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Charles K. Nissley Farm, Washington Boro R.D. #1. C. Kenneth Nissley discussing the family grain operation with Gary L. Peters, Assistant Vice President and Manager, Columbia Office. The Nissleys raise corn and soybeans and have a crop spraying business.



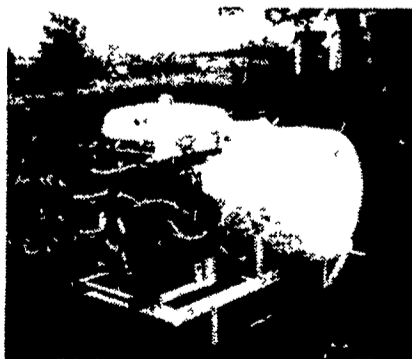
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