

Wild horse distribution center plans focus on Pa.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The south-central Pennsylvania/northern Maryland area has been selected as the locale of the first wild horse and burro distribution center in the Northeast.

Proposals will soon be accepted from individuals interested in establishing and operating the facility, announces the Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The center will receive regular shipments of wild horses and burros from public rangelands in the West, and shelter the animals until they are picked up by qualified adopters under BLM's Adopt-a-Horse Program.

"A distribution center in the south-central Pennsylvania/northern Maryland area will give residents of the Northeast their first chance to adopt a wild horse or burro without having to travel a long way to pick one up," said BLM Eastern States Director Roger L. Hildebeidel. "Right now, the only distribution point east of the Mississippi River is in Cross Plains, Tennessee, about thirty miles north of Nashville."

Parties interested in operating the new facility must be able to provide facilities and services to feed and maintain a minimum of 150 wild horses and burros at a time, to load the animals when adopters arrive to pick them up, and to handle the paperwork associated with the pickup of the animals. The adoptions, as well as

shipments of wild horses and burros from BLM corrals out West, will be arranged in advance by BLM; the contractor will not be responsible for recruiting or screening potential adopters.

"What we're looking for is someone with a knowledge of horses," Hildebeidel explained. "We need someone who cares about the animals, knows how to handle and feed them properly, and can deal with the public on a day-to-day basis."

Beginning on or about December 1, proposal information and sample contracts will be available from this address: Dick Cazier (D-553-B) Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 50, Bureau of Land Management, Denver, CO 80225, Telephone: 303/234-5866.

A tentative deadline for submitting proposals to BLM has been set for early February 1982.

To explain the whole program and answer questions about the contracting materials, BLM has arranged a pre-proposal conference in Harrisburg, on January 6. The meeting will be held in the Farm Show Building, Cameron and Maclay Streets, at 10 a.m. All interested parties are invited, and are urged to contact BLM for the contracting materials as soon as possible.

Hildebeidel described the Adopt-a-Horse program as "a partial solution to the problem of overpopulation among wild horses and burro herds on western public rangelands." Because they are

protected by law under the Wild free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971, the herds have expanded in many areas.

"They compete for very limited forage and water with both native wildlife and domestic livestock that graze on the public lands," Hildebeidel explained. "As a

means of maintaining a proper ecological balance, BLM rounds up excess wild horses and burros and makes them available for adoption."

With the new distribution center scheduled to open next May, BLM is encouraging interested people to

apply now to adopt a horse or burro. The limit is four animals per individual per year. For adoption applications and more information about the program, write: Adopt-a-Horse, Dept. 618J, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, CO 81009.

AFB's animal welfare movie wins bronze medal

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — The American Farm Bureau Federation has received a bronze medal at the 24th International Film and Television Festival of New York for the documentary, "Animal Welfare — The Farmers' Story."

The award was presented November 13, in New York City. Only a small percentage of the 4000 entries to this year's prestigious festival were recognized with an award.

"We are pleased to receive the

medal," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Robert Delano. "In this documentary, farmers and ranchers tell their own story about how modern animal agriculture is more efficient, provides a better, less expensive product for consumers, and a healthier life for farm animals. Many people do not realize this. They only see the meat, milk and eggs at the grocery store or on their table."

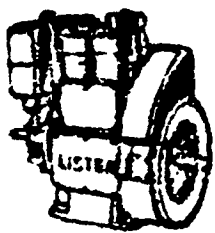
The half hour documentary was shot on videotape in Arkansas,

Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. It includes segments on the production of beef cattle, swine, veal calves, sheep, broilers, milk and eggs.

The documentary is available for purchase or rental through state Farm Bureaus or the American Farm Bureau Federation. The purchase price of a 16mm film is \$150 and ¼ inch videocassette, \$50. A one week rental is \$25 for the film and \$10 for a videocassette.

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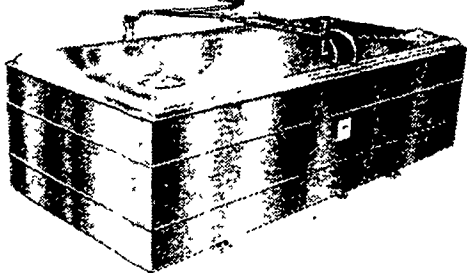
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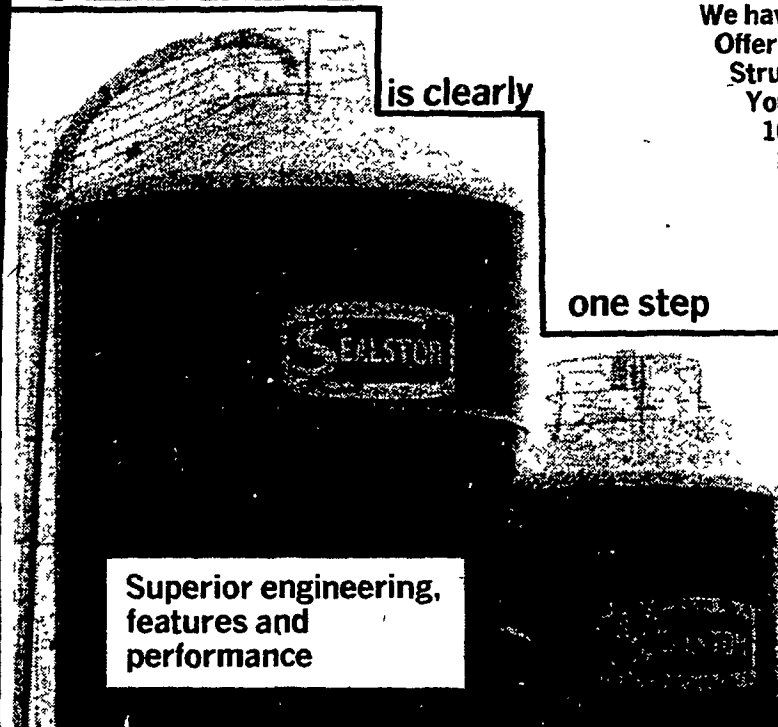
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