

Drug residues cause increased carcass condemnation

HARRISBURG — Livestock producers stand to lose both marketing power and dollars because of drug residues in calves being marketed into the food chain, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

"We recently became aware of an increasing problem with drug residues in calves," Hallowell said. "In the last three months alone, one Pennsylvania meat plant has condemned 260 calf carcasses due to drug residues found at slaughter."

"The federal meat inspector on the kill floor especially recognizes drug residues. A discoloration of the stomach is very apparent due to dyes used in the production of oral sulfa boluses which are administered to calves by livestock owners."

Livestock owners using sulfamethazine or sulfathiazole separately or in combination with neomycin for disease control in

newborn calves must observe the recommended drug withdrawal times before marketing calves. "Livestock producers are warned of their liability when these animals are moved into the food chain without proper precautions," Hallowell emphasized.

"It is illegal to market animals containing drug residues above the established Food and Drug Administration tolerances. Meat cannot be sold for human consumption if it contains residues above these tolerances," he said.

USDA estimates that between 10 and 30 percent of all cows showing specific disease conditions at the time of slaughter contain illegal levels of antibiotic residues. Two and one half million dairy cows are slaughtered in the United States each year.

Residue violations found at slaughter are investigated by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal

Industry and reported to the USDA-FSIS and FDA. The program is designed to stop violations and to educate livestock producers in the proper use of drugs as well as harmful effects if withdrawal times are abused.

When cull cows and calves are sent to market with drug residues, producers run a high risk of being detected. Packers will quickly learn which producers or dealers are marketing these animals, and may refuse to buy animals from those who have a history of violations, to minimize their chances of having carcasses condemned.

"I urge livestock producers across the Commonwealth to immediately review their use of drugs for disease prevention and treatment," Hallowell said. "First, consult your veterinarian to consider whether antibiotics should be used at all. If you decide drugs are required, know the proper procedure and insist it be

followed by all persons involved with treating your animals. Buy drugs from reputable suppliers and sell your animals only to reputable dealers.

"Complete and accurate records, proper use of drugs, marking and isolating treated animals, checking labels for correct withdrawal time for each drug you buy, whether you use it

for years or for the first time, good administration, and avoiding oral and injection 'double dosing' will all help prevent drug residues in meat," he said.

"Remember, safe meat—like safe milk—is your legal responsibility. Livestock producers must protect their investments or stand to lose markets for their slaughter animals."

Past LMA presidents to be honored

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The presidents of Livestock Marketing Association since the 1976 merger with the National Livestock Dealers Association will be honored at LMA's 1982 annual meetings.

The special awards ceremony will be held Friday, Jan. 15, at the

Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., site of the meetings.

Those honored will be 1976 President Frank E. 'Ed' Durbin, Moline, Kas.; 1977-78 President Loran Casey, Sidney, Mont.; 1979 President Richard L. Nock, Templeton, Cal.; 1980 President Gail Sohler, Yankton, S.D.; and current President Lemmy Wilson, Newport, Tenn.

In 1976, Competitive Livestock Marketing Association and the Dealers Association merged into what is now LMA. "This merger marked a major unification of the livestock marketing sector, and it is only fitting that the contributions that these men have made to the Trade Group's growth and success be publicly recognized," LMA General Manager C.T. 'Tad' Sanders said.

Today LMA provides industry representation and commercial services to some 1,700 marketing businesses of all types in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The ceremony will take place following the installation of LMA's 1982 officers and directors.

Following the ceremony, the five honorees will each lead a "President's Roundtable" discussion with meeting registrants on "Marketing Business Risks and Management."

Topics will include managing a marketing business in today's economic climate; opportunities facing the marketing sector and how best to pursue them, and the status of legislation affecting marketing.

The meetings schedule, which runs from Jan. 14-16, includes meetings of several of LMA's subsidiary and allied organizations, including the Livestock Laws Reform Commission, Livestock Merchandising Institute and the Livestock Marketing Council.

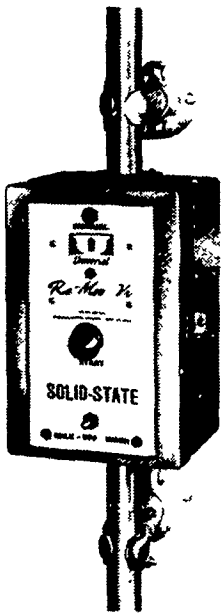
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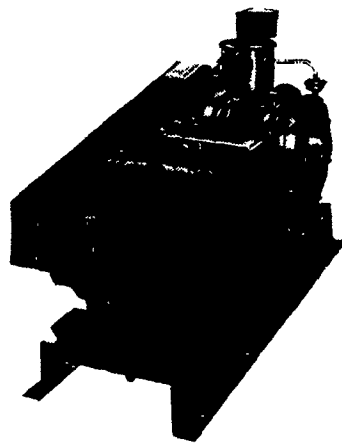
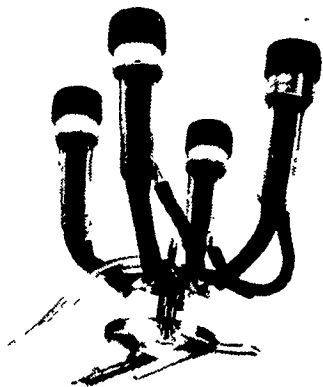
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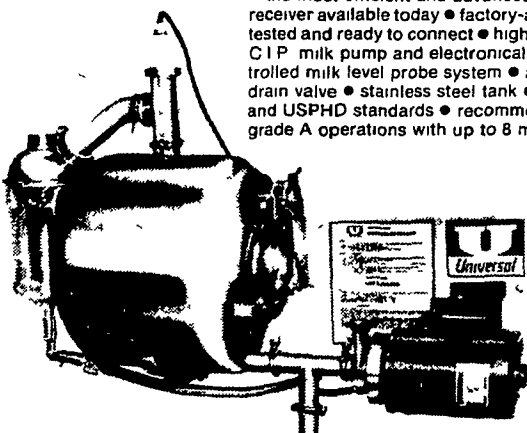


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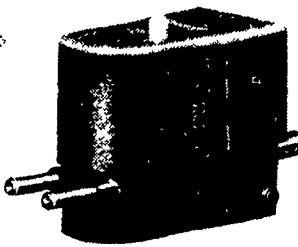
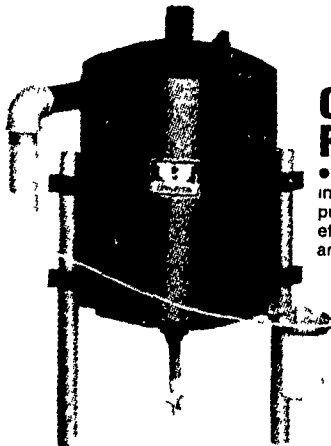
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