

USDA announces measures

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has adopted improved measures to prevent rejected meat and poultry imports from illegally entering U.S. commerce.

"Last spring, when we discovered some rejected product had entered the domestic marketplace, USDA immediately tightened procedures used in marking, controlling and re-exporting refused-entry product," said Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. "Today's interim rule formalizes and strengthens those procedures."

No illnesses have been reported in connection with the problem, he said.

Federal laws governing meat and poultry imports — jointly administered by USDA and the U.S. Customs Service — require any product that is refused entry to be either exported from the United States or destroyed for use as

human food, he said.

"For the most part, federal import inspection has worked well to protect the public from unacceptable meat and poultry products," Houston said. "Nonetheless, unscrupulous importers have been able to use cracks in the current system to divert refused-entry product into consumer food channels."

The interim rule amends the federal meat and poultry inspection regulations to prohibit:

- The application by USDA inspectors of U.S. "Inspected to Passed" markings on any product until Customs Service and USDA inspections are completed;

- The subdivision of lots of refused-entry products into smaller lots for separate disposition;

- The sale of refused-entry product except under special circumstances;

- The movement of refused-entry product from port to port

without full written information on the product's disposition; and

- the movement of any refused-entry product except under security seals.

Also, the rule extends from 30 days to 45 days the deadline for owners or consignees of such product to export or destroy it. Extensions can be granted only under extreme emergencies, Houston said.

If the requirements are not met, the secretary of agriculture is authorized to take appropriate actions to destroy the product, he said.

Public comments should be sent in duplicate by Oct. 18 to: FSIS hearing clerk, room 2637-S, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

Notice of this action was published in the Aug. 19 Federal Register. A background paper is available from FSIS Information, USDA, room 1160-S, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FARM EQUIPMENT

130 AMP Miller welder w/new engine, \$625. JD 830 or 820 rubber tire tractor wheels. JD engine, ideal for corn picker or hay crusher. Stephen L. Stoltzfus, R.D. 1, Box 62, Farmdale Rd., Kirkwood, PA 17536

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1980 AC 700 tractor, Cab, air, heat, AM-FM 8 track 550 hrs., excell. cond. Delivery available \$17,500. 717-437-2721

Bucket for Case 1500/1700 Uniloader T88568 potato bucket (31 cu. ft. capacity) with 2 counter weights, \$500. T & T SUPPLY, Danville, Pa., 717-275-0927

For Sale - NI #7 corn-picker, 2 J&M gravity bins, NH 271 baler, 2 new oak floor wagons, 2 new bale wagons, Farmall Super C. 215-562-4464

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JD 3020 power shift; Case 1210; Case 1030 Ck. Phone 301-582-1927

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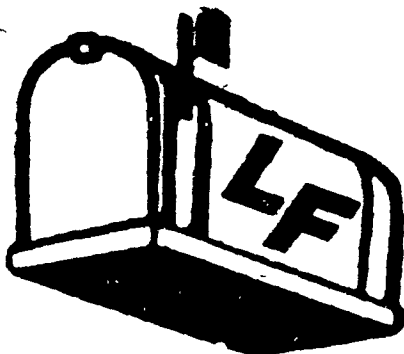
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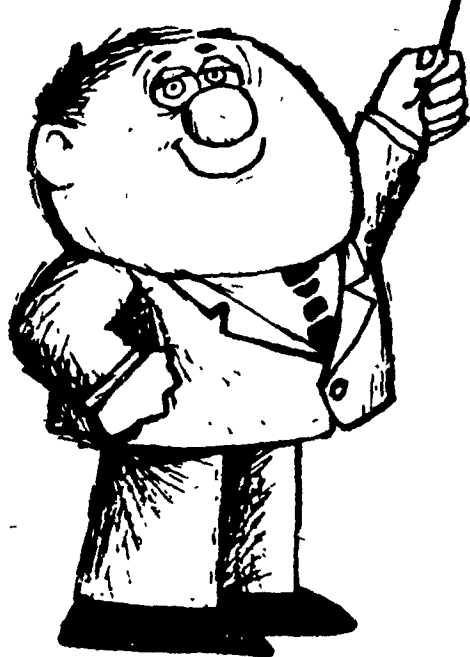
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