

USDA proposes changes to grain sampling regulation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to revise regulations to eliminate the requirement that diverter-type samplers be used for certain types of grain shipments.

If adopted, the proposal would allow the use of any sampling method approved by USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service for bulk or sacked grain inspected for domestic barge shipments and export railcar and truck shipments, and for sacked grain inspected for export cargo shipments. The diverter-type sampler would only be required for export cargo shipment of bulk grain.

"Under present regulations, beginning Jan. 1, 1983, a diverter-type mechanical sampler must be used on these kinds of grain shipments; otherwise, a statement must be included on the inspection certificate indicating the samples may not be as representative as those obtained with a diverter-type sampler," said Kenneth A. Gilles, administrator of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service.

The regulation, which becomes effective Jan. 1, 1983, is being reconsidered because USDA recently received numerous letters from grain merchandising companies and elevator operators who did not submit comments when the

regulation was initially proposed, Gilles said. These organizations and individuals would like another opportunity to review the regulation. The Federal Grain Inspection Agency Grain Advisory

Committee, at its July meeting, also endorsed a review of the regulation to allow for more comment from the grain industry.

Comments on the proposed revision should be sent, in duplicate, by Oct. 28 to Lewis

Lebakken, Jr., Regulations and Directives Management, USDA, FGIS, room 1636-S, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone 202/382-0231.

The proposal was published in the Sept. 28 Federal Register.

Wild corn lends blight-resistance to crops

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wild corn from Central America will help Midwest corn crops resist such diseases as the southern leaf blight which struck the Corn Belt in 1970, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said recently.

That blight 12 years ago pointed up the danger of planting a narrow genetic base of hybrid crops vulnerable to diseases. Now, plant research is borrowing the disease

resistance in wild corn to counter the danger, said Herman L. Warren, a plant pathologist for USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

What is coming from this basic research are what Warren calls "breeding lines" — a type of corn not sold in markets, but which corn breeders rely on to upgrade already available lines of corn.

Germplasm, which carries

valuable genetic traits such as disease resistance, is passed along from the breeding line to the new corn.

Now, after 10 years of research, Warren and Purdue University scientists at West Lafayette, Ind., have developed two new breeding lines. Warren said the lines possess "multiple disease resistance" to viruses, blight and other damaging pathogens commonly found in the

Corn Belt.

According to Mary E. Carter, acting administrator of the Agricultural Research Service, the new lines will "help corn breeders increase the genetic diversity of corn grown in this country."

Carter said the two lines continue "to expand the inventory from which replacements for current, widely grown corn

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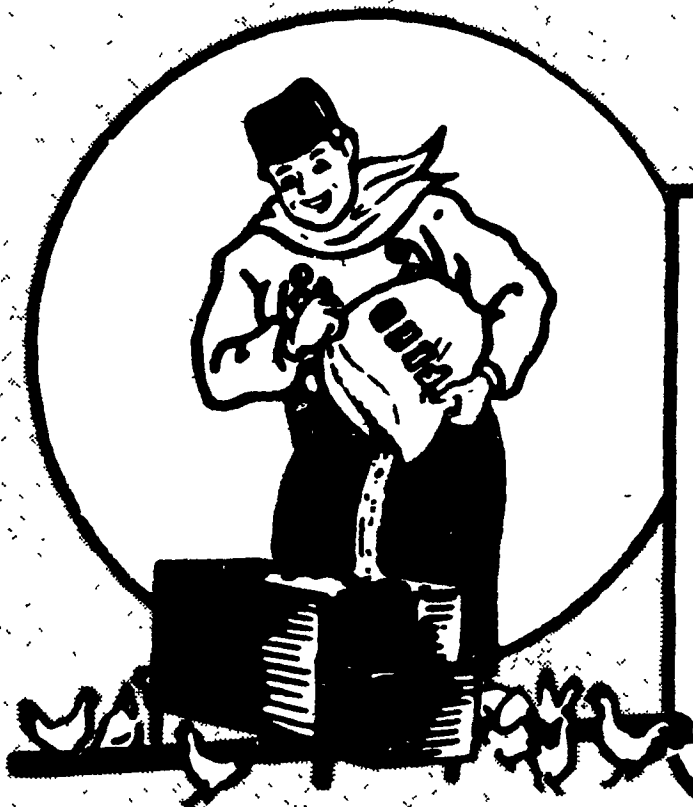
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