USDA reclassifies chem. agents as "non food"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Certain chemicals added to the water used in processing cans of meat and poultry product are now classified as nonfood compounds rather than food additivies under a new rule U.S. Department of Agriculture

According to Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, processors add chemicals to cooking and cooling water to

formation on processing equipment. These problems occur when minerals and oxygen in the water react with metal, Houston said.

"Because there is no evidence that these chemical agents actually become components of food, and because the Food and Drug Administration does not classify them as food additives, USDA is reclassifying them as nonfood

prevent staining of the cans and to substances," he said. "The change control corrosion and deposit will allow a wider variety of chemical agents to be approved for this purpose, and this added flexibility will result in cost savings for industry and consumers."

By law, USDA must approve all food additives and nonfood compounds used in processing meat and poultry. However, food additivies must first receive approval from the Food and Drug

Administration. Houston said the revised regulation will reconcile regulatory differences between USDA and FDA in the classification of these substances.

USDA will continue its monitoring and approval program to ensure the safe use of water treatments and other nonfood compounds in federally inspected plants.

This action was proposed Aug. 3, 1982. Three public comments were

submitted, each fully supporting the proposal. Notice of the final action was published in the Feb. 10 Federal Register.

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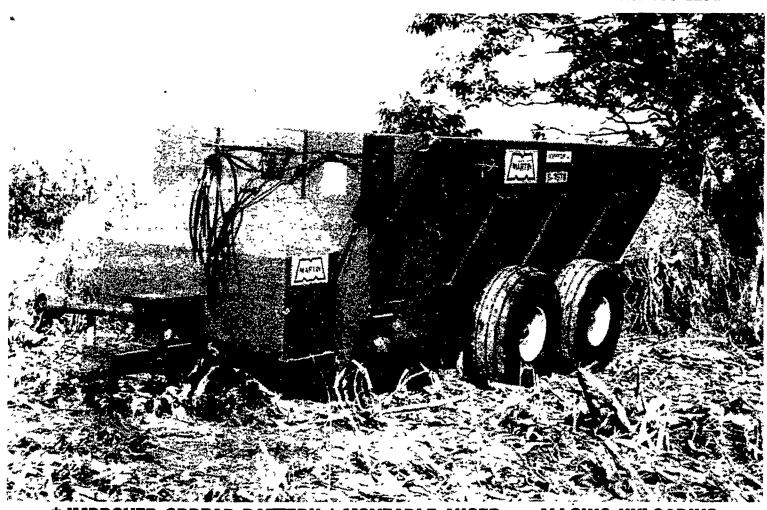


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