

# National Ag Forum being organized

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The board of directors of the Agriculture Council of America has voted to coordinate the formation and operation of a National Agricultural Forum to develop and refine alternative approaches to public policies affecting agriculture, according to Chairman Adrian J. Polansky, a Belleville, Kan., crop and livestock producer.

The Forum concept, part of a five-year plan for the organization approved by its directors in September 1982, has been reviewed and honed over the past five months in meetings between directors and interested members of Congress, representatives of various organizations and corporations and the general agricultural public.

An ad hoc advisory committee of representatives from all sectors of agriculture had been formed in March to assess those exploratory talks and report its recommendations to an open session in Kansas City on May 9-10, at which those proposals were thoroughly discussed.

Following that conference's conclusion on May 10, the ACA directors met for about three hours. Among their unanimous decisions were:

— Approval of the formation of a National Agricultural Forum the purpose of which would be "to aid in the development of sound public policy by providing a common arena in which all interested parties can contribute their knowledge and experience in defining feasible alternative approaches to agricultural issues of national importance."

— To ask the members of the ad hoc advisory committee who made

the basic recommendations to serve for a period of up to one year as the initial Trustees of the National Agricultural Forum and to select, from among their number, moderators who would rotate at each meeting.

— Agreement to have coordination and fiduciary responsibility rest in the ACA Education Foundation, under the terms of a draft Definition of Relationship. This document, to be presented to the Forum trustees later this month, describes the Forum as "an informally structured body with an independent identity but without a formal legal existence of its own."

— To ask U.S. Reps. Charles W. Stenholm, D-Tex., and Pat Roberts, R-Kan., to serve as "honorary trustees" of the Forum, joining in this position other elected or appointed public officials, at the invitation of the Trustees. Stenholm and Roberts,

who moderated the first day of the Kansas City conference, were highly active in the exploratory process initiated after the Forum concept was approved by the ACA board last fall.

— A recommendation that national trade policy alternatives be pursued as soon as possible, with plans developed for producing alternatives in the domestic-policy area in time to be useful to the 1985 farm-bill discussions.

The initial bases for discussion in reaching alternatives would be papers drafted by task forces representative of all agricultural interests, but especially producers. These would be refined through discussions by state agricultural forums and similar loosely knit groups of academic experts, agribusiness executives, association representatives and the recently formed Congressional Agricultural Forum.

## Hog loading made easier

NEWARK, DEL. — Pigs can see behind themselves without turning their heads. They balk at shadows, bright spots, puddles, a change in flooring, and at people ahead of them. Such behavior adds to the frustration of loading these hefty, nimbly-footed rascals. But, says University of Delaware extension livestock specialist Richard Fowler, applying some psychology can help prevent a pile of hogs wedged at the bottom of a loading chute.

"Pigs have a strong flight reaction," he says. "When prodded, a hog will try to escape by moving forward or running back

into the herd. Hogs will follow the leader and maintain visual and physical contact with each other. They have a strong desire to return to a previous location."

Fowler says lighting conditions at the loading ramp or sorting chute affect the incidence of balking. Hogs handled under artificial light will move more readily from a dark to a light area.

Those raised in confinement under artificial light are often hard to move, the specialist says. They're likely to balk at bright sunlight. An enclosed ramp makes it easier to handle these swine. If a covered ramp isn't available,

covering an open one with plywood and canvas often will improve the flow of hogs. The outer sides of the chute and crowding areas should be solid, he says.

"Hogs are easiest to move when two single file chutes with a see-through partition are located side by side," says Fowler. "Loading ramps shouldn't have more than a 25-degree slope."

He suggests producers contact their local extension office and request plans for hog handling or loading facilities. The information could help make the job of moving pigs much less frustrating.

### MAILBOX MARKET

For Sale - Old barn beams, different sizes, & old siding. York Co. 717-432-2582.

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For Sale - Super NH 717 chopper w/2 row corn head w/hay pick-up. A1 cond Also JD blower. Chester Co. 215-399-0418.

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For Sale - 5 Patz metal bunk frames & ends with 48" of trough \$395. Lanc. Co. 717-548-2559.

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Notice - To the man that wrote about 18 can cooler please write again. David Yoder, Rt. 1, Box 55, Meyersdale, Pa. 15552.

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For Sale - Buck egg room cooler \$100 6" Cardinal auger 10' long w/1 hp motor \$125. Lanc. Co. 215-267-7014.

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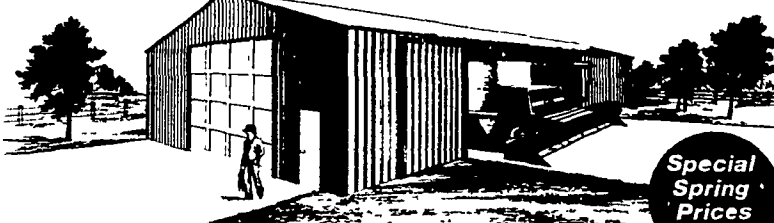


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## Rendering plants exempt

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rendering plants will be exempt from animal health regulations governing treatment of food wastes fed to swine, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

USDA licenses processors who treat food wastes fed to swine, but has no need to license or inspect renderers since their normal processes exceed USDA standards, according to John K. Atwell, deputy ad-

ministrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Under the Swine Health Protection Act, food wastes fed to swine must be treated to destroy any disease organisms. Regulations require boiling at 212 degrees Fahrenheit for a minimum of one-half hour.

"Rendered products such as bone meal, animal protein meals, grease and tallow are produced by cooking food wastes at 230 degrees Fahrenheit or higher," Atwell said. "Rendering plants usually are licensed by states, and rendered products are under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration."

This amendment to the swine health protection regulations was scheduled to be published in the May 18 Federal Register.

