

USDA proposes lawn seed changes

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed changes in Federal Seed Act regulations for lawn and turf seed mixture that would allow longer periods between germination tests and shipment of certain seed.

A hearing on the proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 30, in room 2006-S, of the USDA's South Building, Washington, D.C.

Thomas H. Porter, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposed revision would bring the regulations into line with changes made in the Federal Seed Act last January. The act is a truth-in-labeling law to protect farmers and consumers who buy seed.

The proposal would require labeling that lists each component of a seed mixture in order of predominance. It would eliminate the requirement that lawn and turf seed mixtures shipped in 50-pound

or smaller containers be labeled either fine-textured or coarse-kinds. Because of the development of improved varieties of grass seed, Porter said, it has become virtually impossible to distinguish between these categories.

Only the month and year of the oldest test date among the component tests would be required on the seed label.

Porter said the proposed time allowed between germination tests and shipment of seed would be extended from five to 15 months for certain lawn and turf seed because current information indicates that these grasses maintain germination qualities beyond 15 months.

The proposed changes apply to Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Chewings fescue, Hard fescue, Red fescue, Tall fescue, annual ryegrass and perennial ryegrass.

The hearing on the proposal will begin at 9 a.m. People who want to

appear at the hearing to present oral or written views may do so. Written comments must be received by Oct. 4.

Further information on the

proposal, which is scheduled to be published in the Aug. 4 Federal Register, can be obtained from Donald W. Ator, rm. 2603-S, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

(202) 447-9340.

Comments should be sent in duplicate to the Hearing Clerk, USDA, rm. 1077-S, Washington, D.C. 20250, where anyone may see them.

Seed inspection changes proposed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The public has until Oct. 4 to comment on a U.S. Department of Agriculture proposal to change regulations for the inspection and certification of the quality of agricultural and vegetable seed.

Thomas H. Porter, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service said the proposal authorizes a new system of lot inspection in which official sampling and sealing can be done by cooperating states. It also would allow a \$10.20 increase in fees charged for inspection and certification of seed.

Porter said the inspection and certification program is conducted

under the Agricultural Marketing Act on a voluntary, fee-for-service basis and fees equal to operating costs must be collected for the service. Porter said the increase in fees to \$23.40 is necessary to meet today's operating costs. The current fee of \$13.20 was established in 1974.

The new system of lot inspection is an effort to provide this service at the lowest cost possible. Actual testing of the seed still would be done at AMS' Federal Seed Laboratory in Beltsville, Md.

The proposal simplifies the regulations by removing cross references to other regulations, Porter said, and therefore should

be easier for the public to use.

Many of the provisions contained in the proposal are similar to those in existing regulations, he said.

The proposal will be published in the Aug. 4 Federal Register. Comments should be sent to Donald W. Ator, chief, Seed Branch, rm. 2603-S, LMG&S, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 447-9340.

MILK MARKET NEWS

Order No. 4 Base Milk Price
\$13.74 for July

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine on August 9, announced a July 1983 base milk price of \$13.74 per hundredweight and an excess milk price of \$12.41. The weighted average July price is \$13.76 and the butterfat differential for the month is 16.9 cents. The base milk price is up 4 cents from June and is 6 cents higher than last July's price.

The advertising withholding rate, which is deducted from the base and excess milk prices but not the weighted average price, was 14 cents a hundredweight. A total of \$715.8 thousand was deducted for advertising in July, up from \$693.2 thousand last year.

The gross value of July producer milk was \$70.3 million, compared to \$67.7 million last year.

Mr. Shine said that producer milk receipts totaled 511.3 million pounds during July, an increase of

over 16 million pounds or 3.3 percent from a year earlier. The average daily delivery per producer was 2,355 pounds, up 142 pounds or 6.4 percent from the July 1982 average.

Class I producer milk totaled 223.0 million pounds and was up 3.5 million pounds from a year ago. Class I producer milk accounted for 43.62 percent of total producer milk receipts during the month, down from 44.33 percent last July.

Base milk accounted for 91.55 percent of total producer milk receipts in July compared to 92.29 percent a year ago.

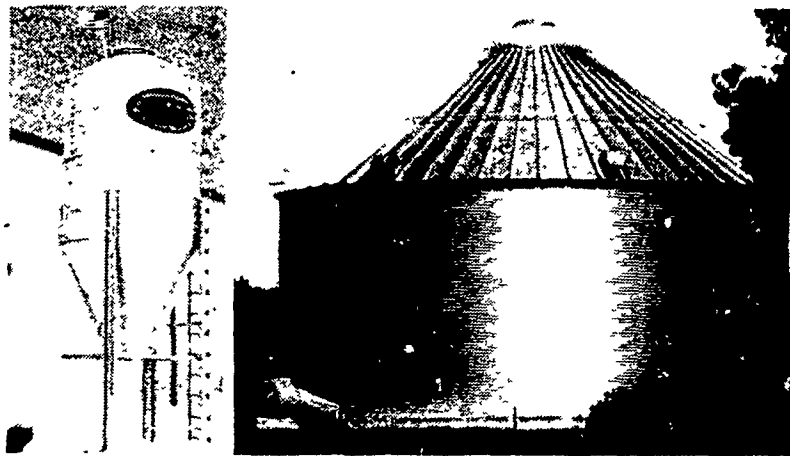
The market average butterfat test of producer milk was 3.44 percent in July 1983 and 3.50 percent a year ago.

Middle Atlantic Order pool handlers reported Class I in-area milk sales of 188.2 million pounds during July, an increase of 1.8 percent over a year earlier, after adjustment to eliminate variation due to calendar composition.

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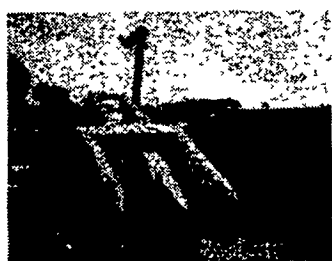
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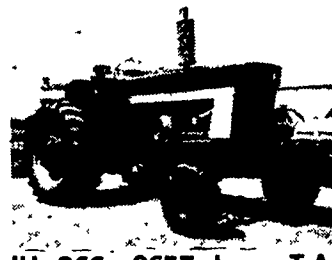
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