

Independent egg producer

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Master, vowed that efforts would be pushed on both the state and federal levels to attempt to get some help.

Wisner listed a number of things that could and should be done:

— Pennsylvania take action immediately against foreign investment and the federal government change tax laws that permit corporate investment as a tax shelter.

— Eggs and poultry be included in the Packers and Stockyards Act to force prompt payment to producers.

— Eggs be included in the Farm Commodities Agreement Act so that supply-management referendums can be held.

— Pennsylvania pass stricter laws protecting egg producers and other farm commodity producers.

— Government grain be made available to poultry producers and other livestock producers at the \$2.91 support price and not the PIK and drought-inflated market price.

— The Farmers Home Administration make lower interest loans available to poultry producers with 200,000 birds or less.

— Electric rates, which increased "unmercifully" for poultry operations, be rolled back for the remainder of 1983 and the first nine months of 1984. Wisner pointed directly to the Adams County Rural Electric Co-op.

Foreign investment — Japanese and West German primarily — was cited by the independent egg producers as a primary factor in their plight.

Foreign investment is putting new birds in faster than the independent producer is going broke, it was explained.

Japanese auto money was cited as behind the installation of some 15 million birds in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. And, of course, there's the huge West German complex in Ohio. Adams County has a West German installation, too.

These foreign investors only need to make money in six out of their first 12 years, the egg producers maintained.

"Independent producers all over the country want supply management," Jay Greider said.

"But if a decision is not made soon, the foreign investors will be able to control the vote if referendums are conducted on the number of birds owned."

"Independent egg producers are on the edge and if the banks don't continue to carry them, you're going to see a lot of bankruptcies."

John Hoffman, executive director of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, questioned the need for putting poultry under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

He said he knew of only one processor contract for birds — Mandata — that didn't include time limits for payment. (Mandata recently declared bankruptcy.)

"I'll show a half-dozen different contracts that don't have any time limits for payment," replied Jim Aurand, of Lewistown.

But, in any event, if birds are included in the Packers and Stockyards Act (and it's questioned how well it is enforced),

eggs are not.

Dorothy Sterner and Wisner directly challenged the attending legislators and Ag Sec. Hallowell to get the legislature to limit foreign investment in the egg industry.

State law now prohibits foreign investors from owning more than 100 acres of farmland. But that requirement is meaningless when you're talking about putting up huge egg complexes, the producers pointed out.

"We need to get that act amended now," Wisner said.

Pennsylvania was called the last stronghold of the independent family farm egg producer.

And, the producers point out, it may end up being just that — the last.

Cattle chemical patented

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new type of chemical that will control scabies in U.S. cattle — with no apparent harmful side-effects — is being patented by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

The new chemicals are dialkyl carbamates and thiocarbamates, according to USDA chemist Jan Kochansky, speaking at the American Chemical Society meeting.

"This new type of cattle dip is less toxic to animals than the pesticide toxaphene commonly used to eliminate scabies," reported Kochansky of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

Ranchers may still use toxaphene as a dip for cattle with scabies. But toxaphene has been withdrawn from most other uses because the Environmental Protection Agency has found its risks to human health, and to the environment and wildlife, outweigh its benefits.

The cost of scabies to the U.S. cattle industry is about \$60 million a year, including both the cost of treating cattle with miticides and the loss in market value of infected cattle. Since October 1, 1982, there have been 102 outbreaks of the disease in 11 States according to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).



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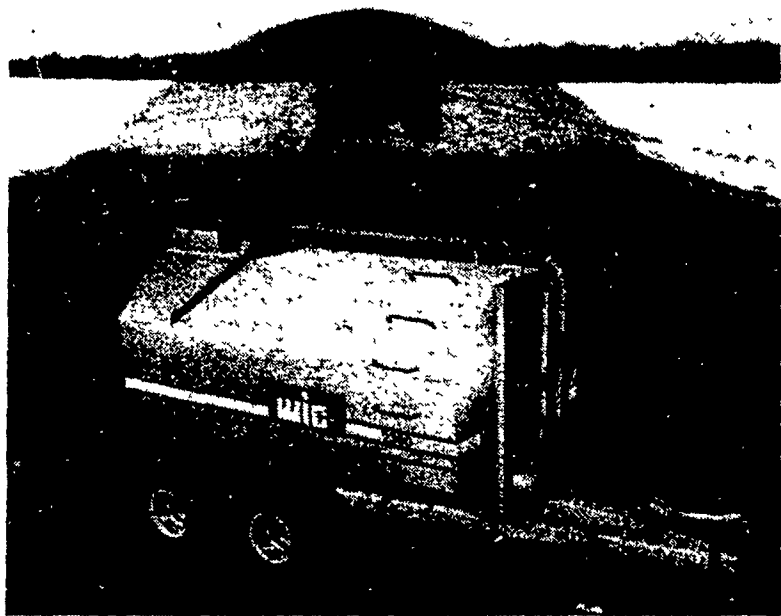
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