

Chick sale discouraged

HARRISBURG — Decorating eggs is a time-honored Easter tradition enjoyed by many Pennsylvanians. However, another

Easter-time occurrence — the dye coloring of baby chicks and ducklings — is neither honored nor within the law, according to State

Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

"The Pennsylvania Criminal Code prohibits the coloring, dyeing or staining of baby chicks or ducklings for sale of pets," Hallowell said, noting that the law provides animal cruelty charges and fines for violators. "The moratorium on the sale of birds at livestock auctions remains in effect, and we are asking retailers to honor this moratorium.

"While we have taken great strides in controlling avian influenza, the possibility of infection or spread through such sales remains, and the Department will take action to prevent any further spread," he said. The disease has claimed 11.6 million chickens and turkeys in southcentral Pennsylvania. Avian influenza does not affect humans.

In a related matter, Hallowell said that 202 checks totaling \$1,118,548 have been mailed to

reimburse farmers for losses associated with the avian influenza outbreak. A total of 198 farmers have received \$804,766 for cleaning and disinfection of their operations following depopulation of their flocks. Another 24 checks were mailed to flock owners as indemnity payments for birds which died without federal indemnity payments. Additional applications are being received and processed daily to compensate farmers for cleaning and disinfection expenses.

Omaha Weekly

Slaughter steer and heifer prices closed 50-1.00 lower at midweek as dressed beef prices trended lower. Demand generally good as wet weather continues to slow movement from the direct feedlots due to muddy road conditions. Mud continues to be a problem on cattle, nearly all offerings showed varying degrees, and buyers generally discounted their bids accordingly. Slaughter cows 1.00-2.00 higher. Slaughter bulls steady.

Estimated 5 day receipts 11700, actuals last week 9600 and 12500 last year. Steers comprised 52 pct of the week's receipts, heifers 26 pct, cows 9 pct, feeders 11 pct.

SLAUGHTER STEERS: On the close, scattered loads and lots choice 2-4 1050-1300 lbs. 68.00-69.25. Muddy lots to 66.00. Mixed good and choice 2-3 1000-1150 lbs. 66.50-68.50. Good 64.00-67.00.

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: Scattered loads and lots choice 2-4 950-1125 lbs. 65.50-67.00. Muddy lots noted to 64.00. Mixed good and choice 2-3 900-1025 lbs. 64.50-66.00. Good 61.00-64.50.

Average of IS-214 detailed quotations for choice 900-1100 lb. steers 68.15, 1100-1300 lbs. 69.60. Average cost steers this week 68.26, average weight 1145 lbs. as compared to 67.51 and 1148 lbs. last week. Average cost heifers this week 66.14, average weight 1001

lbs. as compared to 65.66 and 1016 lbs. last week.

SLAUGHTER COWS: Breaking utility and commercial 2-3 42.00-46.50, high dressing to 48.25. Cutter and boning utility 1-2 39.00-43.50, high dressing to 46.50. Canner and low cutter 36.75-43.00, mostly 39.00-42.00, few lightweights to 35.50.

SLAUGHTER BULLS: 1-2 1100-1800 lbs. 48.00-55.00.

Joliet Weekly

CATTLE: Friday through Wednesday's salable receipts 2,300; 5 days last week 1,115; Same period a year ago 2222. Trading slow for the week. Slaughter steers ended the week steady to 1.00, instances 1.50 lower compared with Wednesday of last week. Slaughter steers ended the week 50 to 1.00 lower. Cows ended the week steady.

SLAUGHTER STEERS: Choice few Prime 3-4 1250-1470# 69.50-71.50 Monday. Choice 2-4 1050-1300# 68.00-70.00, 67.50-68.50 Wednesday. Mixed good and choice 2-3 950-1250# 66.50-68.00 Monday; 65.50-67.00 Wednesday.

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: Choice 2-4 925-1150# 66.50-68.50 Monday; 65.50-67.00 Wednesday. Mixed good and choice 2-3 850-1050# 64.00-66.50 Monday; 63.00-65.50 Wednesday.

COWS: Cutter and boning utility 1-2 few 43.50 Monday. Canner and low cutter 1-2 38.00-42.00.



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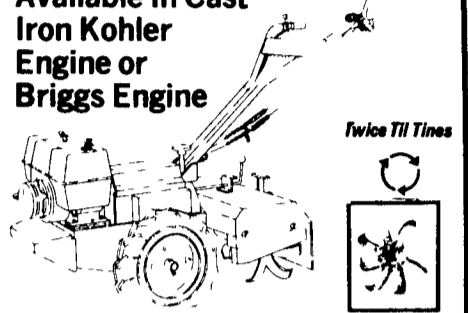
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