

USDA acts on recommendations of avian flu committee

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept most of the recommendations of a scientific committee appointed to review avian influenza eradication efforts, Assistant Secretary C.W. McMillan said today.

"USDA endorses the committee's stand opposing the use of

vaccination in the quarantined areas," McMillan said. "We have not used vaccine and will not do so in the future."

"USDA supports more stringent security to keep the virus from spreading beyond the quarantined area, and better sanitation education. And we feel there should be more research on the

nature of the virus causing the disease," McMillan said.

"However, we haven't yet made a decision on the committee's recommendation that producers be permitted to market some birds from recovered flocks," he said. "We need to see what impact this would have on our over-all eradication program."

USDA appointed the committee as part of a request by Virginia poultry industry representatives to look for alternatives to destroying flocks found infected with avian influenza.

"While the committee's review and recommendations were based primarily on data from Virginia, USDA must carry out an eradication program that is uniform in both Virginia and Pennsylvania," McMillan said.

Research has shown that the virus in both states is genetically identical, even though death losses have been higher in Pennsylvania, McMillan said.

He said USDA also will consider several other committee recommendations including a request to shorten the waiting period for restocking infected premises following cleaning and disinfection.

"As temperatures get warmer it may well be that we can reduce this time," McMillan said. "We'll

base our decision on the results of tests monitoring the environment for the virus."

Other committee recommendations USDA will accept include:

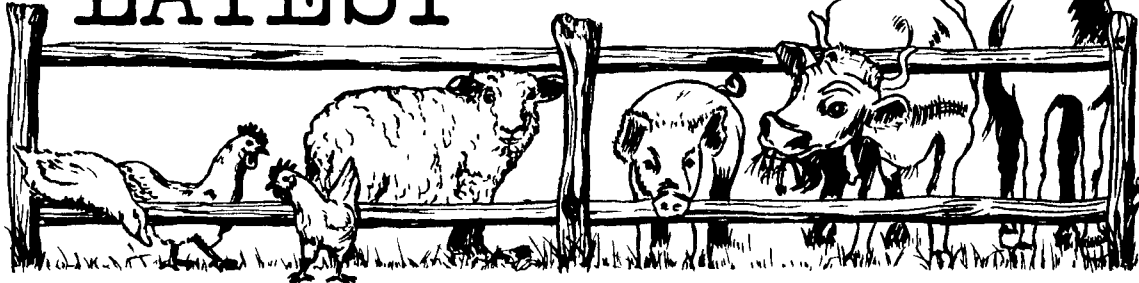
- Retaining the present criteria for release of areas from quarantine and

- Keeping the present requirement that no live birds be permitted to leave quarantined areas.

Committee members, who are scientific experts from academia, government and industry, complemented the state-federal-industry task forces that have been fighting the outbreak of avian influenza. Over 13 million birds on 35 premises have been destroyed to stop the spread of the disease. Indemnities now total \$30.4 million.

While avian influenza can cause devastating losses among poultry, the virus does not affect humans," McMillan said.

LIVESTOCK LATEST



Centre County hosts second annual Club Pig and Lamb Sale

CENTRE HALL — The second annual Centre County Club Pig and Lamb Sale was held recently in Centre Hall. This sale featured consignors from across Pennsylvania.

The high selling pen of pigs was consigned by John Strawbridge of Stewartstown. This pen included the high selling single feeder pig which sold for \$225 to Kenneth Wetzel of Rossiter, PA.

The other buyers of this pen of pigs included: Ken Wetzel at \$205, Margaret Herr of Narvon for \$135, and Harry Bachman of Annville, two head at \$120 each.

The second highest selling individual pig was a Hampshire consigned by John Strawbridge of Stewartstown which sold to Kama Homan of Centre Hall for \$210.

The high selling Duroc pig was consigned by Clyde McConaughy of Smicksburg and sold to Jack Decker of Centre Hall for \$155.

The High selling Yorkshire was also a Strawbridge consignment and sold to Ken Wetzel for \$145.

Christy Burns of Warriors Mark purchased the top selling Berkshire for \$145 which was consigned by Kenneth Fetterhoff and Gary Homan.

The high selling Spotted pig was consigned by Gary Homan and sold for \$135 to Donna Dietrich of Bellefonte.

The volume buyer in the pig sale was Warren Heisey of Elizabethtown who took home 10 head.

In the lamb sale, Craig Fleck of Centre Hall purchased the top two lambs at \$85 and \$80 respectively. This pair of show prospects were consigned by Dave Harpster of Centre Hall.

Other lamb buyers included Brian Barkley of Manns Choice who purchased a Pete LeVan consignment for \$70, Tracy

Kauffman of Reinholds who purchased a Dirk Wise consignment for \$65, and Linda Rudy of Pennsylvania Furnace who purchased a lamb consigned by Ned Kocher for \$65.

The sale totals showed an average of \$93.50 on 66 head of feeder pigs, and \$54 on 33 club lambs.

This sale was organized by Kenneth Fetterhoff and Dave Harpster of Centre country. It is becoming more popular each year, showing buyers from eight counties this year. Plans to continue this as an annual event are being finalized.

Other consignors include: Charles Hall, Julian; Greg Innerest, Red Lion; Scott Hummel, Sunbury; Joyce Harpster, Boalsburg; Bill Hoffman, Penna. Furnace; Dave Decker, Centre Hall; and Dick Todd, Centre county.



Limousin launches Awards of Excellence program

DENVER, Colo. — The North American Limousin Junior Association (NALJA) has announced that it has finalized an achievement program to honor outstanding young people in the Limousin breed.

The program is called the NALJA Awards of Excellence, and the first recipients of the \$750 cash awards will be announced at the Limousin National Junior Heifer Show in Rapid City, S.D. on Aug. 7.

NALJA members between the ages of 19 and 21 (as of Jan. 1, 1984) are eligible to apply for the Awards of Excellence. Selection will be based on "hands on" experience with

Limousin, leadership and involvement in Limousin activities and other organizations, and the applicant's ability to set and achieve worthy career goals.

Applicants must complete and submit an extensive application form before July 9. Finalists will be selected based on the written application, and each finalist must attend an oral interview to be scheduled during the week of the national heifer show in Rapid City.

Anyone interested in applying for this award should call Laura Smith at the Limousin office, (303) 296-8835, and request an application form.

Haygood to judge Limousin show

DENVER, Colo. — The North American Limousin Foundation has announced that Wayne Haygood of Canadian, Texas will judge its national junior heifer show on Aug. 7 in Rapid City, S.D.

Haygood has judged numerous cattle shows, including the International Prado Show in Montevideo, Uruguay and most of the major Hereford and Polled Hereford shows in this country. He judged the Limousin National Sale Show in 1983 in Denver.

Haygood, the owner of Indian Mound Ranch, has been very active in the American Hereford Association, having served as its

president and on the board of directors. He was the president of Hereford Publications Inc. for two years, and currently serves on the executive committee of the Texas Hereford Association board of directors. He is also currently on the board of directors for the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show.

In 1982, Haygood was honored as a Graduate of Distinction of Oklahoma State University for his accomplishments as a leader in beef cattle organizations and as a Hereford seedstock producer. Haygood holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from the university.



Egg industry adjusts to price change

UNIVERSITY PARK — Once again the egg industry, from January through April, demonstrated how rapidly it can adjust to high prices after a long, drawn-out adjustment to low prices. High egg prices in December and January encouraged producers to keep layers in production for longer intervals either with or without force molting. Some producers who force molt layers every year delayed force molting while prices were well above the cost of production. Others timed force molting so the layers would be back in production before the expected pre-Easter price increase. On April 1, there were about one percent more layers on farms.

In states where a relatively high proportion of the layers on farms are force molted, year after year, short-run changes in output can be achieved by shifting the date layers will be force molted. When this occurs, total egg production changes within a specific period while the number of layers on farms may not change.

In California, there were three percent more layers on farms in February, but production increased five percent. In March, there were four percent more layers on farms and production decreased two percent.

The relationship of percent increase in egg production to percent change in the number of layers on

farms varied considerably among states for the three-month period of December through February.

The rates of lay among states in February 1984 ranged from 3 percent above to about 8 percent below rates in February 1983. The percentage change in number of layers on farms and eggs produced in the United States was about the same in February as in December and January. There was a greater change in some states than in others. This meant reshifting movement of eggs from those areas which increased to those which decreased output in February. Some of the change in February in the South and Midwest can be attributed to the recovery of flocks from the adverse affects of the extreme cold weather in December and January. In March, price strength could also be attributed to building inventories for Easter.

On April 1, about 14 million more force-molted layers were on U.S. farms. This is reflected in the reduced number of layers processed under federal inspection through mid-April this year. The additional force molted layers were more than 1.2 times the number of laying hens depopulated in Pennsylvania through March 1983. Perhaps the chief reason the U.S. flock is not more than one percent above a year earlier on April 1 is the required down time for completing sanitizing facilities,

with no positive tests before laying houses can be repopulated in Pennsylvania.

This holds back expansion of the nation's laying flock. As the rest of the houses where flocks were depopulated are repopulated, the egg situation will become less favorable. Pullets available for housing in June through August could average over 10 percent above a year earlier. The number of layers on farms in March was less than one-half percent below a year earlier. Egg production could equal a year earlier in April and May unless proportionately more hens than a year earlier are removed from the nations laying flocks.

Unless a sizeable proportion of the force-molted layers are marketed, the industry could be in trouble by summer. Will the industry exercise restraint? It hasn't in the past. Remember, in the past, prices well above cost of production have been short lived; below cost much longer.

