

## USDA sets criteria for releasing avian flu quarantine

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has set specific standards for releasing areas in Pennsylvania and Virginia from existing state-federal quarantines for avian influenza, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture C.W. McMillan said today.

The standards are:

- All premises where positive cases of avian influenza were identified will not be released until at least 30 days after proper cleaning and disinfection. The determination that infection was present can be based on virus isolation, clinical signs in the flock, antibodies, or other relevant information uncovered by the eradication task force.

- All known exposures related to flocks infected with avian influenza must have been traced and fully evaluated.

- An investigation must have been completed covering all cases of disease in poultry that could be due to avian influenza traceable to the 1983 outbreak in Pennsylvania. All such cases must have been found negative.

McMillan said the standards were developed by a group of internationally recognized experts in avian influenza and other poultry diseases who have been advising USDA since the disease was first discovered to be a serious threat to the poultry industry late last fall.

The group also recommended that surveillance for any sign of avian influenza should continue a minimum of six months after any quarantine is lifted.

"We've made great progress in

eliminating the threat of this deadly disease," McMillan said. "We're now concerned about a few flocks that show signs of having been infected at one point. Because they might again start shedding avian influenza virus, these flocks will be destroyed and the premises cleaned and disinfected before area quarantines are released."

"We must eliminate every

## USDA charges NY market for inspection violations

WASHINGTON — Hung Chong Foods Inc., a New York, N.Y., retail market, has been ordered by a U.S. District Court to stop violating the Federal Meat Inspection Act.

Hung Chong had been selling uninspected meat products to other retail outlets for resale to consumers, a violation of federal inspection laws.

"U.S. Department of Agriculture compliance officers discovered the violation during routine reviews of retail products in New York," said Donald L. Houston, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

"A retail store can prepare and sell meat products to household consumers without federal inspection," Houston said, "but it cannot sell meat products that have not been federally inspected to other retail stores for subsequent resale."

USDA brought charges against

the food market for preparing, selling, offering for transportation and transporting uninspected meat food products.

On May 11, the court ordered the retail market to cease the illegal practice or to apply for federal inspection.

Meat sold at retail is initially inspected at slaughter and processing plants to ensure safety, wholesomeness and accurate labeling.

## Jersey sheep breeders to meet

FLEMINGTON, NJ — The August meeting of the Hunterdon County Sheep Breeders' Association will be held at the Extension Center, Route 31, north of Flemington, on Tuesday, August 7, 1984 at 8:00 PM.

The speaker will be Linda Berry Walker, of Woods Edge Wools

## Poultry bill

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conditions set forth in this section are met.

**Section 6. Failure to pay grower.**

In the event that a grower is not paid by a merchant within the time specified in section 3, the grower may, in addition to other remedies provided in law, in equity or in other sections of this act, declare the merchant to be in default under any contract entered into with the merchant. Upon notice to the merchant of such a declaration and of the date and place of the proposed sale, the grower shall have a lien upon any property of the merchant, including poultry, then in the grower's possession, which lien shall take priority over any previously perfected security interest in the property. This property shall be sold and the proceeds of sale shall be applied in the manner provided in 13 P.A.C.S. 9504 (relating to right of secured party to dispose of collateral after default; effect of disposition). A buyer of the property shall, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, take the property free of any security interest. Notice under this section shall be given by personal service or by certified mail to the merchant at his last known address.

**Section 7. Provision of act may not be waived.**

The provisions of this act are to ensure, for all of the citizens of this Commonwealth, an adequate supply of poultry products. The

Farm, Stockton. Her topic will be "Quality Wool Production in a Small Flock."

The meeting will be open to everyone interested in sheep and wool. Come, have the "wool pulled over your eyes," and enjoy it.

provisions of this act may not be waived, altered, amended or otherwise avoided by contract. An attempted waiver, alteration or amendment shall be unenforceable in the courts of this Commonwealth and is hereby deemed to be void from its inception. This section shall have no effect on the terms of a contract that are not inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

**Section 8. Rights of unpaid grower.**

(a) Civil action authorized. - A grower who is not paid within 14 days or who is not paid interest on a late payment, as provided in sections 3 and 4, may bring a civil action against the merchant in a county where the grower resides or does business or in any other county provided by law or rule of court.

(b) Court may award costs. - In an action instituted under this section, the court, in issuing a final order, may award costs of litigation, including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees, to the grower, whenever the court determines that such an award is appropriate.

**Section 9. Civil penalties.**

A person who is found in default under section 6 more than twice within a 12-month period shall be subject to a civil penalty equal to twice the amount of each late payment. The Secretary of Agriculture shall have the authority to bring a civil action to impose this penalty.

**Section 10. Application.**

For a period of two years from the effective date of this act, this act shall not apply to poultry contracts which are in effect prior to the effective date of this act.

**Section 11. Effective date.**

This act shall take effect in 90 days.

Status: This bill has posted the House and is up for consideration by the Senate.

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