

LIVESTOCK LATEST



Four packers charged with failure to pay for \$5 million in pork

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In separate administrative complaints, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has charged four meat packers and their owners and officers with failing to pay for nearly \$5 million worth of pork carcasses and meat products purchased during 1983-84 from Arbogast & Bastian, Inc., of Allentown, Pa.

B.H. (Bill) Jones, head of USDA's Packers and Stockyards Administration, said there is no connection between the respondents except they are each charged with failing to pay for products purchased from the same supplier.

The respondents are:

—Pork Cutters, Inc., New York, N.Y., and Don and Marga Birakowsky, who are charged with failing to pay for \$945,990 worth of products purchased from March-May, 1984;

—Rotches Pork Packers, Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y., and David A. Rotches, who are charged with failing to pay for \$2.1 million worth of products purchased from April-May, 1984;

—Otto Doerrler and Son, Inc., Bronx, N.Y., Rudolfo Panigrosso, and Gene Lombardo, who are charged with failing to pay for \$1.3 million worth of products purchased from February-May, 1984; and

—Crissman, Inc., of Castanea, Pa., and Jack G. Crissman, who

are charged with failing to pay for \$421,736 worth of products purchased from January 1983 through February 1984.

The respondents have a right to a hearing on the administrative charges filed by USDA under authority of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

If the charges are proven, they will be placed under cease-and-desist orders, similar to a permanent injunction, and they could also be ordered to pay a civil penalty.

The P&S Act is an antitrust, fair trade practice and payment protection law. It is designed to maintain integrity in the marketing of livestock, poultry and meat, and in the marketplace.

Disease prevention is best medicine for poultry

By George W. Chaloupka
Extension Poultry Specialist
University of Delaware

NEWARK, Del. — Disease prevention is a definite must on poultry farms, regardless of the size of the operation. Avian influenza, fresh on our minds for over a year now, and exotic Newcastle disease which keeps popping up every once in a while, are two dreaded diseases that require special attention. But prevention of all diseases should always be a concern.

Our recent brush with A.I. made all of us on Delmarva aware of how critical it is to practice routine disease prevention. There are certain basic procedures you can follow to help protect your flock from disease and to minimize the spread of infection to other flocks.

The prime purpose of the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.'s Emergency Poultry Disease Task Force is to develop and implement plans to prevent or to control and/or eradicate poultry disease outbreaks that could cause serious economic losses to Delmarva's commercial poultry industry. The

task force strongly recommends all poultry growers (including people who raise game birds, waterfowl, exhibition flocks, sporting birds, and small farm flocks) follow these procedures:

- Set aside special clothing (including shoes, boots, hat and gloves) for wear when caring for flocks. Never wear these clothes off the farm.
- Flock managers and other caretakers should not visit other poultry flocks.

- Do not allow visitors on the premises or in the poultry houses.

- After caring for the flock, change clothes completely and wash hands and arms before leaving the premises.

- Require all essential visitors (such as owners, fuel delivery, feed delivery, meter readers, poultry catchers and haulers, and other service personnel) to put on protective outer clothing including boots and headwear before letting them near the flocks.

- Require scrub down of all vehicles entering the premises for poultry pickup or delivery, feed

delivery, fuel delivery, and other purposes. Undercarriage and tires should be sprayed and disinfected before entering and upon leaving.

- Clean and disinfect all coops, crates, and other poultry containers or equipment before and after use.

- Send sick or dying birds to a state laboratory for diagnosis.

- Bury or burn all dead birds.

- Anyone handling wild game (especially waterfowl) should change clothes completely and bathe before entering poultry premises.

As a poultry grower, you may feel that some of these procedures aren't necessary or don't apply. But to protect your flock from disease, implement all precautions that do apply as soon as possible.

Also, whether you buy hatching eggs, chicks, started or mature birds, make sure you know the source of your poultry. Don't carelessly bring in disease through one of these possible carriers.

Protect your flock, your neighbor's flock, and all of the poultry industry from potential disaster.

LMA Annual Meeting Scheduled for Jan. 17-19

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Leaders of the cattle, pork and packing industries will take part in an "Industry Sector Update" at the 1985 annual meeting of Livestock Marketing Association.

The meeting, which will attract marketing business owners from across North America, will be held here Jan. 17-19, at the Alameda Plaza hotel in Kansas City. LMA members will here predictions about livestock demand, movement patterns and their view of the industry in 1985 from:

John Weber, president of the National Cattlemen's Association

Wayne Walter, president of the American Association of Meat Processors

Baskin Brown, president of the American Association of Meat Processors

In addition, Dr. Marvin R. Duncan, vice president and economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, will discuss agriculture's 1985 financial concerns during this session

Another topical session will be on the new agricultural futures options and how they work within the futures market. The featured speaker will be Ronald E. Frost, vice president-commodity

marketing with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange

LMA's 1985 officers and directors will be installed on Friday morning, Jan. 18

The program sessions, which will be held Friday and Saturday, will also include sessions on insurance, financial and legal risk management

LMA members will also be updated on the latest legislative and regulatory developments that will have an impact on their businesses

LMA represents and provides commercial services to some 1,300 North American marketing businesses

W. Va. Cattlemen hold convention, short course

By
Debbie Stiles-Renzi
Staff Correspondent

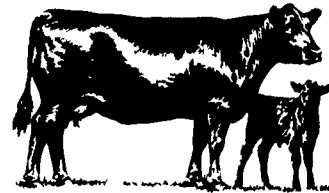
LEWISBURG, W. Va. — The 1984 West Virginia Beef Cattle Short Course and Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention were held in conjunction December 4 and 5 at the Brier Inn Convention Center in Lewisburg, Greenbrier county.


"Maximizing West Virginia's Forage Potential" was the dual convention/short course theme, which featured educational seminars, hands-on demonstrations and commercial exhibits. Extension and West Virginia University specialists in fields ranging from agronomy to animal science, as well as industry spokespersons from the National Cattlemen's Association were on hand to teach and advise the group of nearly 200 participants on a diverse forum of topics pertaining to the beef industry.

Owing to this year's new location for the gathering, many of the registrants were from southern

counties of the mountain state, notably Monroe and Greenbrier.

"There were a lot of new faces," commented Voras Haynes, county agent from Randolph county. Haynes reported that many of the first-timers were farmers and cattlemen from the immediate area who had never attended the course in previous years when it had been held at Jackson's Mill in Lewis county.





Pork Prose

by
Kenneth B. Kephart
Extension Livestock Spec.
University of Del.

It's no secret that crossbreeding will lower production costs. Crossbreeding lets you combine traits from more than one breed. And through heterosis (hybrid vigor), it provides an added boost in productivity compared to using purebred stock.

But until recently, most studies used Yorkshires, Hampshires and Durocs in their breeding programs. Since the Landrace and the Spotted breeds are becoming more popular, researchers at Oklahoma State University decided to take another look at the merits of crossbreeding—this time with Durocs, Yorks, Spots and Landrace.

In all they looked at data from nearly 500 litters and asked questions related to reproductive performance. Which breeds contribute the most to the sow line? What breeds make the most effective cross? Is there any merit to using crossbred boars?

The researchers found that Yorkshires are the most productive in terms of litter size at birth and weaning. But the Landrace have the edge in milking ability and keeping the pigs alive until weaning.

The breed of the boar in this study had no effect on litter size, litter weight or survival.

Crossbred litters (from purebred parent lines) provided an extra .79 pigs per litter, 26 more pounds per litter at six weeks and improved survival by 5.6 percent.

The scientists also calculated which crosses maximized heterosis or hybrid vigor. You'll recall that this is the level of performance over and above the expected average of the parents. For example, you might expect (through performance records of the parents) that a group of York-Hamp pigs would gain 1.5 pounds per day. But they may grow 1.75 pounds per day. In this case, heterosis would be .25.

This study showed that crossing

a Duroc boar with a Spot sow gave the best heterosis for litter size at six weeks, improving litter size by almost 1½ pigs.

Unfortunately, heterosis can be misleading. And this case is a classic example. Even though hybrid vigor was maximized with the Duroc-Spot cross, breeding a Spot boar to a York sow produced the largest litter.

By the same token, breeding a Duroc boar to a Spot sow resulted in the greatest heterosis for weaning weight; but the heaviest litters were from Landrace sows that were bred to Duroc boars.

So you have to be careful. Certain crosses might make the best of heterosis. But on the bottom line, these crosses may not be the most productive. This point is underlined in the second part of the Oklahoma study. The researchers found that York-Spot sows had the smallest and lightest litters at weaning, even though this cross had an expected high level of hybrid vigor. And which sows raised the biggest and heaviest litters? Those with a small amount of heterosis—the York-Landrace cross.

What about crossbred boars? The study showed no advantages in litter size, litter weight or survival. But using crossbred boars improved first-service conception rate by 17.9 percent and significantly reduced the total number of services per pregnancy.

But the scientists were cautious about their conclusions. Since they used young boars in the study, the improved breeding ability of the crossbreds may have been due to earlier sexual maturity. More research is needed to see if crossbred boars still hold an advantage over purebreds in later life.

What can we conclude from the study? First, crosses of the white breeds still make the best sow lines. And second, crossbred boars deserve your serious consideration.