

Farm Bill adds consumer protection

WASHINGTON — New rules to help strengthen consumer protection against illegal residues in imported meat, poultry and tobacco have been provided by Congress as part of the 1985 omnibus farm bill which became law in late December, Chairman Kika de la Garza, D-Tex., of the House Agriculture Committee said.

The new provisions accompany a number of other consumer sections of the Food Security Act of 1985, including amendments dealing with nutrition education and studies.

"The farm bill is a consumer bill too, because an economically healthy agriculture is the consumer's best guarantee of a

continued supply of healthy and safe food at reasonable prices. But along with provisions dealing with farm commodities, trade, conservation, research and food assistance for the needy, Congress also included in this new law a number of specific new steps dealing with food inspection and nutrition," de la Garza said.

To extend protection against the possible appearance of illegal residues in imported meat, the law requires that all countries which ship meat to the U.S. must get certificates from the Secretary of Agriculture showing that they have reliable analytical methods of ensuring compliance with American residue standards.

"This is in no way a trade barrier. It is simply a further step toward assuring compliance with a requirement, which has been in effect for many years, that when meat is sold to American consumers it must comply with American residue standards," de la Garza said.

"A related part of the new law gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to lay down rules for dealing with livestock imported from countries where they are treated with drugs that are banned in the U.S. and where there is no practical way to find out if the animal contains a residue of the drug," the Agriculture Committee Chairman added.

In a companion food safety move, the law also sets up a study by the General Accounting Office to find out if any further action is needed to strengthen safeguards against residues. The GAO is directed to "evaluate the effectiveness of federal regulations and inspection procedures to detect prohibited chemical residues and foreign matter in food or raw agricultural commodities..."

De la Garza noted that other portions of the law affecting residue protection and nutrition include:

—A requirement that all imported poultry must have been

processed under conditions that are the same as those in U.S. processing, and must meet the same inspection, residue and other standards applied to American poultry. The Secretary of Agriculture will be required to take random samples from imports to check on compliance.

—A requirement that imported burley and flue-cured tobacco must be covered by an importer's certificate showing that the leaf does not contain any residues banned in U.S.-grown tobacco. The Secretary of Agriculture will make periodic tests of both domestic and imported tobacco and will bar marketing of any leaf found with illegal residues. (In the case of imports the illegal leaf would be refused entry; domestic tobacco showing illegal residues would be destroyed.)

—A requirement that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services make a one-year assessment of existing research information on two issues — the relationship between dietary and blood cholesterol and human health and nutrition, and the importance of dietary calcium in human health and nutrition. When the assessments are complete, the two secretaries will give Congress proposals — including budget estimates — for whatever further studies they find are needed.

—A directive requiring an expanded Extension program of nutrition education for low-income consumers. In a related area, the bill directs the Secretary to include a representative sample of low-income individuals in his department's existing program of surveying consumer diet patterns.

Generators Topsy wins Jersey Great Cow Contest

COLUMBUS, OHIO — Generators Topsy, the first Jersey cow to ever be scored Excellent-97%, is the winner of the 1985 Great Cow Contest, sponsored by the Jersey Journal, the national publication of the American Jersey Cattle Club.

"Topsy", the 1973 National Grand Champion Jersey, was bred by Cedarcrest Farms, Faunsdale, Alabama and was owned by James Chaney, Bowling Green, Kentucky when she died in 1982. Her top milk record was a 6 years and 3 months of age when she produced 25,010 lbs. of milk and 1,119 lbs. of butterfat.

"Topsy" was one of the first daughters of her sire, Milestones Generator. One of the breed's first "high PD" sires, "Generator" is generally credited with turning the Jersey breed around in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Another "Generator" daughter also bred by Cedarcrest Farms placed second in the contest. Generators Imp, Excellent-96%, is the dam of Favorite Saint, one of the top bulls available through AI today.

Her top milk record came at 6 years and 3 months of age with 25,220 lbs. of milk and 1,188 lbs. of butterfat. She was last owned by The Jersey Nook and Dr. Florence



Generators Topsy, is the winner of the 1985 Great Cow Contest.

Lenahan of Riley, Kansas and Galena, Ohio.

Yet another "Generator" daughter and "Generator's" dam placed third and fourth, respectively, in the Great Cow Contest. In third was Generators Faustine of Ogston, Excellent-93%, bred by John Bishop, VI, Columbus, New Jersey and last owned by Heather Dawn Acomb, Stafford, New York. "Faustine", whose top milk record was over 28,000 lbs. of milk, is the dam of A-Nine Top Brass, another of the top AI bulls of today.

Beacon Bas Little Lady, Excellent-92% was fourth and is the dam of the bull, Milestones Generator. Her top milk record, at 7 years and 10 months, was 21,280 lbs. of milk and 913 lbs. of butterfat. She was bred and always owned by Mayfield Dairy Farms, Inc., Athens, Tennessee.

In all, 55 great Jersey cows were nominated by their owners. The final 11 and then the winners were selected based on the votes of Jersey Journal subscribers



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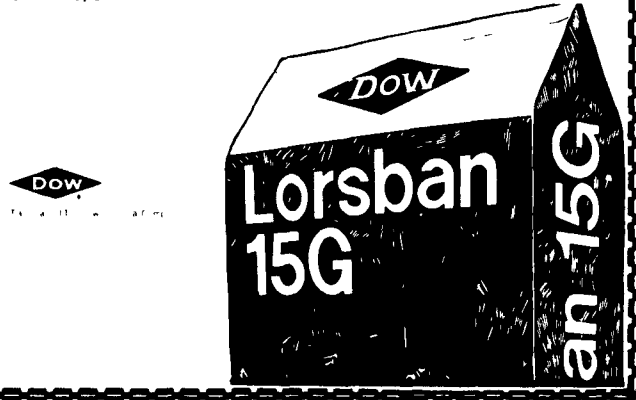
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