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For shipment to Jordan, the heifers had to meet tuberculosis and brucellosis requirements, similar to the requirements of our country. Some of the donated animals did not pass Rossow's examination. Either physical ailments, such as lameness or ringworm, or an incomplete brucellosis test caused the flight reservations for a few animals to be cancelled.

An incomplete brucellosis test, Rossow explained, "does not mean there is a problem with the heifer. The titer, or antibiotic response, of an animal is not compatible with the requirements."

"They just happen to have a stronger reaction," Rossow commented.

Grounded donations will be used in domestic projects which account for 25 percent of HPI's activities,

Dieterly explained. "We have projects in Maine that are begging for good animals like these,' Dieterly said.

Unfortunately, in the case of the DTP heifers that were cut, they will be slaughtered in 15 days in accordance with the regs of the buyout program.

Farmers in the buyout program have offered whole herds to HPI, however they cannot accept these donations since they usually export only bred heifers. "Our requests are mainly for bred heifers," Laurie Rodgers, assistant director of HPI's Mid-Atlantic Regional office, explained. There are several reasons that bred heifers are the age of choice for export. One is that many countries don't have facilities to breed animals; and bred heifers actually offer them improved genetics for two

generations. Also, the long flight, 18 hours in this case, would be too stressful for milking cows, Rodgers said.

Jordan requested Holsteins, but HPI will also accept Jersey and Brown Swiss heifers, with the genetic ability to produce over 15,000 pounds of milk. "The pedigrees on these animals is amazing, even more impressive is who they are bred to," Rodgers stated, commenting on the excellent quality of animals that were donated.

Tuesday things were set into motion at 7:30 a.m. when the animals were hauled from the barn to the airport. Here they were moved into 17 freight crates and loaded into a DC-8 cargo plane. At 1:30 p.m. the Air Canada plane taxied down the runway enroute to Jordan.

Following refueling stops in Newfoundland and Paris, they touched down in Jordan at 6:30, Jordanian time. The heifers reportedly survived this trip very well with only a few being down upon their arrival, and they were revived shortly afterwards.

Jordanian recipients of these heifers have been preparing for their projects by learning the proper care and feeding of the animals. These animals will be acclimated by either imported feed, similar to what they may have been fed in the states, or good quality hay.

Future shipment areas include Mexico, and possibly Egypt, Bolivia and Haiti. They are still accepting DTP animals that meet the requirements. Poland has also expressed interest in receiving animals, upwards to 1,000 head.

Shipment to Poland hinges on the Polish government providing the shipping arrangements. Domestic trucking costs are covered by tax deductible donations. Dieterly

added.

The motto of HPI is "Solving the problem of hunger one farmer at a time." Tuesday however it looked like one plane load at a time.



waiting freight crate.

he crates were loaded into the plane by means of a specially built forklift. This forklift weighed the heifer that filled crates to insure the plane was not overloaded; it was capable of handling 95,000 pounds.

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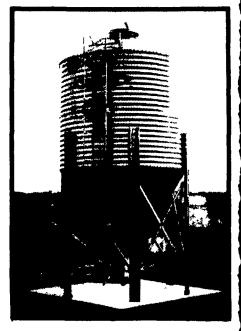
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