

Pork Producer Tariff Amendment

DES MOINES, IA — An amendment to the 1930 Tariff Act, initiated by the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), is included in the trade bill passed by the U.S. Senate. The amendment is designed to make it easier in the future for a commodity group, such as pork producers, to obtain meaningful relief from unfair trade practices.

The amendment would codify the rule applied by the Department of Commerce in certain cases involving agricultural subsidies, under which countervailing duties may be imposed on imports of processed agricultural products when subsidies are determined to have been paid to the producers of the raw commodity from which the processed products were derived.

If the amendment had been on the books when the National Pork Producers Council successfully obtained a countervailing duty on subsidized Canadian hogs in 1985, the duty would most likely have been extended to Canadian pork

products as well. Instead, the International Trade Commission ruled out the inclusion of pork products, and an appeal of that ruling to the U.S. Court of International Trade was recently dismissed.

NPPC president Tom Miller said, "the amendment which has now passed both Houses of Congress would establish a more realistic definition of when raw agricultural commodities and the processed products derived from them should be considered a continuous line of production."

The amendment received widespread bi-partisan support in the Congress and has the support of the Reagan administration. However, the President has indicated he would probably veto the trade bill as it is now written because of other aspects of the wide-ranging measure which he considers protectionist.

A leading Republican sponsor of the trade bill, and a co-sponsor of the tariff amendment portion,

Senator John Danforth (R-MO), believes there's a 50-50 chance that a House-Senate conference committee will be able to hammer out a compromise that will be acceptable to President Reagan.

Final congressional passage of the NPPC-initiated 1930 Tariff Amendment was the culmination of a two-year effort. In the Senate, leadership assistance was provided by Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Max

Baucus (D-MT), David Pryor (D-AR), Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX), and Jack Danforth (R-MO). House leadership on the amendment was provided by Byron Dorgan (D-ND).

Cumberland 4-H Swine Roundup

The 1987 Cumberland County 4-H Swine Roundup and Sale will be held on Tuesday, August 18, at the Carlisle Livestock Market. The show will start at 9:30 a.m. and the sale at 5:30 p.m.

Fitting (how well the animal is groomed, trimmed, etc.) and showmanship (how skillfully the member shows his or her animal) will be evaluated first. A Grand and Reserve Champion Hog will then be selected based on type (how well the animal compares to an ideal in terms of meatiness, structure, etc.).

The 4-H'ers are members of the Central Penn 4-H Swine Club and have been raising the pigs since April.

Anyone can buy an animal. This is an excellent opportunity to put some quality pork in your freezer. Arrangements for processing can be made prior to the day of sale.

For more information contact Dave Hartman at the Cumberland County Extension Office, 1100 Claremont Road, Carlisle, phone 249-7220 or 697-0371 ext. 246. Or, call Robert Finkenbinder at 249-4691.

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