

# Feed Assistance Planned For Pork Producers In Legislation

DES MOINES, IA — Compromise drought relief legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan recently means that a majority of pork producers who have been hurt by this year's devastating dry conditions now will be eligible to participate in either the Emergency Feed Assistance Program or the Emergency Feed Program. Under previously existing law, pork producers were not included in the programs.

The pork producers organization also was successful in expanding coverage from foundation herds to other livestock that are normally purchased in an operation.

A provision to include producers who do not grow their own feed was not included in the compromise legislation. USDA opposed the provision for several reasons, including its additional cost and the contention that those who buy

feed have not suffered the loss of grain production costs as have those who grow their own feed. USDA also argued that many producers who buy all their feed do so for feeder pigs. USDA contended that the price of feeder pigs has dropped enough to offset higher feed costs.

Eligible pork producer participants in the Emergency Feed Assistance Program will be able to

purchase corn at 75 percent of the county loan rate. Participants in the Emergency Feed Program will be eligible for a 50 percent federal subsidy when purchasing feed. The new programs go into effect September 1.

To participate in the federal assistance programs, eligible pork producers must have suffered a substantial loss in feed production, be actively engaged in farming and be living in or next to a county that

has been declared a disaster area. There is a \$50,000 per person cap on benefits. Livestock producers with gross annual revenues in excess of \$2.5 million are not eligible as participants in the federal emergency assistance programs.

Other eligibility requirements are available at local county extension offices.

The USDA indicated eligible farmers could begin getting federal assistance money in October.

"We worked very hard in recent weeks to get this inequitable situation taken care of and we are confident a majority of pork producers suffering from severe drought conditions will now be able to get some assistance from the government," said Ray Hanks, president of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC). The emergency legislation was primarily designed to assist crop farmers, Hanks said, but NPPC was able to get it extended to this extent to pork producers suffering from drought conditions.

## Issues-Management Program Acts For Veal Growers

RAPID CITY, SD — Issues management, animal welfare and misleading advertising are concerns that affect the entire animal agriculture industry and particularly, the veal industry. New solutions to those problems were discussed by veal growers attending the 66th Annual Meeting Of The National Livestock and Meat Board held recently in Rapid City, S.D.

"I hope that all people in animal agriculture realize that animal issues are a big concern throughout the whole industry," said Floyd Many, veal grower from Hobart, N.Y. "I feel that the veal committee is riding point for the animal industry in this area." The veal-issues management program, backed by an issues-management team and resource materials, has been formed to help veal growers

inform consumers about animal welfare and food safety issues affecting the veal industry. The program is managed by the Veal Committee of The Beef Industry Council. In the area of misleading advertising, the team succeeded recently in its efforts to stop an ad placed by The Humane Farming Association in "The Atlantic" magazine.

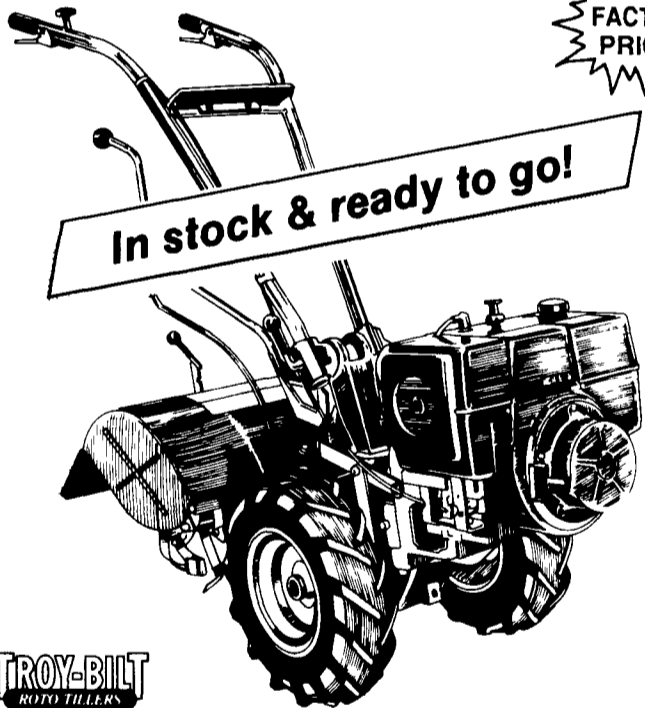
The veal committee also has

developed retail promotion programs to help increase the sales of veal. "I'm very happy with what's happening here. Our focus has been on the food service industry and now is starting to move into the retail arena to some degree." Many says the committee also has developed a program to help the retailers identify the best methods of merchandising veal.

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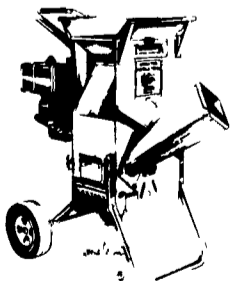


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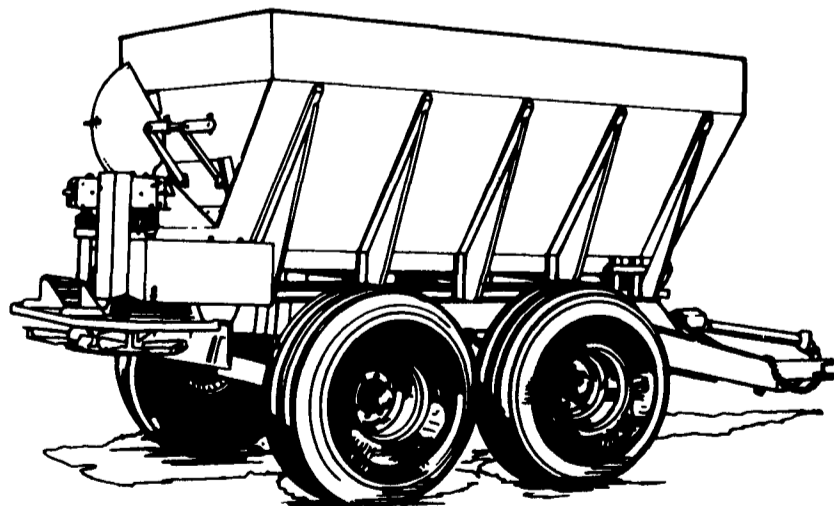
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