

NEADSA Adopts Resolution On Salmonella

VERGEENES, Vt.— Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Boyd E. Wolff recently commended the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA) for adopting a resolution on Salmonella Enteritidis during the organization's Summer Conference here last week.

"It is essential that we achieve uniformity in our policies on Salmonella," said Wolff.

"Producers need to know where they stand, and the right way to do it is to make sure USDA's rules and all the state's rules are the same."

NEASDA's resolution on Salmonella was drafted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and then submitted to the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) for consideration by that organization.

The resolution reads as follows: It is essential to efficient and economic operation of commer-

cial egg industries in each state that uniform national SE control measures and standard laboratory procedures be applied in all states. The USDA has adopted interim rules to reduce SE contamination of shell eggs and the risk of egg-associated salmonellosis to public health. Experience with these interim rules in several northeast states has identified a number of corrections that need to be made prior to adoption of a final rule.

Resolved that the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture recommends adoption of USDA SE control measures as the official state control program in all states and that the following changes be made to the USDA SE Control Program:

1. Flock and product restrictions should be imposed only on

infected flocks directly implicated in an outbreak of egg-associated salmonellosis in humans and on infected breeder flocks.

2. When an egg-associated outbreak of human salmonellosis is traced to a multiple flock premises, only the infected flock should be restricted.

3. Provisions for marketing eggs from restricted flocks should include cooking eggs beyond pasteurization, i.e., hard-boiling.

Investigation of egg-associated outbreaks of human salmonellosis (SE) indicate that serious violations of proper egg handling and food preparation practices are the major cause of these outbreaks. Proper refrigeration of shell eggs and proper cooking of eggs is

known to be an effective means to prevent egg-associated (SE) salmonellosis in humans. Food establishments and consumers need to be informed that raw eggs are a potentially hazardous food that must be refrigerated and properly cooked to protect public health.

Resolved that the Northeast Association of State Departments

of Agriculture urge FDA, USDA and all states to classify eggs as potentially hazardous foodstuffs subject to minimum refrigeration requirements and that all states adopt egg refrigeration standards recommended by USDA and FDA.

NEASDA approved the resolution on June 6, 1990.

Wants Public Input

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Secretary of Agriculture Boyd E. Wolff announced today that the Pennsylvania Animal Health Commission has asked farm organizations and other groups to comment on the future of animal diagnostic services in Pennsylvania. The comments will be heard during a public hearing in Harrisburg on June 21.

Wolff, who serves as Chairman, said the Animal Health Commission has been studying diagnostic services for animals in Pennsylvania, and is developing a plan to improve the system.

"The commission will have to consider many issues if we are to deliver state-of-the-art diagnostic

service, and public comment will be an important source of new ideas," said Wolff.

Fifty-one organizations received mailed invitations to testify before the commission when it meets on June 21. In addition, interested parties can be put on the agenda by calling Dr. Max Van Buskirk, Director of the department's Bureau of Animal Industry. Callers can contact the department toll-free by dialing 1-800-AG-PENNA.

Each presenter will be allowed ten minutes before the commission. Presenters are encouraged to provide the commission with 20 printed copies of their remarks.

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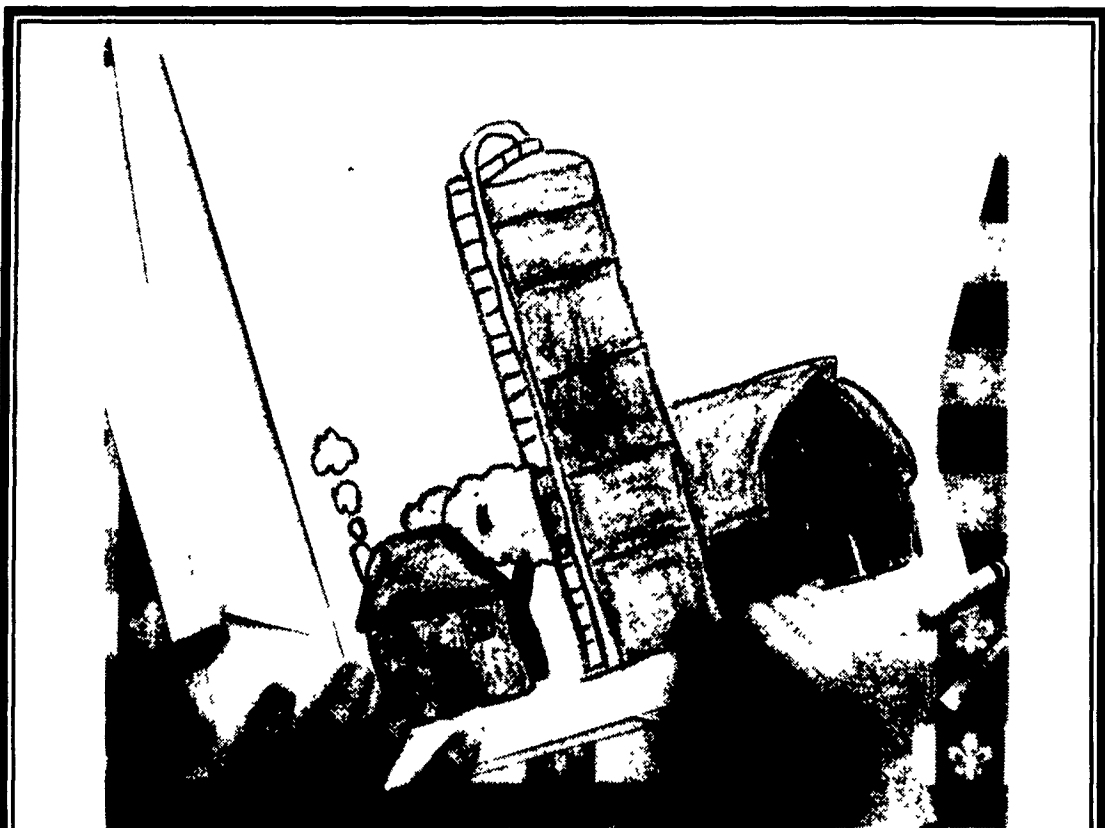
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