### **USDA Announces Peach Purchase**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA recently announced that it will purchase approximately 36 million pounds of canned clingstone peach products to assist struggling growers.

"These are challenging times for peach growers, along with many other farmers and ranchers, and a considerable surplus of product has added to their fi-nancial strain," said Deputy Secretary Richard E. Rominger. "USDA has a long tradition of helping to ease such hardships by buying critically high surplus commodities and redistributing them through our federal nutrition programs."

The peach products will be

donated to Needy Families, Child Nutrition, and other related domestic food assistance programs. The planned pur-chase will be made from offers that must be submitted on a delivered to destination basis. Deliveries will be made during the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2000 and ending Sept. 30, 2001.

The purchase is in addition to 9.1 million pounds of canned peaches bought to date in fiscal year 2000. It follows Vice President Gore's July 21 announcement of a major purchase of pears. USDA is also planning to purchase about 37 million pounds of canned peach products in the coming weeks in ad-

dition to today's announcement. "This assistance helps to stabilize prices in agricultural commodity markets by balancing supply and demand, and provides economical and healthy food for school children, the elderly, needy families, and the homeless," Rominger said.

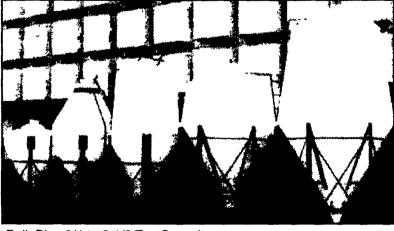
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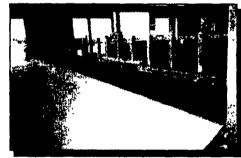
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An all-rubber mattress that is repairable

(no sewing to come apart, no material

Choice of mattress covers

♣ 3" nominal thickness

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to tear)

 Made in PA Designed by farmers 3 year warranty



#### Features:

- · Uses Pa, reclaimed tire rubber
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- Excellent wearing service
- Resists tearing
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- · Improved surface design for better traction and bedding retention
- · Water and acid resistant polyurethane binder
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