

New Inspection System Leads To Reductions Of Salmonella In

Glickman Awards \$18.7 Million To Boost Technology In Rural Education, Medicine

RAISIN CITY, Calif.—Continuing the Clinton Administration's efforts to help rural America, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently announced \$18.7 million in grants to promote the use of technology in education and medicine.

"Distance learning and telemedicine are the wave of the future for rural America," Glickman said. "Using new technology students and families can participate in classes not previously available to them, and people who live in rural areas can access health care without driving long distances."

Glickman made the announcement at the Raisin City Elementary School in Raisin City, Calif., near the Community Medical Centers of Fresno County, which received a \$206,000 grant to establish a telecommunications network. This network will provide rural residents — including medically under-served farmworkers — in the surrounding area with round-the-clock access to medical care. The project includes equipping a mobile medical van with telemedicine equipment to reach out to and visit farmworkers and other rural residents who would likely not otherwise receive medical care.

The awards also include a \$350,000 grant to establish distance-learning classrooms at three high schools in the Union (Miss.) Public School District. The new facilities will give students in small, isolated communities there access to upper division instruction through a regional cooperative distance-learning network.

Among the other awards is a \$277,000 grant to create distance-learning hubs in Clay Center, Doniphan and Superior, Neb. A \$325,000 grant was awarded to Copenhagen (N.Y.) Central School for distance-learning technology to upgrade agricultural science programs in sparsely populated rural areas near the St. Lawrence River.

The 84 grants announced today will include \$11.3 million for 49 distance learning projects encompassing over 300 educational facilities, which will enable students in rural school districts to participate in classes taught by instructors at distant locations, or to access information from libraries and other learning centers located

far from their schools. More than \$7 million will fund 35 telemedicine projects, involving nearly 200 medical institutions that will use new telecommunications technology to help patients in isolated rural health clinics be examined, diagnosed and treated by doctors working in distant medical centers.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently reported continued reductions in the prevalence of Salmonella in raw meat and poultry products produced under USDA's new, science-based inspection system.

"The evidence is clear. Our science-based, prevention-oriented food safety system is work-

ing," said Glickman, "Salmonella is what Americans continue to enjoy the safest in the world."

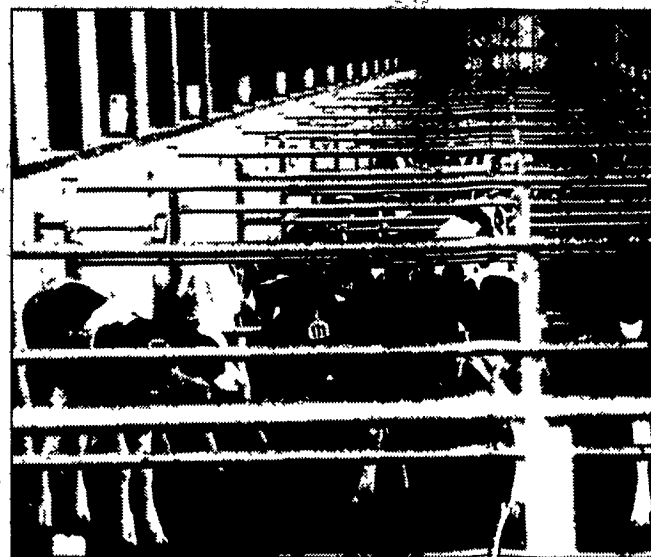
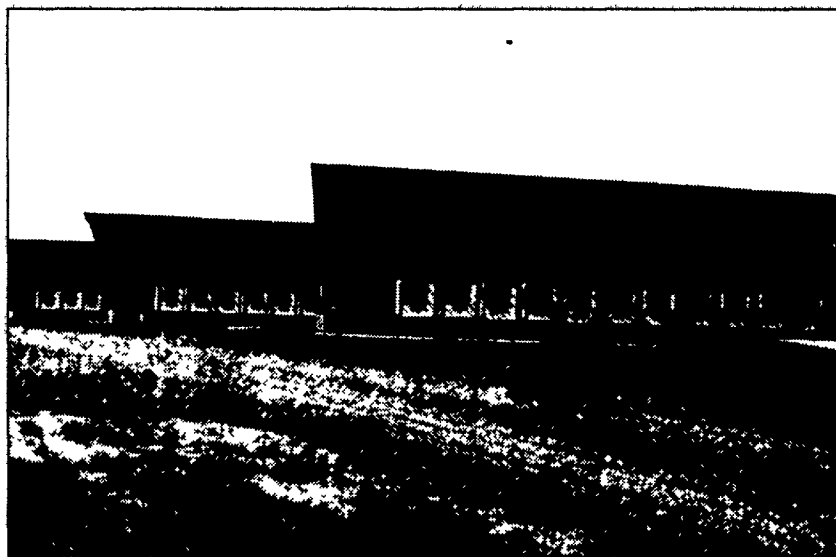
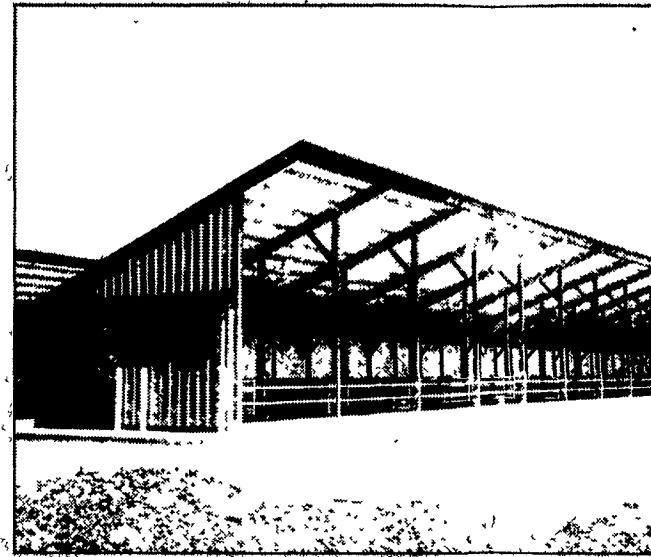
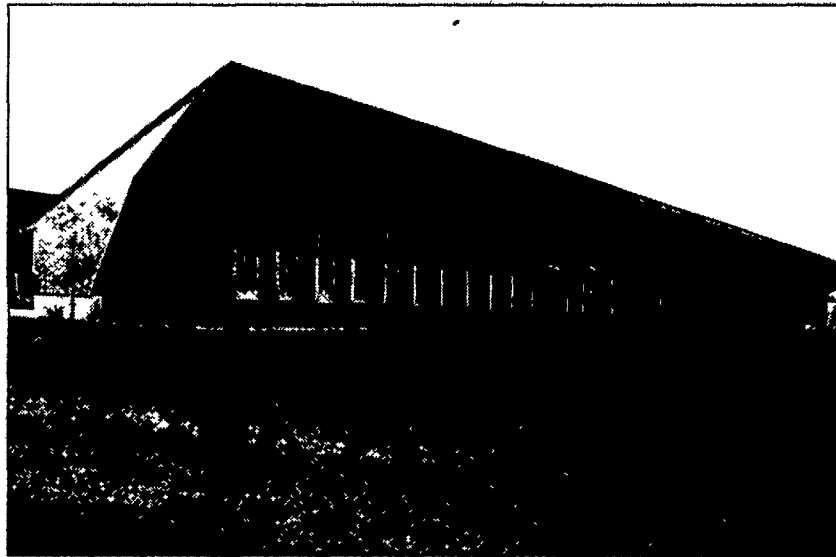
In 1996, the Clinton-Gore Administration significantly overhauled the nation's meat and poultry inspection system. The new Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), uses scientific testing to be-

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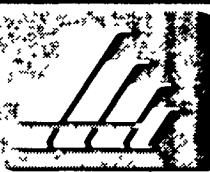
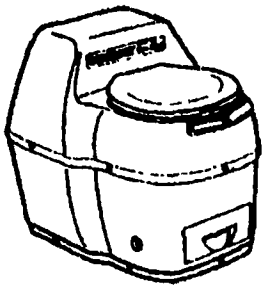
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