

# USDA Water Rule Emphasizes Fairness In Meat Processing

WASHINGTON D.C. — New meat inspection regulations released recently are an important step toward ensuring equity in the differences between meat and poultry processing and giving more information to consumers, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's final rule on added water bases inspection standards on science and reduces inequities between meat and poultry processing that have existed for more than 40 years, said George Hall, NCBA president and a cattle producer from Mustang, Okla.

"We fought so hard for this because not only was the previous rule unfair to cattle producers, it was also unfair to consumers who were paying inflated

prices for poultry due to added water weight," Hall said.

The final regulation follows a

standard set by a 1997 federal court verdict. NCBA contributed financial resources to the 1997

lawsuit, *Kenney v. Glickman*, brought by Iowa producers. A federal judge in that case ruled

that the poultry regulations on added water are based on "arbitrary and capricious" standards.

## PASA's Farming For The Future Conference Feb. 9-10

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The 10th annual Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) Farming for the Future Conference is Feb. 9-10 in State College.

Theme of this year's conference is "Food is Our Commonwealth: Beyond Business as Usual."

Keynote speaker Jim Hightower will set the tone of "Beyond Business as Usual." Hightower is the former Texas agriculture commissioner as well

as an author, radio commentator, public speaker and political sparkplug. As Texas ag commissioner, he used government to help bring social justice and economic opportunity to all Texans, particularly small farmers.

He is the author of "Hard Times, Hard Tomatoes," "There's Nothing in the Middle of the Road But Yellow Stripes and Dead Armadillos," and most recently "If the Gods Had Meant Us to Vote, They Would Have Given Us Candidates."

Joining Hightower at the PASA conference is Winona LaDuke. LaDuke is an Ojibwe activist from the White Earth Reservation in northern Minnesota. She ran with Ralph Nader as the 2000 Green Party vice-presidential candidate. LaDuke is the founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project and the author of several books, including "All Our Relations."

The conference will feature 50 workshops on topics ranging from pastured poultry to composting, seasonal dairy produc-

tion, to biotech issues, high tunnel production, to cover cropping, farm training of interns and apprentices to organic grain production. It will host speakers including Gary Zimmer, Jo Robinson, George Devault, David Zartman, Jane Mt. Pleasant, Joan Gussow, and Jim and Adele Hayes.

For more information, call Kate Francis at the PASA office at (814) 349-9856, ext. 2 or check out the PASA website at [www.pasa-farming.org](http://www.pasa-farming.org).

## Only One Buyer Bids At Tobacco Auction

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — The dismal tobacco selling season continues.

On Tuesday this week, no sale was conducted, since only one buyer was present. That buyer was Mike Bailey from Virginia, according to Dennis Hess, manager of the Pennsylvania Tobacco Marketing Association auction.

The auction had 52,575 pounds on the floor at auction. However, Bailey placed bids on

the tobacco on the floor, from a high of \$1 per pound, and some down to 75 cents a pound, with outgrades priced at 30-40 cents per pound. Average was 88 cents a pound, Hess noted.

The growers can either accept the bids or reject them.

Hess said an auction is planned tentatively for Thursday, Jan. 25. He said the auction needs buyers and growers. Call Hess at the auction at (717) 786-4389 to set up delivery times.

## Lancaster Cattle Feeder's Day Announced

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Penn State Cooperative Extension invites you to attend the annual Lancaster Cattle Feeder's Day on Tuesday, Jan. 30.

This event is an opportunity to obtain current information related to economics, nutrition, quality assurance, and meat industry issues. The informative program begins at 9:30 a.m. with an economic forecast for Pennsylvania cattle feeders. Come not only for a great program but also to visit with fellow cattle feeders and agribusiness friends. Lunch will be available at the meeting.

Following is the day's agenda:  
8:30 a.m. — Visit Agribusiness Exhibits.

9:30 a.m. — "Forecasting the Cattle Feeders Future"

H. Louis Moore, Penn State Extension Ag Economist, respected economics professor with more than 45 years of service on the faculty at Penn State, Lou Moore will bring his popular and informative economic forecast to cattle feeders in southeast Pennsylvania.

10:30 a.m. Dan McFarland, Penn State Extension Ag Engineer, will speak about low cost, effective cattle handling systems.

A fact-finding tour of some effective cattle handling systems in use on Lancaster County farms prompted this discussion of ways to upgrade your feedlot handling facilities.

11:00 a.m. — Ken Jordan, Jordan Cattle Auction, San Saba, Texas, plans to lecture on marketing process-unified cattle. The Jordan Cattle Auction is a family-owned business that operates in three locations in the heart of Texas cattle country. Their recent venture with Emerge has propelled them into the electronic age of marketing cattle with specific certification criteria.

11:45 a.m. — "Blueprint For Success" Update

Wendall Landis, BQA Certification Director, Pa. Beef Council/PSU, will give an update on the "Blueprint For Success" program. With a year under his belt, Wendall will report on the accomplishments of the program.

12:15 p.m. — Lunch

1:15 p.m. — Dr. Bill Henning,

Penn State Extension Meats Specialist, will point out various measures taken at packing plants to insure a safe food product. A short video highlights some impressive food safety processes.

1:45 p.m. — To address the topic of Pennsylvania Beef Quality Assurance Certification, Dr. John Comerford, Penn State Extension Beef Specialist, will lecture about proper cattle management.

Dr. Harold Harpster, Penn State Ruminant Nutritionist, will speak about feed quality management, and Dr. Bill Henning, Penn State Extension Meats Specialist, will present about targeted breeding and buying.

Pennsylvania joins several states in an effort to promote food safety through a quality assurance certification program. Utilizing, life-size interactive displays, this trio of experts will enable you to achieve an excellent understanding of beef quality assurance goals.

Anyone interested in the cattle industry is invited to attend. No reservations are necessary. Lunch tickets may be purchased at the door until 11:30 a.m. In addition to the formal program, there will be an opportunity to inspect commercial exhibits and visit other cattlemen.

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. with exhibit visitation and the program starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. The meeting conducted by the Penn State Cooperative Extension concludes at 3:15 p.m.



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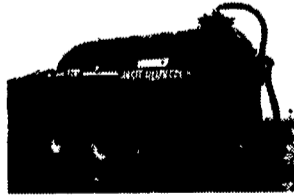
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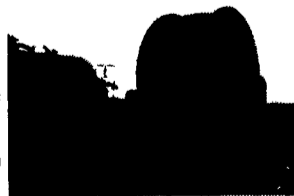
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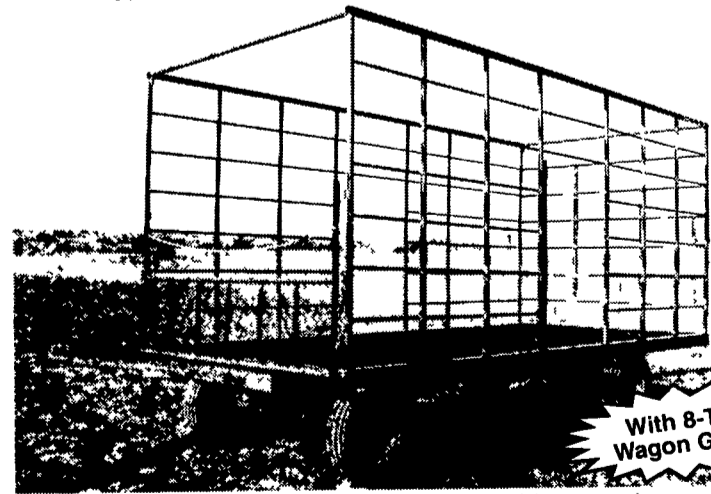
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