

Revised Livestock Waste Rules Workable, FB Says

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Regulations to curb pollution from livestock waste announced by the Environmental Protection Agency "represent a reasonable approach that will help solve the problem without overburdening farmers and ranchers," the nation's largest farm organization noted.

"The new rules are workable and are compatible with the environmental initiatives authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman. "It is unlikely we could achieve much progress on this front if the rules are too costly for farmers to carry out or they work at cross purposes with existing environmental programs."

While Stallman said the rules "balance various interests" and "lean toward site-specific, rather than 'one-size-fits-all' solutions," he said Farm Bureau does have some concerns about the plan.

"We believe the land application restrictions on spreading manure and other nutrients go beyond the reach of the federal Clean Water Act," said Stallman. In addition, he said the lack of an exemption for discharges caused by rare and severe storms would be "troublesome for farmers." He also said the rules are more stringent for new poultry and hog operations than they are for other operations, which he called "inequitable."

The Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFO, regulations announced were first proposed two years ago but were revised after more than 12,000 comments—many of them critical—were submitted to EPA. Farm Bureau had questioned the accuracy of the data used to formulate the rules, which would have expanded EPA's regulatory scope from an estimated 3,000 livestock operations to 39,000. Under the new rules, 12-15,000

operations would be covered.

"The new rules underscore the importance of maintaining and funding the water quality pro-

grams contained in the Farm Bill," Stallman asserted. "These programs authorize about \$1 billion a year to address problems

from livestock waste but the rules announced will achieve little if we don't go forward with the programs already in place."

USDA Proposes Livestock, Meat Marketing Claims Standards

WASHINGTON, D.C. — USDA is soliciting comments on proposed minimum standards for livestock and meat industry production/marketing claims. These standards, when adopted, will become the U.S. Standards for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims.

Increasingly, livestock and meat producers are using production and/or processing claims to distinguish their products in the marketplace. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, through its voluntary certification and/or audit programs, verifies the accu-

racy of these claims. The proposed standards will establish the minimum requirements for those livestock and meat producers who choose to operate a USDA certified or verified program involving marketing claims.

Notice of the opportunity to submit comments will be published in the Dec. 30, 2002, Federal Register.

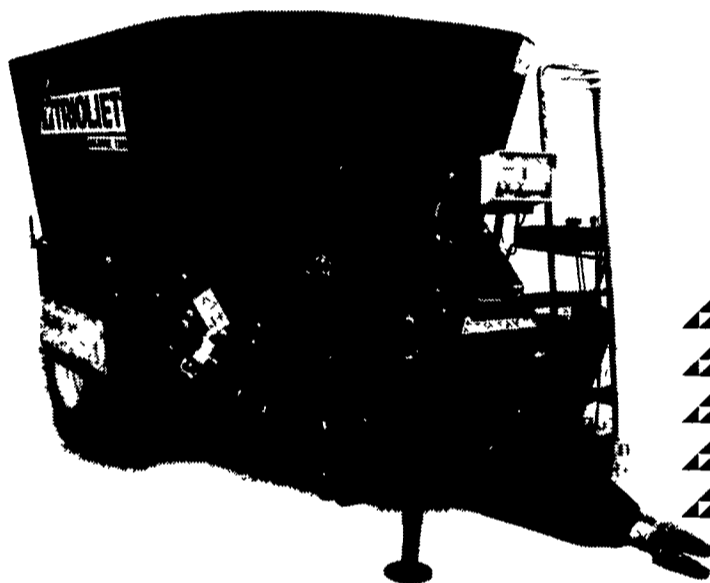
Comments may be submitted to Chief, Standardization Branch, AMX Livestock and Seed Program, USDA Stop 0254, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0254;

telephone (202) 720-4486; fax (202) 720-1112; or e-mail marketingclaim@usda.gov. Comments must be submitted on or before March 31, 2003.

All comments received will be made available for public inspection at the above address during regular business hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., or at www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/stand/claim.htm. These proposed U.S. Standards for Livestock and Meat Marketing Claims are available through the above addresses or by accessing www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/stand/st-pubs.htm.

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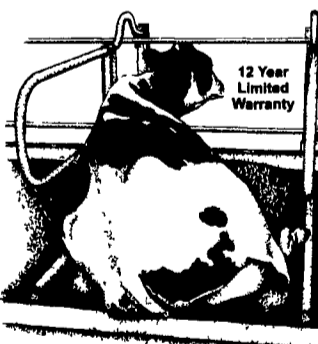
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