

Buffalo Industry Preparing New Meat Labeling Program

DENVER, Colo. — Consumers may soon find a new label appearing on meat packages that verifies that the products came from animals that were American raised, and produced without added growth hormones, subtherapeutic antibiotics, or animal-based feed.

They won't find the label on beef, pork, poultry, or lamb. This new label will appear only on buffalo meat products.

The National Bison Association recently began the final stages of testing on a new animal-tracking program that will allow products in the retail case or restaurants to carry a new "Certified American Buffalo" logo that will be process verified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, segments of the major meat industries prevailed

on Congress this week to eliminate funding for a program that would have required all beef, pork, lamb, and seafood products to be marked with the country-of-origin by Sept. 2004.

"The major segments of the beef and pork industry are fighting legislation that would require them to inform consumers about the country-of-origin of their products," noted Dave Carter, National Bison Association executive director. "But buffalo ranchers are willing to stand behind their products. Our new labeling initiative will assure customers that we can track buffalo meat back to American ranches that do not use growth hormones, subtherapeutic antibiotics, or feed with animal byproducts."

The Bison Association's new program will use a special animal

tracking system to verify that all meat carrying an authorized "Certified American Buffalo" label meets specific production practices and protocols.

The association is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop the procedures for the "USDA Process Verified" program.

Once approved by the USDA, the program will allow participating ranchers and marketers to use the "Certified American Buffalo" label that will verify that the products were produced from American raised animals that were not fed antibiotics or animal byproducts, and were not administered growth hormones.

Maryland Dairy Pasture Walk Set

CARROLL COUNTY, Md. — A dairy pasture walk is scheduled for Thursday, July 31 from 10 a.m. until noon. Glenn Shirley will be hosting the event.

Shirley's 80-cow herd is grazed on 80 acres of permanent pasture and is moving toward a seasonal calving program.

The purpose of the pasture walk is to allow livestock producers a chance to learn more about the use of rotational grazing as a way to increase agricultural prof-

itability and improve a farm family's way of life.

The farm is located at 149 Barnhart Road. From Westminster, go north on Rt. 97 to Union Mills. Turn right onto Old Hanover Rd. Go about 3 1/2 miles to Barnhart Road. Turn right and go about 1/2 mile to farm on right. Watch for pasture walk signs.

For more information call (301) 631-3578 or e-mail sf28@umail.umd.edu.

NCGA Sees No Setback For Ethanol In Ruling

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) said last week the ruling by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco substantiating U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actions supporting ethanol is not a setback for the renewable fuel. The same court ruling also requires EPA to reconsider a portion of California's request for a waiver from federal fuel additive requirements.

"While some may see this decision as a loss for ethanol, in reality, the EPA's original decision was reaffirmed," said NCGA vice president of Public Policy Jon Doggett. "The court said EPA should have also looked at the impact on national ambient air quality standards. . . We are on the verge of obtaining a national renewable fuels standard and we don't view this as a setback."

According to court documents, "The EPA abused its

discretion by refusing to evaluate the effect that an oxygen waiver would have on California's efforts to comply. We accordingly remand this case to

the EPA with instructions to give full consideration to the effect of a waiver on both the ozone and pollutant standards."

Sustainable Ag Grants Available For Northeast Farmers

MONTROSE (Susquehanna Co.) — Farmers in the Northeast who are interested in conducting innovative production and marketing projects are encouraged to apply to the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program for grant funds for projects starting in the spring.

Applications can address a broad range of agricultural issues such as pest management, soil and water conservation, aquaculture, marketing, grazing, bee health, no-till, pasture management, agroforestry, and other sustainable farming techniques.

Northeast SARE defines sustainable agriculture as agriculture that is profitable, environmentally sound, and good for the community. In 2003, the av-

erage grant was about \$5,200; grants are capped at \$10,000.

Any full or part-time farmer in the Northeast SARE region can apply. The region is made up of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Applications and more information about the requirements of the Farmer/Grower Grant program are available on the Northeast SARE web site at www.uvm.edu. You can also call (802) 656-0471 to request a printed application. The proposal deadline is December 8, 2003.

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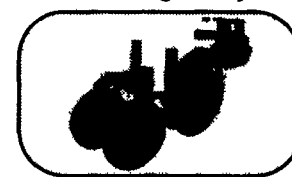
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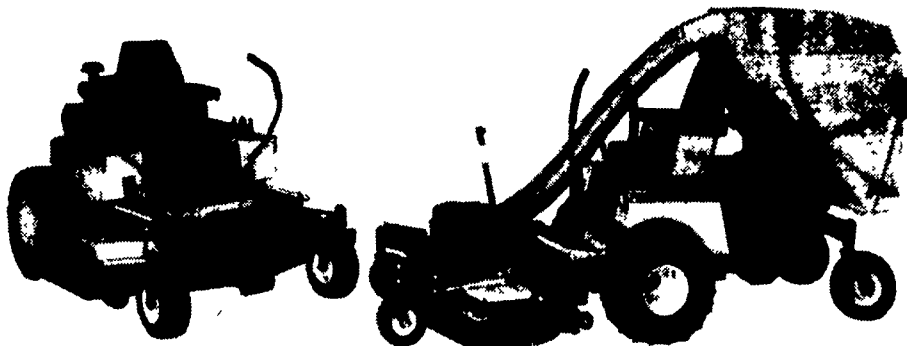
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