

10 Misc.

USDA to purchase ailing hogs

■ Animals with pseudorabies will be sold at market price.

By ANNE FITZGERALD
REGISTER AGRIBUSINESS WRITER

The economic crisis raging through the U.S. pork industry may have a silver lining, both for the owners of hog herds plagued by a viral disease and

for the wider industry.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced Thursday the government will buy out hogs afflicted with pseudorabies, which has plagued the pork industry for decades.

Under the program, farmers with hogs carrying the disease could sell them to the government for the current market price. The government then

would have the animals slaughtered.

Eliminating the disease is expected to open up some foreign markets to U.S. producers.

Al Tank, executive director of the National Pork Producers Council in Clive, called the program "a three-for," because it could rid U.S. hogs of the disease, increase foreign exports and reduce the glut of

meat on the market.

In addition, Glickman announced a moratorium on USDA credit lending for farmers wanting to build additional hog production facilities, calling it "an important signal to the market and lenders" that the government was serious about slowing growth in the supply of hogs on the market.

Mike Dunn, a Keokuk native who is undersecretary of

agriculture for marketing and regulatory programs, said the pseudorabies indemnification program could cost as much as \$85 million.

Iowa, the nation's No. 1 pork-producing state, has more U.S. hogs afflicted with pseudorabies than any other state, he and others said.

Glickman announced the

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USDA offers to buy sick hogs

PORK

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buyout in a radio broadcast outlining his department's efforts to ease the growing financial crisis facing hog farmers.

The new program will accelerate a national pseudorabies eradication program established in 1989. At that time, the disease was found in 30 percent of Iowa's hog herds and cost Iowa pork producers an estimated \$20 million in losses annually.

The state-federal campaign to eradicate the disease has reduced those numbers, but it still is a major problem for the industry, officials said.

1.7 Million Animals

In all, 1.7 million animals in 1,291 U.S. hog herds have the disease. In Iowa, 480,320 hogs in 632 herds have the disease, or more than 28 percent of all U.S. hogs under pseudorabies quarantine and 49 percent of the nation's herds, according to government records.

Participation in the voluntary program would take diseased animals off the hands of farmers and put money in their pockets, government



Dan Glickman announced the buyout in a radio broadcast.

and industry officials said. Alternatively, farmers whose hogs have the disease can administer vaccines to eradicate it, but that is a costly and time-consuming option.

It may take six months for the government to buy the diseased herds, Dunn said. By contrast, using vaccination to eradicate the disease would require another two years, he said.

Officials also said the buyout program could open the way for certification of U.S. pork as being free of pseudorabies. In turn, that would boost pork exports and help clear the price-depressing supply of pork that has plugged the pipeline from farm to market this year.

Dunn called the program "a fantastic opportunity" to rid the U.S. hog herd of the disease, while also opening more markets for U.S. pork

exports. While consuming just a small portion of all pork produced here, pork exports have grown dramatically in recent years. Aside from this year's setbacks due to financial woes in such markets as Asia and Russia, exports continue to be a bright star for the pork industry.

Challenges Remain

The industry still faces enormous challenges in the months ahead, including what to do about the increase in imports of Canadian hogs.

Shipments from Canada are up 37 percent this year over last, further depressing U.S. pork prices, Tank said.

"That is a huge issue, and we have got to find a way to address it," he said. Pseudorabies is a herpes virus that spreads from pig to pig through the air and by physical contact. It cannot be contracted by humans, and meat harvested from infected hogs is not harmful to human health.

But the disease can be fatal to hogs. Young pigs are particularly susceptible, according to experts.

PERRYDALE, Ore. — Students piled toilet paper all over the front step at their rydale, then side to celebrate. tion was well de- lade students had numental amount usehold goods, in- rous packages of und Charmin bath- r the needy. r was one of the after items for oliday donation ountainous stack :ms rising up out- ol was reminis- ery store stock of apples and es of fresh water- nix, green beans, eanut butter and u and cheese, e and rutabagas : the front step. 7, a week before ve, students be- abling the pile it to food banks. s will receive onations direct- ren won't be left s collected \$1,290 in drive, and the change will pay oungsters. Stu- K-12 school also ile of donated distribution. ne pretty good," n Brandon Atha school, we got a d-money. The 's got good kids.



COIN DRIVE — Instructor Dan Dugan helps gather \$1,290 in coins that students contributed to buy toys for needy children.

Pretty much everybody in the school brought something."

The holiday spirit transcended cliques or clubs. While the 310 students in the rural Perrydale school district west of Salem are predominately farm kids, students stressed that the donation drive was a school-wide effort, not limited to FFA students.

The food and clothing drive started last year when 10th grade teacher Dan Dugan challenged Kirk Hutchinson's freshman ag class to a contest. They assigned points to respective articles of clothing and for pounds of food. The class with the most points would win.

Hutchinson's freshman won, and a tradition was

started. This year, students retained the competitive spirit while again remembering the true purpose of their drive.

"We want to help people," said Tracy Neal, sophomore class president and FFA sentinel. "As much as we want to beat each other, it's all to help people."

Creativity made the experience fun. Students called their coin drive the "copper-silver," and under the rules, pennies were deemed "good" while silver coins were deemed "bad." The result was students trying to dump as many of their nickels, dimes and quarters in other classes' jars while hoarding pennies in their own containers.

The food and clothing drives, completed in two weeks, stressed self-reliance and initiative. Students approached farmers and grocers directly for donations. Some even contacted the toilet paper makers and received free packages of bathroom tissue.

Hutchinson, who serves as FFA coordinator at the school, said he incorporated FFA principles into his talks about the effort.

"I want kids to learn service to their community is important," he said. "This is real teamwork. This is teamwork put into action."

Sometimes the lessons came in unorthodox fashion.

"We just did a unit on ag sales, and I told them calling up a person and asking for toilet paper is what ag sales is all about."

Never before have U.S. pork producers experienced such a devastating economic state," said NPPC president Donna Reifschneider.

The Farm Bureau presidents wrote to Glickman that without immediate action, "the entire structure of the industry will be irreparably damaged."

Glickman said the \$50 million government pork purchase would be expedited to provide immediate relief, including a \$3.1 million purchase of 4 million pounds last week.

Government buys pork to boost prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is buying \$15 million worth of pork to boost sagging hog prices and keep food banks from running out of meat during the holiday season.

The purchase will make up to 50 million pounds of pork available to the poor.

"Traditionally many of America's food banks face food shortages during this time of year," Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said.

Prices for hogs are at their lowest prices in more than 40 years because of an oversupply. Last week, Glickman formed a pork crisis task force that would make recommendations to help the industry. On Monday, he met privately with separate groups of meatpackers, retailers and farmers.

Last month, Glickman announced the purchase of \$50 million in pork for food assistance programs. The latest purchase was welcome, but it doesn't go far enough, said Steve Cohen, a spokesman for the National Pork Producers Council.

Capital Press 12/25/98

ND AmeriCorps, Bjt, 0711 AmeriCorps Program Helps Students with College Money Experience

(121)

MINOT, N.D. (AP) Kelly Bosch and Jessica Krumwiede both were looking for a way to finance their college educations. They found it in a relatively new program similar to the Peace Corps, and their experience is paying off in more ways than just financially.

Bosch and Krumwiede, both of Devils Lake, signed up for AmeriCorps, a national service program started by President Clinton in 1994. Bosch is in his first year of service, Krumwiede in her second. They don't regret postponing their educations to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"It's a worthy project I really believe in it," Bosch said. "It's good for the experience and the scholarship."

Those who complete 1,700 hours of community work during nine months in the program earn a \$4,725 grant, said Jay Mar, manager of the Natural Resource Conservation Service Lake Agassiz Regional Council in Fargo. Mar is directing the AmeriCorps project in North Dakota this year.

The grant can be used to pay tuition or to pay off student loans.

Bosch, 19, and Krumwiede, 21, are two of five people in North Dakota working in AmeriCorps this year. Mar said they all want to go back to school but can't afford to without some help.

In North Dakota, AmeriCorps is run through the conservation service. The program's main objective this year is to increase awareness in rural communities and on farms particularly in the southeastern part of the state of the need for protecting ground and surface water from contamination.

That involves identifying potential sources of contamination both on farms and in towns, and documenting those sources, Krumwiede said.

"We put all that on a map, in case there was ever an accident," she said. "The town would then come up with a plan of what they would do in that situation."

Identifying possible sources of contamination means a lot of knocking on doors and asking questions, Bosch said.

"A lot is with farmers, and I can relate there," said Bosch, who grew up on a farm. "That helps. If a vehicle with government plates pulls up, you never know what farmers will think. So it's nice to be able to relate."

The AmeriCorps members are also helping ranchers in the southeastern part of the state implement proper grazing management plans. They're doing that by sponsoring workshops and by doing inventories of field plant species for ranchers.

Communities also can request the AmeriCorps workers for a local project, Mar said.

"These are services that are not offered by anyone else," he said. "There's kind of a void, and that's where AmeriCorps comes in and provides assistance. And the beauty of the program is ... AmeriCorps does not charge the community."

For example, this year the AmeriCorps workers, who often work separately, teamed up to shore up the banks of the Turtle River in Grand Forks County using a method called bioengineering. The workers used willow cuttings and old evergreens to shore up the bank.

The AmeriCorps team will likely be undertaking a similar project on Brekken Lake in McLean County late next spring, Mar said.

For Bosch and Krumwiede, their experience with AmeriCorps has been nothing but beneficial.

"It's given me confidence in myself and given me a great learning experience," said Krumwiede, who works out of the conservation service office in Fargo. "And the college scholarship will help immensely."

Krumwiede is planning to attend the University of North Dakota after her time with AmeriCorps ends next August. She's considering majoring in anthropology.

Bosch, who works out of the conservation service office in Wahpeton and plans to attend the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton, said he would like to work years in AmeriCorps.

"It's real interesting work," he said. "I'm getting a lot of experience, and the scholarship does help a lot. It will help out with college, and it'll look real good on a resume."

Budget battle halts funds for AmeriCorps program

Forest Service awaits action by lawmakers

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

A pile of applications for the AmeriCorps program in the Rogue River National Forest is gathering dust.

Funding for the U.S. Forest Service's part of the program, which was slated to begin its second year last fall, has not yet been approved because of the budget battle in Washington, D.C., said Mindy Martin, forest coordinator for the program.

"I have so many people calling me, some on a weekly basis, to find out what's going on," she said, noting that about 150 applications have been received. "It's really frustrating," she added.

After 31 AmeriCorps members based in the Rogue River forest finished a 10-month tour late last summer, applications were taken for another group slated to begin work early last November.

But funding for the Forest Service's par-

ticipation in the national service program, which depends on passage of an Interior Department appropriations bill, was never approved. Instead, the Forest Service is depending on a continuing resolution passed last week by Congress. That temporary funding expires Jan. 28.

Congressional leaders, vowing to reduce federal spending, have questioned the merits of the \$580 million in funding for the 20,000-member national service corps during its first year. President Clinton has supported expanding the program.

Yet there is still time for a six-month program this year, Martin said.

"Right now, we're looking at converting from full time," she said. "We're still waiting for the go-ahead to start in mid-March or early April."

Because of the shortened work period, the expected \$7,500 pay and educational voucher of \$4,725 for college or trade school would be reduced accordingly, she said.

AmeriCorps participants must be 17 to 23 years old. Last year they worked out of the old Star Gulch facility of the Applegate Rang-

see AMERICORPS, Page 2A

Oregon Mail Tribune

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AmeriCorps

from Page 1A
er District.

Forest officials credited last year's group with completing more than 280 miles of trail maintenance, more than 2,000 acres of forestry work as well as building erosion control projects, cleaning up after forest fires and working on various construction projects.

They also participated in community projects in Butte Falls and Prospect renovating community

buildings, installing sidewalks and building an arboretum.

"We want the program but time is slipping away," said Drinda Lombardi, program coordinator for the Forest Service program in the Pacific Northwest.

"We're still caught in budget uncertainty," she said. "I don't know what's going to happen at this point."

The Rogue River forest program represents nearly half the

agency's AmeriCorps 70-member program in Oregon and Washington, she said.

In addition to the program based in the Rogue River forest there is one in the Olympic National Forest in Washington state and a smaller one in the Columbia River gorge.

Panel to study competition in meat packer industry

1097

By Eddie Evans

WASHINGTON, Feb 14 (Reuters) - Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman set up a panel on Wednesday to probe the meat packer industry, after a report said the small number of big companies was inconsistent with full competition.

Glickman said the panel would report back by June 7 after making a further study of farmer complaints that packers pay low prices even though meat prices are high in supermarkets. "I have heard more concerns about concentration in agriculture than just about any other issue. President Clinton and I want to assure producers that we take these concerns seriously," Glickman said at a news conference.

The report said the four largest packers -- IBP Inc (IBP.N), ConAgra Inc (CAG.N), Cargill Inc and Farmland Industries Inc -- had grown to control 82 percent of steer and heifer slaughter in 1994 from 72 percent in 1990 and 36 percent in 1980.

"Conduct in the red meat packing industry is not consistent with perfect competition," the seven-part report by universities and the Agriculture Department said.

The study found no wrongdoing by the industry.

Glickman said he was setting up the panel of producers, business representatives and academics because the study was inconclusive and did not answer farmers' concerns.

He said he expected the panel to call for meat packers to open up their price-setting mechanisms to government scrutiny, a position supported by Cargill.

"We're all for having a transparent market and would look forward to it," said Mark Klein, a spokesman for Cargill's meat division.

But the American Meat Institute, an industry group, said oversupply of cattle, hogs and poultry was the only reason farm prices were low.

"Given the overwhelming evidence that industry structure is to blame for low livestock prices, AMI questions the need for yet another review," AMI President Patrick Boyle said.

Speaking from South Dakota, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle said he hoped Glickman's advisory committee would lead to changes.

"Something's wrong in a system where packers make huge profits and producers take a hit," Daschle said.

Glickman said he had asked Attorney General Janet Reno to keep the meat industry under review for possible anti-competitive practices.

Glickman also described the Packers and Stockyards Act as a "mini anti-trust law" and promised to use it vigorously against unfair pricing.

REUTER
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USDA study finds no wrongdoing by meat packers

WASHINGTON, Feb 14 (Reuter) - A U.S. Department of Agriculture study into meat industry concentration found no evidence of wrongdoing by meat packers.

The study said that, on balance, conduct in the industry was not consistent with perfect competition and recommended continued monitoring and corrective action where necessary.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman also announced the formation of an advisory committee to address the issue further, including whether new laws were needed to allow more data about the industry to be collected.

Glickman said the study indicated that concentration creates the potential for impeding competition.

He stressed that it represented only a one-year snapshot --April 1992 through March 1993 -- of a dynamic industry.

"The study does not definitively answer the questions and concerns of producers and others about the potential effect of concentration in agriculture," Glickman said.

The advisory committee would pick up where the study left off, he said.

"This past year I have heard more concerns about concentration in agriculture than just about any other issue. President Clinton and I want to assure producers that we take these concerns seriously," Glickman added.

The study included six reports by various universities and one by the USDA.

The study, which was reviewed by an interagency group including the Department of Justice, examined cattle procurement, the effects of concentration on prices paid for cattle, price determination in slaughter cattle procurement and the role of captive supplies in beef packing.

It also examined vertical coordination in hog production and hog procurement in the eastern corn belt.

The 21-member advisory panel includes eight beef, hog, poultry and sheep farmers; seven representatives of agribusiness, rail, retail and rural interests; three economists; and representatives from the state governments of North Carolina, Iowa and Minnesota.

It will be chaired by Dan Padberg, recently retired professor and head of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University, Glickman said.

The first meeting will be February 27 in Washington.

The panel will review the study and will examine application of the Packers and Stockyards Act and the role of USDA's price reporting systems, lending and research.

It will also examine if USDA can or should do more for small operations to assist competition.

-- Eddie Evans (202) 898-8489

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Rtr 12:43 02-14-96

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 2/14/96 12:43 PM

(Adds detail from report, industry and analyst comment throughout.)

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Washington, Feb. 14 (Bloomberg) -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman appointed a panel to find out whether large meatpackers use their market power to hold down prices for cattle and hogs.

Glickman named the 21-member panel today after a \$500,000 USDA study failed to come up with evidence that large companies manipulate prices. Glickman said the study doesn't go far enough.

In releasing an 85-page report on the study, Glickman said it "does not definitively answer the questions and concerns of producers and others about the potential effect of concentration in agriculture."

Glickman did not attempt to revise the study, which was already well underway when he inherited it after taking office in early 1995.

The report, compiled by researchers from the USDA's Economic Research Service and several major universities, said the study "did not determine definitively whether large firms use market power to affect prices paid for cattle nationwide." The study did find that increased concentration in the meatpacking industry "creates the potential for impeding competition."

The study, commissioned by Congress in 1992, merely provides a "snapshot" of conditions between April 1992 and April 1993, Glickman said. Because market conditions have changed since the study was done, it is of more "historical" than practical use, he said.

The advisory panel, which includes eight livestock farmers and two officials from big meatpacking companies, will give the USDA "a more balanced view" from people with a practical knowledge of the industry, he said.

The world's largest packer, IBP Inc., dismissed Glickman's concerns.

Glickman's "claim the report suffered from 'data and methodological problems'" "seems almost absurd," said IBP in a statement. "Given the need for increased efficiency, expanded exports and more product convenience, what everyone should be pondering is how the beef industry can be more competitive with other proteins, not who should be big and who should be small."

Previous studies have shown no evidence of price manipulation, and further research isn't likely to turn up anything new, said David Nelson, industry analyst with Natwest Securities in New York.

"The USDA is a toothless tiger on this issue," he said. "I see it as a political issue, rather than anything the government will take action on."

Antitrust Issues

The livestock industry is the largest segment of U.S. agriculture, with farmers receiving \$85 billion a year for their cattle, hogs, sheep and other livestock.

The three largest U.S. meatpacking companies control 81 percent of the slaughter capacity, Glickman said. They are Dakota City, Nebraska-based IBP; Monfort Inc., of Greeley, Colorado, owned by Conagra Inc.; and Excel Corp. of Wichita, Kansas, owned by Cargill Inc.

National Beef Packing Co. of Kansas City, Missouri, owned by Farmland Industries, the biggest U.S. cooperative, is the fourth-largest U.S. meatpacker.

Officials from Farmland and Excel are on the advisory panel. Glickman said he's talked to Attorney General Janet Reno and to Anne Bingaman, who heads the Justice Department's antitrust division, about concentration in meatpacking. (109)

While he hasn't "specifically" asked the Justice Department to look into the issue, he said, "we have told them it's a matter of high interest in farm country." USDA officials will work with Justice officials in evaluating the panel's recommendations, he said. 2/2

Glickman says the dominance of the big four packers means ranchers and feedlot operators are limited in the "choices to sell their cows and what prices they get." And rapid consolidation in other industries, he noted today, has led to "a lot of efficiency and a lot of job losses."

Glickman said the review panel would gather evidence of market concentration wherever it affects agriculture, including concentration in the railroad, hog and poultry industries. He asked the review panel to report findings and recommendations by June 7.

The panel also will examine, among other questions, whether meatpackers should disclose more frequently the prices they pay to livestock producers, and whether so-called "captive supplies" depress prices. Packers lock up "captive supplies" of cattle under short-term contracts that allow them to buy feedlot cattle before taking delivery, effectively taking them off the market.

The panel's first hearing will be held in Washington on Feb. 27. Other meetings will be held at as-yet-undetermined locations around the country.

Supplies Up, Prices Down

The commission begins its work as meat supplies are at all-time highs, while cattle prices are slumping.

Live cattle prices dipped to a five-year low of 59.1 cents a pound on May 10, 1995. Prices of younger, feeder cattle ready for fattening in feedlots reached a five-year low of 56.375 cents a pound on Jan. 30. Feeder cattle closed today at 56.95 cents a pound, down 1.5 cent at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Live cattle for April delivery closed down 1.375 cents at 63.45 cents.

Some farmers and ranchers, who say declining prices can't be explained by market forces of supply and demand alone, blame meatpackers' influence in the market.

"I'm not sure what (the government) ought to do," said Dean Kleckner, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the largest U.S. general farm group. "Even farmers and cattle feeders disagree on what they think the solution is."

Besides the eight farmers and two meatpacking officials, the advisory panel also includes Mark Drabenstott, vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City; Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad Vice President Phil Weaver, Iowa Agriculture Secretary Dale Cochran, Minnesota Assistant Attorney General Paul Strandberg, and Purdue University economics professor Mike Boehlje.

Glickman said he wants the panel to answer other questions, such as "are people being hurt" by big meatpackers, and "are certain people getting worse prices than other people are getting?"

Glickman added: "Are we going to have all the answers by June 7? I don't know. I doubt it."

KRF> CONGRESS DAILY: Glickman unveils panel to probe meat packing

From the National Journal

Washington--Feb 14--Stepping into what may be a hot topic in this year's presidential and congressional elections in rural areas, Agriculture Secretary Glickman and Senate Minority Leader Daschle today released the Agriculture Department's report on concentration in the red meat packing industry and announced the formation of a USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration to report to Glickman by June 7 on what actions his department should take. The \$500,000 study, mandated by Congress in 1991 and conducted by university researchers, showed three firms accounted for 81% of steer and heifer slaughter between April 1992 and March 1993, the period of the study. But Glickman said the section of the study that examined whether large firms exercise market power to drive down prices paid to cattle producers "suffered from data and methodological problems," so no conclusions could be reached.

The study also showed contracting arrangements between large hog operations and packers are expanding, but failed to come to any conclusions about their effects on smaller, independent producers. The makeup of the advisory committee's leadership and Glickman's statements today demonstrated the power the issue is believed to have in this fall's elections. Glickman chose as advisory committee chairman Dan Padberg, a recently retired Texas A&M professor who served in the Johnson administration, and as co-chairmen Herman Schumacher, owner of the Herreid Livestock Market in South Dakota, and Marty Strange, director of the Walthill, Neb.-based Center for Rural Affairs, a research and advocacy group for small farmers. Speaking from a livestock auction in Sturgis, S.D., Daschle said there is "something wrong in the system" when packers are showing record profits while beef prices are at a low point. Rep. Tim Wirth, D-S.D., has questioned whether the period of the study is dated since livestock prices have fallen. End

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WAOB Wednesday, 14 February 1996 14:22:16

13:57 14 Feb USDA urges Justice Dept to review meat industry

WASHINGTON, Feb 14 (Reuter) - Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said he had urged Attorney General Janet Reno to keep the U.S. meat industry under review for possible anti-competitive practices.

Glickman said he had spoken with Reno and other Justice Department officials and told them that the industry "should be (under) their review."

However, he said he had not specifically asked Justice to take any particular action. Glickman was speaking at a news conference at which he released a USDA study on concentration in the industry.

The report concluded there was no evidence of wrongdoing by meat packers, but said that concentration was affecting competition in the industry.

Asked whether the government should break up large, concentrated enterprises that dominate the market, Glickman said that was a policy matter for the Clinton administration as a whole, not just the Agriculture Department.

He said agribusiness would be subject to the same scrutiny as every other industry, and said there would have to be evidence of wrongdoing as well as market domination before any action was considered.

Glickman also said he considered the Packers and Stockyards Act to be a "mini anti-trust law," giving USDA authority to act against unfair practices and uncompetitive pricing.

"We will continue to vigorously enforce that statute," he said.

He added that an advisory panel -- which he announced at the same news conference -- would "push along" the concentration issue and help USDA focus its thinking.

Glickman set a June 7 deadline for the panel to present its findings, but hinted that the industry would remain under review beyond that date, saying the panel would be unable to reach final conclusions in such a short time.

Glickman said he expected one of the panel's recommendations would be for wider authority for the government to gather industry data.

-- Eddie Evans 202-898-8489

KRF> USDA urges monitoring meat packing industry consolidation
Knight-Ridder

Washington--Feb 14--A long-awaited USDA report today called for further monitoring and analysis of the trend toward increased consolidation of the US meat-packing industry and suggested the US take "corrective action when necessary."

In a press conference, USDA Secretary Dan Glickman said the report gives "a one-year snapshot" of the US meat packing industry, but "does not provide definitive answers" about many of the concerns surrounding increased concentration. More

USDA noted in its report that concentration in the meat-packing industry has "increased sharply in recent years. For example, the 4 largest packers accounted for 82% of steer and heifer slaughter in 1994, versus only 72% in 1990 and 36% in 1980."

To address concerns over increased concentration in the industry and other parts of agriculture, Glickman also announced the formation of new USDA advisory committee to review the evidence of concentration in agriculture.

That panel will have its first meeting Feb 27 and Glickman said he has asked the group to have recommendations ready by Jun 7. More

"As I've traveled around the country this past year, I have heard more concern about the issue of concentration in agriculture than any other issue," Glickman said.

But while the report released today "does confirm that there's concentration in the red meat-packing industry," it does not make a clear cut case that that is either good or bad, he said.

A project examining "whether large firms exercise market power to drive down prices paid to cattle producers suffered from data and methodological problems. It did not come to a definitive conclusion regarding this critical issue," Glickman said.

USDA will continue to study and monitor the issue, he said. "We cannot and we will not allow any unfair trade practices in the meat industry," he said. More

The 21-member advisory committee will include "producers, economists, employees of agriculture business and railroads and other representatives of the agriculture community," Glickman said.

In addition to making recommendations, it will serve as a "public forum" for producer and industry groups to discuss the issue of concentration in 3 or 4 meetings held around the country over the next several months, he said.

"Our concern has to be more than worrying about the efficiency of the market. A monopoly can be very efficient and offer very few opportunities for price competition," Glickman said. "Farmers, ranchers, producers, processors and consumers demand that those choices be available," he said. End

By Doug Palmer, Knight-Ridder Financial News
Tel: (202) 383-6178

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Meatpackers, 480

Commission to Look at Meatpacker Concentration

WASHINGTON (AP) There is no clear proof that the top four meatpackers control hog and cattle prices, according to an Agriculture Department report released Wednesday.

Still, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman pledged he would block any effort by a few slaughterhouses to underpay farmers and processors. He also appointed a 21-member committee of farmers, economists, meat packers and others to take a deeper look at concentration in livestock.

Livestock is the largest segment of the farm economy, accounting for more than \$50 billion in farm-level sales a year.

A huge slump in cattle prices and the rapid growth of huge, corporate hog farms has angered ranchers, small-feed lot operators and farmers throughout the West, Midwest and Plains states. As a result, the issue has become fodder for the 1996 congressional and presidential elections.

Limited in the time period it covered, the congressionally required study left unanswered the key question: whether the big packing companies have enough clout to move prices.

The \$500,000 report by university and department researchers had unusual access to the packers' records. It also examined the use of "captive supply" agreements by which the packers bargain over prices 14 days or more ahead of slaughter rather than buying on cash markets.

The new committee, with less than \$50,000 to spend and hardly three months to do its job, will look at the report and other data from the department. A key goal will be to see whether changes in how the industry does business have distorted the pricing and market information that farmers and ranchers rely on.

Glickman also promised he would police the market, telling reporters, "We cannot and will not allow any unfair trade practices in the meat industry." Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., joined the news conference by telephone from a livestock auction barn in Sturgis, S.D.

Although shoppers are paying less for meat because of big supplies, Daschle said the profits are going to packers rather than farmers.

The government has watched meatpacker concentration closely throughout the century. Five companies controlled production in the early 1900s. The number grew after a Federal Trade Commission investigation and passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921.

Control has again narrowed. The department says the four largest packers slaughtered 82 percent of the animals in 1994, compared with 36 percent in 1980.

The top companies are IBP Inc. of Dakota City, Neb.; Montfort Inc., of Greeley, Colo., owned by ConAgra Inc.; Excel Corp. of Wichita, Kan., owned by Cargill; and National Beef Packing Co. of Kansas City, Mo., a subsidiary of Farmland Foods.

In 1991, Congress told the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration to do the study and set aside \$500,000 for it.

AP-NY-02-14-96 1612EST

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 2/14/96 4:12 PM

109

NE Meatpackers,0681
Commission to Look at Meatpacker Concentration

Wednesday PMs; NO pickup
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By ROBERT GREENE=
AP Farm Writer=

109

WASHINGTON (AP) A new committee will look at whether the dwindling number of companies that buy and slaughter livestock poses a threat to the livelihood of ranchers and independent farmers.

But the committee, announced Wednesday by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, will have little time or money to do more than hold a few hearings that will call attention to the issue.

Rep. Bill Barrett, R-Neb., applauded Glickman's decision to form an advisory committee.

"All Nebraskans need to be concerned about the cattle prices that are falling through the floor," Barrett said. "I'm encouraged that Secretary Glickman has moved so quickly to establish this committee so we can address these concerns and let producers know they're not falling on deaf ears."

Jeff Pribbeno, president of Nebraska Cattlemen, also praised Glickman. "The fact that a report from the group is due June 7 indicates today's study will provide a valuable base for looking at market practices that have caused so much concern," Pribbeno said. Glickman announced the 21-member panel at a news conference, where he also released a study ordered by Congress examining the concentration of the meatpacking industry within a few big companies.

Although the report concluded that four companies control more than 80 percent of the cattle slaughter, its authors could not measure whether the big meatpackers can influence prices.

A slump in cattle prices and the rapid growth of huge, corporate hog farms have angered ranchers, small-feed lot operators and farmers throughout the West, Midwest and Plains states. As a result, the issue has become fodder for the 1996 congressional and presidential elections.

So far, shoppers have benefited from low meat prices. The best that the farmers can argue is that prices would be even lower if packers didn't make so much money. Packers say the high volume of slaughter drove their profits last year.

The committee will take a broader look at concentration, including the growing use of farmers who raise poultry on contract with food companies, and the impact of railroad concentration on shipping costs.

But Glickman told reporters his main concern was whether everybody gets the same treatment. "Are people being hurt?" he said. "Are certain people getting worse prices than other people are getting?"

The department filed a complaint last August against the largest packer, IBP Inc. of Dakota City, Neb., alleging that it bought selectively from a small group of Kansas feedlots. The case, being fought by IBP, is pending.

The committee will also look at whether the growing use of private, longer-term supply agreements between meat packers and sellers was making information on market prices less reliable. Farmers and ranchers rely on those numbers for their selling decisions.

The committee consists of farmers and ranchers; representatives of the rail, packing and supermarket industries; state officials, including Iowa Agriculture Secretary Dale Cochran; and three economists.

The committee plans at least four public hearings before making a report in June.

Wednesday's report said the four largest packers slaughtered 82 percent of the animals in 1994, compared with 36 percent in 1980. After IBP, the top companies are Confort Inc., of Greeley, Colo., owned by ConAgra Inc.; Excel Corp. of Wichita, Kan., owned by Cargill; and National Beef Packing Co. of Kansas City, Mo., a subsidiary of Farmland Foods.

Officials from Excel and Farmland will serve on the committee.

AP-NY-02-15-96 0319EST

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAV: 2/15/06 3:10 AM

Meatpacker Monopolies, 420 Report: More Information Needed; Commission Appointed

By ROBERT GREENE - AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal study said today it did not come up with definitive proof that a handful of slaughterhouses hold down cattle and hog prices. (109)

As a result, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman appointed an outside committee to take a deeper look at the industry and the impact of concentration on prices. Glickman had been urged to do so by Democratic and Republican lawmakers from the West, Midwest and Plains.

Ranchers, farmers and small feedlot operators have been plagued by low prices. At the same time, fewer companies control the production and slaughter of red meat animals. But economists disagree over what is depressing prices and whether the four top slaughterhouse operators have hurt or helped producers.

Overproduction has been blamed as well for depressing prices while high grain prices have added to producers' costs.

The low meat prices have found their way to the supermarket, where beef prices are at four-year lows, according to surveys by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

The \$500,000 Agriculture Department study was criticized before it was finished, in particular because it looked at records from only a short period - April 1992 through March 1993.

"It does not provide definitive answers either for those who think concentration is a serious problem for agriculture and those who think there are no problems caused by increasing concentration," Glickman told reporters.

The government has kept a close watch on meatpacker concentration throughout the century. Five companies controlled production in the early 1900s. The number grew after a Federal Trade Commission investigation and passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921.

Control has again narrowed. The department says the four largest packers slaughtered 82 percent of the animals in 1994, compared with 36 percent in 1980. The top companies are IBP Inc. of Dakota City, Neb.; Montfort Inc. of Greeley, Colo., owned by ConAgra Inc.; Excel Corp. of Wichita, Kan., owned by Cargill; and National Beef Packing Co. of Kansas City, Mo., a subsidiary of Farmland Foods.

In 1992, Congress told the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration to do the study and set aside \$500,000 for it. The new committee would consist of farmers, industry officials and others, and would finish its report in June.

AP-WX-02-14-96 1329EST<

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 2/14/96 1:29 PM

Study warns of meatpacking concentration

109

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (UPI) — Domination of the U.S. meatpacking industry by a few agribusiness giants creates the possibility for market manipulation that could hurt small farmers and ranchers, according to a study released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday. The study did not, however, find conclusive evidence that such manipulation is taking place.

The study confirmed concentration in the red meat industry, with three firms accounting for 81 percent of U.S. steer and heifer slaughter, the secretary said. In addition, it found fewer than 1 percent of the sellers — large feedlots — accounted for 43 percent of the cattle sold.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said he has appointed a 21-member committee to investigate all types of concentration in agribusiness and make recommendations to ensure competition.

"As I've traveled across the country over the past year, I have heard more concern about concentration in agriculture than about any other issue — and that includes the farm bill," Glickman told a news conference.

"At the National Rural Forum in Iowa last spring, Olive Valdez, a farmer from Colorado, told President Clinton and me that when she takes her animals to the sales ring, there are usually only three buyers," Glickman said.

"She said, and I quote, 'We see those three buyers for the three major companies sitting up in the ring, laughing, talking and we are terrified. We are scared to death because they can laugh and joke because they're playing with our future. We have no control,'" Glickman quoted Valdez.

Glickman said many farmers also believe the major packers give giant feedlots better prices than they do to smaller producers. But he said the part of the study looking into that question "suffered from data and methodological problems. It did not come to a definitive conclusion regarding this crucial issue — an issue which USDA will continue to study."

He said the study, which was mandated by Congress in 1992, did not study another question he hears often — whether the proliferation of large hog lots is impacting the marketing chances of small hog producers.

Glickman said the new committee will hold its first meeting Feb. 27 in Washington and is expected to report by June 7. He said it will translate the "academic exercise" of the just-released study into recommendations for action.

"We cannot and will not allow any unfair trade practices in the meat industry," Glickman said.

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Three Concerns Found to Control Cattle Slaughter

WSJ 2/15/96 e9

By BRUCE INGERSOLL

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — An Agriculture Department study concluded that three meatpacking companies control 81% of the cattle-slaughter market, without finding definitive evidence that they use their purchasing power to hold down beef prices.

The inconclusive results prompted Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to appoint an advisory committee to take another look at the effects of a highly concentrated industry on livestock prices.

Mr. Glickman told a news conference he has discussed concentration in agribusiness with Attorney General Janet Reno and Ann Bingaman, the Justice Department's top antitrust lawyer. But there has been "no conclusion yet" on policy or a possible course of action, he added.

Currently, livestock producers are saddled with overproduction and low prices for cattle and hogs. They are concerned about the growing spread between the prices they get at the slaughterhouse and retail prices consumers pay at the supermarket. Many producers blame their problems on the trend toward greater concentration.

The \$500,000 study — mandated by Congress — takes a snapshot of the meat industry from April 1992 through March 1993. The researchers couldn't determine whether large beef packers exert market power over prices because of "several data and methodological difficulties," according to the study report.

"It does not provide definitive answers," Mr. Glickman said.

A series of mergers and acquisitions has greatly concentrated the meatpacking industry since 1980, when the four largest packers accounted for 36% of the steer and heifers slaughtered. In 1994, the four largest, slaughtered 82% of the cattle and the three largest, 81%. They are IBP Inc., Dakota City, Neb.; Monfort Inc., Greeley, Colo., a Conagra Inc. subsidiary; Cargill Inc.'s Excel Corp. unit, Wichita, Kan.; and, fourth on the list, National Beef Packing Co. of Kansas City, Mo., a subsidiary of Farmland Foods cooperative.

The American Meat Institute, which represents meatpackers, said it was pleased that the report "found no conclusive evidence of wrongdoing" in the meatpacking industry's business practices. But it said it questioned the need for a further review, "given the overwhelming evidence that industry structure is not to blame for low livestock prices."

The 21-member advisory committee, made up of farmers, industry officials and academic experts, is to report back with recommendations in June. In the meantime, the Agriculture Department will use the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 to crack down on any deceptive pricing or other unfair-market practices it finds. In a lawsuit last year, the department accused IBP of giving preferential treatment to some Kansas feedlots from which it buys cattle. The company has denied engaging in unfair practices.

Ny Times 2/15/96 D2

A Panel Is Formed On Meatpacking

By Bhasinberg Business News

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 — Dan Glickman, Agriculture Secretary, appointed a panel today to determine whether large meatpackers use their market power to hold down prices for cattle and hogs.

Mr. Glickman named the 21-member panel after a \$500,000 Agriculture Department study failed to come up with evidence that large companies manipulate prices. Mr. Glickman said the study did not go far enough.

Some farmers and ranchers have contended that declining prices cannot be explained by market forces alone. They blame the increased concentration of large meatpackers.

In releasing an 85-page report on the study, Mr. Glickman said it "does not definitively answer the questions and concerns of producers and others about the potential effect of concentration in agriculture."

The advisory panel, which includes eight livestock farmers and two officials from big meatpacking companies, will give the Agriculture Department "a more balanced view" from people with a practical knowledge of the industry, he said.

Glickman to brief press Thursday on karnal bunt

WASHINGTON, March 20 (Reuter) - Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman will brief reporters Thursday at 0930 EST/1430 GMT on the latest developments in the karnal bunt grain fungus situation.

To date, karnal bunt has been confirmed in four varieties of Durum wheat - Reva, Durex, Ocotillo, and Kronos - in Arizona.

Poland has advised USDA that karnal bunt is listed as a quarantine pest on their new phytosanitary regulations of February 15, 1996, so Poland has been added to the list of nations concerned about the fungus, and Poland has not yet agreed to accept U.S. wheat until new certification.

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 3/20/96 4:38 PM

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LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 16 STORIES

Copyright 1996 Little Rock Newspapers, Inc.
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

May 15, 1996, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 10B

LENGTH: 860 words

HEADLINE: FARM ISSUES SUPPLY HEAT IN FACE-OFF 1ST DISTRICT FORUM DRAWS 2 OF 3 HOPEFULS

BYLINE: KEVIN FREKING, Democrat-Gazette Capitol Bureau

BODY:

HAZEN -- Tom Donaldson and Marion Berry hammered away at each other on farming issues Monday night during an appearance in their Democratic congressional race.

The third Democrat in the 1st District race, Kirby Smith, sat out in protest.

As the three-man race for the Democratic nomination entered its final week, the rhetoric heated up before more than 100 people at Murry's Restaurant.

Smith, an electrician from Brookland, said he has been pushing for a free-candidate debate for two months. But he said the 30-minute question-and-answer session sponsored by the Hazen Chamber of Commerce and promoted by the Berry campaign as a debate wasn't what he had in mind.

"It was a contrived affair to allow Marion Berry to say he has debated," Smith said.

Berry, President Clinton's former liaison to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the Democratic front-runner. Rep. Blanche Lambert Lincoln, D-Ark., co-sponsored a fund-raising event in Washington on his behalf, and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman came to the district to speak for Berry.

Lincoln, who is pregnant with twins, isn't seeking a third term in the 1st District.

The winner of the Democratic primary will face Warren Dupwe of Jonesboro, a Republican lawyer who received 47 percent of the vote when he ran against Lincoln in 1994.

Berry, 53, is a Gillett farmer. Donaldson, 28, is a deputy prosecuting attorney at West Memphis. Smith, 42, is a former business manager for Local 1516 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers at Jonesboro.

Berry and Donaldson agreed on a few issues Monday night. For example, they support an increase in the federal minimum wage from \$ 4.25 to \$ 5.15 per hour. The increase would be phased in over two years. Smith also supports the minimum-wage increase, which is being pushed by organized labor and congressional Democrats.

Berry and Donaldson had sharp differences on agricultural issues. Donaldson blamed Berry for not helping craft a farm bill that was more favorable to Arkansans. Under the bill Congress enacted, farmers will receive gradually declining payments during the next seven years regardless of market price.

"It was his job to make sure we got a good farm bill," Donaldson said of Berry. "We didn't get one. I don't think Mr. Berry should be promoted to the House based on that record in agriculture."

Berry said he had left Washington by the time the bill was approved. He said Republican congressional leaders wrote the farm bill with little input from the Clinton administration.

"It was the best deal we could get at the moment," Berry said. "I don't think it was the best possible public policy."

Donaldson linked Berry's acceptance of farm subsidies to corporate welfare. He said Berry has formed multiple corporations to increase subsidy payments.

Arkansas farmers received about \$ 400 million in farm subsidies in 1994. Much of the money went to farmers in the 1st District, which covers 25 counties in east and north Arkansas.

Farmers are allowed to form up to three subsidy-eligible entities if they meet certain government guidelines. A farmer can receive up to \$ 50,000 per entity. The total subsidy a farmer can receive is \$ 100,000.

"The problem I have with Mr. Berry and any other corporate millionaire farmer out there is that they are abusing a system originally designed to help family farmers," Donaldson said. "They are milking the government for money."

Berry said he has an interest in several partnerships, all of which meet Agriculture Department guidelines. He questioned Donaldson's knowledge about agriculture.

"He obviously has never walked across a rice field with a shovel on his shoulder and hip boots on his feet and sweated like I have to make a living from the land," Berry said.

Berry said he gave away his interest in some of the farming corporations he managed when he became Clinton's agriculture liaison in late 1993. He said the rest of his business interests were placed in a blind trust he had no control over.

Berry said Agriculture Department and White House ethics officers reviewed and approved all of his business activities. He said he had no farm management responsibilities while living in Washington. The only farm income he received during that period was rent on a farm his parents left Berry, his two brothers and his sister. The farm is managed by the brothers.

Berry said Donaldson should "apologize to" Arkansas farmers for "characterizing farm programs as welfare."

Berry said that in 1993, the last year he farmed before joining the Clinton administration, he received \$ 45,000 to \$ 50,000 in rice subsidies. The

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, May 15, 1996

ubsidies went to Pecan Post Inc., in which he had a 49 percent stake, and to a
cond entity that included two corporations and a partnership.

Smith and Donaldson have debated six times on 1st District radio stations.
They had agreed to attend a Thursday night debate sponsored by a Memphis
television station, but the debate was canceled when Berry wouldn't commit.
Berry said he had a previous commitment.

LOAD-DATE: May 15, 1996

USDA office to enforce antitrust law

■ The new facility in Des Moines will target manipulation of hog and meat prices.

By **GEORGE ANTHAN**
REGISTER WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

Washington, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman on Tuesday said the USDA will establish a national antitrust enforcement office in Des Moines to help ensure that increasing concentration in the pork industry does not result in large producers and processors manipulating prices for live hogs and consumer meat products.

Glickman said the Des Moines office also will coordinate antitrust activities for all segments of the meat industry in an 11-state Midwestern area.

The secretary said the USDA also plans to establish an office in Denver to handle all trade practice issues relating to the cattle and sheep industries.

An office in Atlanta will handle competition issues relating to poultry. The Atlanta and Denver offices also will coordinate all meat industry antitrust matters in their regions.

USDA officials said the Des Moines office will be staffed by statisticians, economists, price-reporting investigators and experts on competition and trade-practice issues from the national headquarters of the department's Packers & Stockyards Administration in Washington and from several existing field

USDA officials said it isn't known how many people will staff the regional office, which will represent an addition to current price information and reporting activities in Des Moines of the Agricultural Marketing Service. The new office is expected to open sometime over the next several months.

Manipulation Concerns

Glickman has expressed concern over the potential for market manipulation in the beef, poultry and pork industries, which are increasingly dominated by large processors and producers. He said the new monitoring and enforcement setup "will enhance our ability to conduct investigations and combat unfair anti-competitive practices in the marketplace."

He said, "We need the muscle and ability to enforce the Packers & Stockyards law, which is our antitrust law in USDA. We will shift resources to areas where the beef, pork and poultry industries are concentrated."

The secretary said the three

offices will conduct audits to determine whether meat and poultry processors and producers are complying with efforts by the USDA to collect and make public accurate information on prices being paid for hogs, cattle and poultry.

Assistant Agriculture Secretary Michael Dunn said the Des Moines office will determine whether there is a monopoly problem in the pork industry. "We want to see if they (large processors and producers) are using their positions to manipulate markets. Producers want to know what everyone else is getting for the same hogs that they're selling."

Packers' Practice

The National Commission on Small Farms reported to Glickman recently of concern throughout U.S. agriculture that packers have begun a practice called "captive supplies," as a way of securing livestock for their operations.

The commission said processors control these supplies either through direct ownership or through contracts with large producers.

The practice, the commission said, can allow processors to dump supplies onto the market when prices are high. The commission also said it had reports that packers pay above-market prices to certain large producers under condition that those prices not be reported to the USDA.

Glickman said the USDA will propose to make it illegal for anyone to purchase livestock or poultry with the condition that the price not be publicly reported.

He also said the USDA proposes to require meat exporters to report weekly on the quantity and destination of all overseas sales of beef and pork so that all industry segments will be aware of changing supply and demand conditions.

New Program

Glickman said the USDA will expand to Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin a pilot program begun in Missouri under which producers and processors report a full range of prices paid for hogs under various marketing arrangements.

The secretary appeared in the Capitol after meeting with several Midwestern Democratic senators, including Tom Harkin of Iowa and Bob Kerrey of Nebraska.

The senators last week sent a letter to Glickman emphasizing that accurate information on prices being paid by packers to all producers — large and small — is necessary to the operation of free livestock markets.

Tuesday, Kerrey said, "Something is happening out there, something is not working in the market."

Reporter George Anthan can be reached at anthan@news.dnr.wg.com or (703) 907-5002.



Glickman
Tells plans

Des Moines
Register

3/25/98

p. 105

2/9/25 (Item 1 from file: 704)
DIALOG(R)File 704:(Portland)The Oregonian
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GLICKMAN VISIT CATAPULTS BISON DEBATE TO THE FORE

Oregonian (PO) - SUNDAY, March 23, 1997

By: The Associated Press

Edition: SUNRISE Section: WIRE STORIES THE WEST Page: A27

Word Count: 621

TEXT:

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. - Summary: The agriculture secretary's trip today to the Yellowstone area brings a glimmer of hope to resolving policies on the animals

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman's visit today to Yellowstone National Park is being hailed as an opportunity for debate about management of the park's bison.

Wyoming, Montana and officials of environmental groups welcomed Glickman's flight over Yellowstone and subsequent town meeting in Gardiner, Mont., which state, federal, American Indians and representatives of environmental groups will attend.

"We hope to see movement between the state and federal agencies on this issue," Bob Ekey of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition said. "We've been going on for months now about the bison continuing to be shot, and the state and federal agencies have not been talking."

"The secretary's visit will give us a chance to sit down and talk with Montanans on the bison issue," said U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. "This is an important step in our search to find an answer."

Conflicting wildlife management goals are at the heart of the problems that have led to the killing of almost 1,100 bison this winter as they moved north and west out of the park into Montana.

Montanans have shot bison leaving the park in the past to prevent the spread of brucellosis, but this year's harsh winter drove more of the animals toward the border than ever before.

- A call to halt the killing

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt has pushed for an end to the killing,

but Montana maintains the bison must be killed to keep brucellosis from being spread to domestic cattle. The disease can cause cattle to abort calves and can cause undulant fever in humans. Critics say no evidence exists that bison can spread the disease in the wild to cattle.

Montana also argues that the bison must be killed so the state can comply with U.S. Department of Agriculture rules to keep its brucellosis-free status.

A loss of the designation could lead to sanctions on Montana's cattle that would prevent their export.

Today's meeting, which comes near the end of the bison's migration season, should provide an opportunity for the state and federal agencies to discuss their differences, Ekey said.

Ekey said Glickman and Babbitt already proposed a compromise to allow more bison to wander outside of the park without threatening Montana's brucellosis-free status.

"We think the framework is there to make some agreement," he said. "We think there are ways to allow for limited bison migration outside the park. I think if these guys sit down there and honestly debate, they will figure out a way to do that."

Wyoming officials including Agriculture Commissioner Ron Micheli, who will attend the meeting view the gathering as one way to resolve apparent conflicts between federal and state goals.

"We want the federal government to speak with one voice," said Jimmy Orr, a spokesman for Gov. Jim Geringer. "These two federal agencies don't agree on what the solution should be. We want to bring that to" Glickman's attention so we can work toward the path of eradicating brucellosis in wildlife."

- Elk another matter

In Wyoming, the threat of brucellosis stems largely from elk found around feeding grounds in the Jackson area.

Although Wyoming has vaccinated more than 32,000 elk against the disease and is designated brucellosis-free, two states recently imposed sanctions on the shipment of Wyoming's cattle. The state headed off additional sanctions by agreeing to an independent review of its brucellosis control

program.

Micheli said he wants Glickman to realize that once federal officials solve problems with bison, they still will face problems caused by elk.

I don't want him thinking when he solves the bison problem he's solved all our problems," he said.

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The State Journal-Register (Springfield, IL)

June 8, 1997, Friday, EARLY AND CITY EDITIONS

SECTION: BUSINESS, Pg. 51

LENGTH: 609 words

HEADLINE: USDA asks Congress for wider antitrust powers

BYLINE: Roger Runnigen BLOOMBERG NEWS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The Agriculture Department is asking Congress for broader authority to fight violations of the department's antitrust laws.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said he wants lawmakers add civil penalties to a 1967 fair practices law that requires meat packers and poultry processors to bargain fairly with farmers.

He also wants Congress to change laws on meatpackers and stockyards to add poultry processors to the list of operators that can be fined for engaging in price discrimination. Only meatpackers can be fined now.

"Right now violations of both these laws must be dealt with in federal court" in a case filed by the Justice Department, Glickman told reporters at a briefing. Agriculture Department officials "don't have administrative authority" to bring such cases.

Glickman has expressed sympathy with farmers' complaints that meatpackers and poultry processors use their market power to depress farm prices. He predicted Congress would approve the requests.

Today's steps, he said, "ensure that markets are fair and open" and that they keep pace with changing markets.

Separately, Glickman said he plans to increase investigations into anti-competitive practices by adding 30 lawyers and investigators, who'll be sent to some of the USDA's 11 regional offices to handle unfair trading cases.

That's a 17 percent increase from the 175 people now assigned to enforcing USDA antitrust laws.

Glickman's actions follow a recommendation last March from the USDA's inspector general that the USDA consider letting the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission investigate anti-competitive practices in the meatpacking industry.

The USDA "hasn't kept pace" with the sophisticated techniques needed to investigate a highly concentrated industry, Inspector General Roger Viadero wrote.

The State Journal Register, June 8, 1997

Glickman has rejected that advice, saying that the Justice Department or Federal Trade Commission isn't likely to give antitrust allegations in the meatpacking or poultry processing industry high priority.

Meanwhile, the USDA is acting on its own to pursue investigations that it previously disclosed, including: --A probe into anti-competitive cattle buying practices in the Texas Panhandle, involving more than six million head of cattle and 37,000 transactions.

--An investigation into pricing and purchasing practices at 11 hog-slaughtering plants in Iowa and southern Minnesota. The inquiry includes an examination of hog production under contract with meatpackers.

--An investigation into poultry production under contract with processors in "several states." Operations of five of the top 10 firms are being examined.

Officials wouldn't name the companies involved in any of the investigations.

"This isn't an investigation of wrongdoing" but rather one of data collection, said Mike Dunn, assistant secretary for marketing and regulatory programs.

Meanwhile, USDA lawyers are pursuing antitrust charges the department filed in 1995 against IBP Inc.

The department charges the nation's largest meatpacker stifled competition when it offered higher beef prices to some Kansas feedlot operators but not others.

IBP is fighting the accusations. Oral arguments ended in April. A decision by USDA Administrative law Judge Victor Palmer is expected this fall.

Four companies control 82 percent of the meatpacking industry: IBP Inc. of Dakota City, Nebraska; Monfort Inc. of Greeley, Colorado, a unit of ConAgra Inc.; Excel Corp., Wichita, Kansas, owned by Cargill Inc., and National Beef Packing Co., of Kansas City, Missouri, a unit of Farmland Industries, the nation's largest farm cooperative.

2/9/4 (Item 1 from file: 714)
DIALOG(R)File 714:(Baltimore) The Sun
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AGRICULTURE DEPT. TO REQUEST MORE INVESTIGATIVE POWERS; AGENCY IS
CONCERNED

WITH FAIR COMPETITION IN MEAT INDUSTRIES; REGULATION

BALTIMORE MORNING SUN (BS) - Thursday June 5, 1997

By: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Edition: Final Section: Financial Page: 3D

Word Count: 298

TEXT:

WASHINGTON - The Agriculture Department will ask Congress for additional investigative and enforcement tools to ensure fair competition in livestock and poultry markets, Secretary Dan Glickman said yesterday.

"I continue to be concerned about the concentration of more and more of the agriculture industry into fewer and fewer hands," he told reporters. "I believe it is USDA's responsibility to ensure that markets are fair and open, and to make certain our efforts keep pace with a changing market."

Glickman said the Agriculture Department will seek authority to ensure fair treatment directly through administrative enforcement and civil penalties. Currently, alleged violations of the Agricultural Fair Practices Act must be referred to the Justice Department or pursued through private legal action.

The Agriculture Department also will request administrative enforcement power involving violations by live-poultry dealers. Such authority now is limited to meat packer violations under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Glickman said the new authority would provide more uniform enforcement, make current resources more effective and provide a more effective and timely deterrent against violations. He said he believed that Congress will grant both requests.

In addition, the secretary said USDA will strengthen its investigative activities by putting economic, statistical and legal expertise in the responsible field offices.

The increase will involve 30 additional staffers for the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

In response to complaints that markets are dominated by big business, the department announced last summer it would expand cattle price reporting so ranchers can have more bargaining power with meatpackers and with feed lots.

Glickman said the USDA will undertake an education campaign to help producers use the information.

Suggestions will be sought at a meeting this summer of leaders of producer and agribusiness groups and the research, academic and cooperative extension system communities.

Pub Date: 6/05/97

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LEVEL 1 - 4 OF 5 STORIES

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Omaha World Herald

June 5, 1997 Thursday SUNRISE EDITION

SECTION: BUSINESS; Pg. 20

LENGTH: 493 words

HEADLINE: USDA Seeks More Power Over Meat, Poultry Firms

SUBLINE: Bloomberg News

LOCATION: Washington

LEAD:

The Agriculture Department is asking Congress for broader authority to fight violations of the department's antitrust laws.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said Wednesday that he wants lawmakers to add civil penalties to a 1967 fair practices law that requires meat packers and poultry processors to bargain fairly with farmers.

He also wants Congress to change laws on meatpackers and stockyards to add poultry processors to the list of operators that can be fined for engaging in price discrimination.

Now meatpackers can be fined now.

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Today's steps, he said, "ensure that markets are fair and open" and that they keep pace with changing markets.

Separately, Glickman said he plans to increase investigations into anticompetitive practices by adding 30 lawyers and investigators, who'll be sent to some of the USDA's 11 regional offices to handle unfair trading cases. That's a 17 percent increase from the 175 people now assigned to enforcing USDA antitrust laws.

Glickman's actions follow a recommendation last March from the USDA's inspector general that the USDA consider letting the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission investigate anti-competitive practices in the meatpacking industry.

The USDA "hasn't kept pace" with the sophisticated techniques needed to investigate a highly concentrated industry, Inspector General Roger Viadero wrote.

Glickman has rejected that advice, saying that neither the Justice department nor Federal Trade Commission is likely to give antitrust allegations to the meatpacking or poultry processing industry high priority.

Meanwhile, USDA lawyers are pursuing antitrust charges the department filed in 1995 against IBP Inc. The department charges the nation's largest meatpacker stifled competition when it offered higher beef prices to some Kansas feedlot operators but not others.

IBP is fighting the accusations. Oral arguments ended in April.

A decision by USDA Administrative law Judge Victor Palmer is expected this fall.

Four companies control 82 percent of the meatpacking industry: IBP Inc. of Omaha, Neb.; Monfort Inc. of Greeley, Colo., a unit of ConAgra Inc.; Excel Corp., Wichita, Kan., owned by Cargill Inc.; and National Beef Packing Co., of Kansas City, Mo., a unit of Farmland Industries, the nation's largest farm cooperative.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

OAD-DATE: June 06, 1997

2/9/6 (Item 2 from file: 723)
DIALOG(R)File 723:The Wichita Eagle
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09156029

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Wichita Eagle (WE) - Thursday, June 5, 1997

By: Compiled from Eagle staff reports and wire reports

Edition: main Section: BUSINESS & FARM Page: 15A

Word Count: 717

MEMO:

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

TEXT:

Glickman moves to address complaints over meat-pricing

The Agriculture Department on Wednesday asked Congress for broader authority to fight violations of the department's antitrust laws. Secretary Dan Glickman said he wants lawmakers to add civil penalties to a 1967 fair practices law that requires meat packers and poultry processors to bargain fairly with farmers.

Glickman has expressed sympathy with farmers' complaints that meatpackers and poultry processors use their market power to depress farm prices. He predicted Congress would approve the requests. The new steps, he said, "ensure that markets are fair and open" and that they keep pace with changing markets.

Four companies control 82 percent of the meatpacking industry: IBP Inc. of Dakota City, Neb.; Monfort of Greeley, Colo., a unit of ConAgra; Wichita-based Excel Corp., owned by Cargill; and National Beef Packing Co., of Kansas City, Mo., a unit of Farmland Industries, the nation's largest farm cooperative.

Employer of the blind unveils new image

Wichita Industries and Services for the Blind, which offers jobs and rehabilitation services to the blind and vision-impaired, took the wraps off its new name Wednesday as it officially became Envision. President Linda Merrill said the new name reflected a broadened scope for the not-for-profit agency at 801 E. Lincoln. The company, founded in 1931, employs 110 people who are blind or legally blind. It serves nearly 500 more through its services division, and also operates in Kansas City and Pittsburg.

U.S. factory orders increase

Orders to U.S. factories rebounded across a range of industries in April, but not enough to put inflationary stress on the production pipeline. The 1.2 percent increase in orders, to a seasonally adjusted \$323.9 billion, was the third rise in four months and followed a 1.3 percent drop in March, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Analysts said the rebound didn't contradict their expectation for only modest manufacturing growth in the April-June quarter after a robust first quarter.

American, ABC chasing frequent fliers

Watching television will soon help you earn frequent flier miles on American Airlines - as long as the set is tuned to ABC. The airline and television network announced a joint promotion this week, setting up the ABC AAdvantage Club as yet another way people can earn free miles redeemable for future air flights.

ABC viewers in the American Airlines program will be able to earn free miles by completing surveys that prove they have watched ABC shows. It was not immediately clear how many miles could be earned through the promotion.

American Greetings to revamp card line

American Greetings Corp. said it will change about 80 percent of its product line over the next 16 months in an effort to meet the greeting card needs of women between the ages of 35 and 45. The Cleveland-based company said it will introduce as many as 100 million cards aimed primarily at women in that age group. Women between the ages of 35 and 65 have been its primary customers.

Hot fund closing the door again

Aim Management Group may shut its top-performing Aggressive Growth Fund to new investors after the close of business today, just two days after reopening it for the first time in almost two years. More than \$200 million poured into the Houston-based firm's fund in the first four hours after it was opened. The fund ranks No. 1 of 81 aggressive growth funds tracked by Bloomberg Fund Performance over the past five years, rising at an annual rate of 25.64 percent.

Etcetera

A slimmed-down Sizzler International restaurant chain will emerge from bankruptcy-court reorganization in about a month. A federal bankruptcy court in Los Angeles has approved a restructuring plan that will allow Sizzler to repay in full the \$95 million it owes creditors. The chain,

which has since closed about 140 restaurants in the past year, would be left with 69 company-operated restaurants and 199 franchise operations in the United States. . . . Oracle Corp. and Cable News Network released a new version of CNN's World Wide Web news service Wednesday, CNN Custom News. The service uses database software from Oracle to sort information from more than 300 news sources and deliver a customized selection of articles and graphics, based on preferences set by users.N

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Tomando conciencia del ambiente se protege la tierra



Por: Dan Clckrnan
Secretario de Agricultura de los EE.UU.

Nuestra nación tiene un nuevo monumento nacional erigido a un gran presidente, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, quien guió a los Estados Unidos para sacarlo de la Gran Depresión. Roosevelt también nos hizo una certera advertencia: "Una nación que destruye su suelo, se destruye a sí misma". Al mismo tiempo que se ponían los toques finales del monumento en memoria de Roosevelt, agricultores del país y el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos construían silenciosamente un legado propio, una nueva reserva de conservación que por primera vez se centra únicamente

en proteger el agua y la salud de nuestra madre tierra. Con el anuncio del Departamento de Agricultura al aceptar 16 millones de acres de tierra ambientalmente sensible en el nuevo Programa de Conservación de Reservas (CRP), se cumple también un programa de la Administración Clinton basado en la Transformación del Programa de Conservación y construcción de una verdadera reserva para la agricultura norteamericana. El principio que guía la nueva reserva de conservación promueve un balance sensato entre nuestras responsabilidades a las necesidades mundiales de alimentos, al medio ambiente y a los contribuyentes fiscales. Los días en que el CRP era usado para dejar sin uso tierras productivas son cosa del pasado. A la tierra debe dársele mejor

uso por ser el principal proveedor de alimentos del mundo. La meta es crítica para la prosperidad de la agricultura de los EE.UU., y para alimentar a un mundo más hambriento y más grande. El pueblo norteamericano también merece el mayor provecho ambiental por su dinero, y el CRP debe cumplir con esto. Las tierras bajo el CRP ofrecerán un 85 por ciento de mayor beneficio a las tierras saludables que están saliendo del programa, todo con un costo del 21 por ciento menor, ahorrando a los contribuyentes fiscales \$1.6 millones de dólares. El nuevo CRP, capitaliza en el hecho de que los agricultores quieren proteger la tierra que nos alimenta. Muy comunmente cuando funcionarios del gobierno hablan sobre mejorar la vida silvestre y el

agua, los agricultores tiemblan por temor a las reglamentaciones pero no hay que temer, seámos valientes y aceptemos el reto. ¿Por qué?, porque es un esfuerzo voluntario y cooperativo y el gobierno federal paga las tarifas de renta de las tierras y ayuda a financiar las prácticas de conservación con esta ayuda. Las reformas con sentido común hacen del CRP, el máximo programa de conservación de los Estados Unidos. Ciertamente es nuestro mayor esfuerzo que el 70 por ciento de las tierras de los Estados Unidos estén en manos privadas pero trabajando juntos, el gobierno federal y los propietarios de tierras privadas tienen una tremenda oportunidad de renovar el paisaje de los Estados Unidos de América.

Futuro para el campo

Washington, D.C.- El secretario Dan Glickman dice: "Nuestra nación tiene un nuevo monumento nacional a un gran ex presidente, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. El guió a los Estados Unidos fuera de la Gran Depresión y vió el principio de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. El también nos hizo una ominosa advertencia: "una nación que destruye el suelo, se destruye así misma".

Al mismo tiempo que se ponían los toques finales del monumento en memoria a FDR, agricultores y USDA construían silenciosamente un legado propio -una nueva reserva de conservación que por primera vez se centra únicamente en proteger la salud de nuestra tierra, agua vida y selva.

Con el anuncio de que USDA aceptaría más de 16 millones de acres de tierra ambientalmente sensible en el nuevo Programa de Conservación de Reservas, (CRP, por sus siglas en inglés) se cumple también una promesa de la Administración Clinton: "Transformaremos el CRP y construiremos una verdadera reserva de conservación, que mejore en lugar de entorpecer la competitividad de la agricultura norteamericana".

El principio que guía la nueva reserva de conservación promueve un balance sensato entre nuestras responsabilidades

a las necesidades mundiales de alimentos, al medio ambiente y a los contribuyentes fiscales.

Los días en que el CRP era usado para dejar paradas tierras productivas son parte del pasado. A la tierra saludable debe dársele el mejor uso -- ayudar a asegurar que los Estados Unidos continúen siendo el principal proveedor de alimentos del mundo. Esa meta es crítica para la prosperidad de la agricultura de E.U. y para alimentar a un mundo más hambriento y más grande.

El pueblo norteamericano también merece el mayor provecho ambiental por su dinero. El nuevo CRP ofrecerá 85% más beneficios de conservación que las tierras saludables que están saliendo del programa --todo con un costo 21% menor, ahorrando a los contribuyentes fiscales \$ 1.6 millones.

El nuevo CRP capitaliza en el hecho de que los agricultores de los Estados Unidos quieren proteger la tierra que nos alimenta. Muy comúnmente, cuando funcionarios del gobierno hablan sobre mejorar la vida silvestre y el agua, los agricultores tiemblan por temor a las reglamentaciones. No obstante, el CRP es por lo general bien recibido. ¿Por qué? Porque es un esfuerzo

voluntario y cooperativo. El gobierno federal paga las tarifas de renta de las tierras y ayuda a financiar las prácticas de conservación.

Los productores cuya tierra no fue aceptada en el programa tendrán otra oportunidad en el otoño.

Para los agricultores que están regresando sus tierras a la producción, espero que ellos también tomen en consideración la preservación de sus más significativas ganancias de conservación.

USDA lleva a cabo una inscripción continua para prácticas de alta prioridad tales como amortiguadores de caminos y vías fluviales de pasto. Debido al valor tan alto que éstas tierras tienen para la conservación, USDA las aceptará en el CRP en cualquier momento que los agricultores estén dispuestos a ofrecerlas.

Trabajando juntos, el gobierno federal y los propietarios de tierras privadas tienen una tremenda oportunidad de renovar el paisaje de los Estados Unidos. Si trabajamos juntos podemos construir nuestro propio monumento viviente, no al pasado, sino al futuro", concluye.

LEVEL 1 - 1 OF 16 STORIES

Copyright 1997 News & Record (Greensboro, NC)
News & Record (Greensboro, NC)

July 9, 1997, Wednesday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: PEOPLE & PLACES, Pg. 8

LENGTH: 389 words

HEADLINE: EXTENSION SERVICE IS HONORED FOR AID DURING TWO HURRICANES

BODY:

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service was honored June 11 in Washington by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman for its emergency response to North Carolinians before, during and after last year's hurricanes, Bertha and Fran.

Glickman presented the Secretary's Honor Award for Emergency Response to Dr. Dalton McAfree, associate dean and associate administrator of the Cooperative Extension Program at N.C. A&T, and Dr. Jon F. Ort, associate dean and director of the Cooperative Extension Service at N.C. State University.

Honor Awards are the highest recognition that USDA bestows to acknowledge outstanding contributions to agriculture, the consumers of agricultural products and the ability of the federal agency to serve the United States.

"Both physical presence and research-based knowledge are powerful tools in aiding the recovery," McAfree said. "Extension ensured that stricken communities had crucial access to both."

Striking in July and early September respectively, hurricanes Bertha and Fran affected some one million North Carolinians, leaving 20 people dead and incurring statewide losses totaling more than \$ 4 billion.

Extension's response to these natural disasters began before the hurricanes hit, when thousands of North Carolinians accessed the organizations "Natural Disaster Manual: Preparation and Recovery" on the World Wide Web and when individual county extension centers provided emergency information to the news media.

Extension field faculty served on or coordinated county emergency response teams. In the hurricanes' aftermaths, extension employees also coordinated relief efforts with county governments and agencies; visited homes, farms, and businesses; and answered thousands of telephone calls.

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service is an educational agency comprising field faculty working in all 100 North Carolina counties and on the Cherokee Reservation. Specialists at A&T and N.C. State provide research-based information to North Carolinians on topics related to agriculture and forestry, family and consumer sciences, community and rural development, youth development and more.

Extension's programs are made possible by the combined funding of local, state, and federal governments with federal direction coming from USDA. page 7

2/9/5 (Item 2 from file: 494)
DIALOG(R)File 494:St.LouisPost-Dispatch
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09225124

SIU WINS \$1.5 MILLION GRANT FOR ETHANOL RESEARCH FACILITY

St. Louis Post Dispatch (SL) - Wednesday, August 13, 1997

By: AP

Edition: ILLINOIS FIVE STAR Section: NEWS Page: 03B

Word Count: 228

TEXT:

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. - Southern Illinois University picked up a \$1.5 million check for ethanol research Tuesday as officials used the State Fair to promote the corn-based fuel.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman delivered the grant, which will let the university begin design work on an ethanol research plant at the Edwardsville campus.

The pilot plant will test ways of making and using ethanol more efficiently. University officials predict the research could shave 10 cents off the price of a gallon of ethanol.

Illinois produces more ethanol - a corn-based fuel that can be added to gasoline to cut pollution - than any other state.

Glickman said the government must support ethanol research because the nation needs a cleaner-burning alternative to imported oil.

"It comes down to one very simple question," he said. "What do we want for our nation in the next century?"

Glickman reiterated the support expressed by President Bill Clinton's administration for extending an ethanol tax break for several years.

Ethanol foes wanted to end the 5.4-cent-a-gallon subsidy this year, but they were defeated. Ethanol supporters, such as Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., pressed to extend the tax break to 2004 or beyond. That also failed.

In the end, the tax break was renewed but only for the short term.

"This has been the Tilt-a-Whirl year for ethanol in Washington," Durbin said Tuesday.

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The State Journal Register, August 13, 1997

Glickman grant

Springfield, Illinois

Southern Illinois University picked up a \$ 1.5 million check for ethanol research Tuesday as officials used the state fair to promote the corn-based fuel.

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In the end, the tax break was renewed but only for the short term.

"This has been the Tilt-a-Whirl year for ethanol in Washington," Durbin said. "I don't think we can have the kind of stability and growth we need in ethanol without making this the permanent law of the land."

Attendance

The fair drew 65,650 people Monday, with 13,880 paid attendance. Monday of last year's fair had 85,150 people, 18,252 paid.

Fair manager Joe Saputo noted that Monday was Senior Citizens Day, when everyone over 60 was admitted free. There was no Grandstand show Monday night, and daytime harness racing was postponed due to muddy conditions.

Saputo said there were a few complaints Monday from disappointed fairgoers who wanted their \$ 3 admission fee returned after the racing was postponed.

"We feel that we have so much to offer, you're not just here for the races," he said.

Monday's racing card was held Tuesday. Saturday's racing card, which was postponed twice, will be held today with a forecast of dry weather.

Hispanic Media Clippings

El Tiempo Latino
8/8/97
p. 1

SECTION: LATINO OF THE WEEK
Dr. Miley Gonzalez is profiled as "Latino of the Week." His accomplishments as agricultural educator are highlighted, as well as his work with HACU in representation of New Mexico State University.

La Gaceta Latina
8/8/97
p. 1

LATINO IS APPOINTED UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
Miley Gonzalez becomes the highest ranking Hispanic official at USDA, as Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics.

Washington Hispanic
8/8/97
p. 2

Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez, USDA's New Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics.

La Prensa San Diego
8/1/97
p. 8

GLICKMAN PROCLAIMS NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING WEEK
Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman proclaimed the week of August 1 to 7, 1997 as the WIC- National Breastfeeding Week. Mary Ann Keeffe, Acting Undersecretary for Food Nutrition and Consumer Services said this campaign seeks to change the attitudes of the public toward breastfeeding, but will also put special emphasis on reaching health providers.

2/9/14 (Item 1 from file: 496)
DIALOG(R)File 496: The Sacramento Bee
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09246024

OWNER OF EXOTIC-ANIMAL HAVEN PROWLs FOR ABUSERS

Sacramento Bee (SB) - TUESDAY, September 2, 1997

By: Cynthia Hubert Bee Staff Writer

Edition: METRO FINAL Section: MAIN NEWS Page: A1

Word Count: 1,823

TEXT:

On a soft summer morning in rural paradise, Pat Derby pierces the silence with a feral yell.

"HooohooohooHOO!" she calls out, stepping through the sliding glass door to begin rounds at PAWS, her burgeoning compound of exotic animals in Galt. She chirps. She grunts. She growls. She barks and coos and clicks her tongue.

The baboons and tigers and elephants and monkeys, aging and scarred refugees of the exotic animal trade, talk back. The big cats purr like helicopters when she approaches. The primates press their faces against their cages and seem to smile. The bears roll on their backs. The elephants flap their ears.

"I'm so jealous," joked keeper Merry Woods, who helps feed and tend the 38 animal residents of PAWS. "They all adore her."

But it is not only the animals who are listening to this coppery-haired Doctor Doolittle in rubber boots, black jeans and an oversized shirt.

Derby, a British-born former actress and Hollywood animal trainer, has become perhaps the world's most visible advocate for animals in entertainment.

She has the ear of U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, with whom she met recently to push for stricter enforcement of regulations to protect circus animals. She appeared on television and in newspapers across the country recently with actress Kim Basinger to protest the death of a performing elephant. She has publicly butted heads with such entertainment icons as Disney and Ringling Bros. The small office on her compound is inundated with inquiries and reports of animal abuse from around the globe.

"They ask for the research department; they ask about our archives."

The Berosinis nearly put PAWS out of business. They sued Derby, PAWS and other animal activists for publicly releasing a videotape showing Bobby Berosini striking orangutans that he uses in his act at the Stardust Hotel. A large judgment against the activists that threatened to bankrupt PAWS was later reversed.

"I don't like her approach," Steven Kendall of the Animal Care Association in Pittsburgh, which represents circuses and other entertainment organizations, said of Derby. "She's a media hound and she attacks.

"She was once in Hollywood and she didn't make it, so she's made it her goal to get back at everyone who has been successful. A lot of the charges she has made have been unfair."

Fair or not, Derby has been effective in bringing public attention to her cause. In April, Derby and her friend Basinger met with the agriculture secretary in Washington, bending his ear for nearly an hour about treatment of circus animals.

"She is one of a group of activists who is very persistent and media savvy and seems to express the concerns of a lot of people," said USDA spokesman Patrick Collins. "That is a combination that definitely can be effective."

Derby's home is a monument to a colorful life. A descendant of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, Derby has filled her shelves with the works of Whitman, Thoreau and Kafka, alongside of which are investigative videotapes of animals being beaten and poked with electric prods. Photographs of herself in younger years, an Ann-Margret look-alike schmoozing with Hollywood stars and trained lions and bears, line the wall above her desk.

Her living room is filled with replicas of the huge animals she loves most: elephants. There are ceramic ones, brass ones, pewter ones, wooden ones, wicker ones and even soap ones in the bathroom.

"I think I was born in love with elephants," Derby said with a smile. She was born in rural Sussex, England, to parents who taught her to appreciate all living things. "Walk carefully among the buttercups," her father, who taught literature at Cambridge, would tell her. "There are whole little worlds down there."

On a recent afternoon in Galt, Derby interrupted her day several times to hand-feed a sparrow with a gruel of ground turkey and water. "I'm not a radical, blow-up-the-building animal rights activist," Derby said. "I'm

PAWS has 30,000 contributors worldwide and an annual budget of \$750,000. Its produce bill alone is \$500 per week.

The society's income from donations, foundations and open houses and other fund-raisers allows for a comfortable, if not extravagant, lifestyle, Derby said.

Although she has some fond memories of her past, Derby has no regrets about the way her life has turned out, she said.

On a typical day, she and Stewart rise before dawn and eat breakfast together. While answering machines record telephone calls from the East Coast, they spend the next three hours getting their four elephants ready for the day.

Stewart hoses them down with warm water and Derby prepares their meal of grains and chopped fruit. Stalls are cleaned, feet soaked and nails clipped. Then the elephants, caressed and reassured throughout the routine, are released into their expansive corral.

Derby then retreats to her office for administrative work while Stewart oversees maintenance of the grounds and remaining animals. The couple put the elephants back in their stalls around 7 p.m.

In the evenings, if they have no videotapes to review, Stewart flips on a baseball game and Derby escapes into a hot bath and a murder mystery. The two rarely take vacation.

"We've talked about going on a cruise, but I don't think it will ever happen," she said. "No time."
No matter, she concluded.

"Really, if I had my way, I would never leave here," she said, splattered with mud, lugging a bucket of peanuts toward an elephant stall. "I would be out here with my flowers and my animals and I would never leave the property.

"But I've got to keep going," she said. "I can't retire because I want to be sure that when I die, all these guys and all the others out there like them will have security for life."

**CAPTION:
PHOTO**

Bee photograph/Laura Chun
Pat Derby says hello to Tammy, a 49-year-old Asian elephant.

2/9/17 (Item 2 from file: 723)
DIALOG(R)File 723:The Wichita Eagle
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09297018

ROBERTS BACKS SALLY THOMPSON FOR AG JOB

Wichita Eagle (WE) - Friday, October 24, 1997

By: Associated Press

Edition: main Section: MAIN NEWS Page: 9A

Word Count: 258

TEXT:

WASHINGTON - Kansas Treasurer Sally Thompson's nomination to a top Agriculture Department job is on its way to a full Senate vote partly through the support of the man who defeated her in a bitter campaign last year.

Republican Sen. Pat Roberts sits on the Senate Agriculture Committee, which Thursday unanimously voiced its support for Thompson as President Clinton's nominee to be the USDA's chief financial officer.

"I think the president and any Cabinet member should certainly have the right to name the team that they want to work with," Roberts said. "There is a time for campaigning and a time to express yourself on the issues, and that's passed."

In Washington for her confirmation hearing this month, Thompson said Roberts has been nothing if not gracious: "We all understand what elections are about, and when they're over, they're over."

Thompson, a Democrat, gave Roberts his toughest race in years, painting the 16-year U.S. House member as a Washington insider who took advantage of congressional perquisites.

Roberts' campaign charges about Thompson's qualifications make his support of her nomination even more surprising. Roberts zeroed in on poor investment decisions she made that lost more than \$20 million in interest earnings from trading securities. State legislators eventually stripped Thompson's office of its power to make day-to-day investment decisions.

Now Thompson is likely to take over finances of one of the largest federal agencies, which is run by a fellow Kansan, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. Also a Democrat, Glickman served most of his 18 years in Congress with Roberts.

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

November 8, 1997 Saturday METROPOLITAN EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL/WORLD; Pg. A3

LENGTH: 405 words

HEADLINE: Politics stalls nomination
Kansas official's move to post in Washington has reached impasse.

BYLINE: JAMES KUHNHENN, Washington Correspondent

BODY:

WASHINGTON - Kansas Treasurer Sally Thompson's move to a top job in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a move once considered a virtual certainty, is caught in a dogfight involving two Illinois senators and a trade regulator whose reappointment they oppose.

The nominations of Thompson, a Democrat picked to be USDA's chief financial officer, and Joe Dial, a Republican chosen for a second term on the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, have been moving through the Senate confirmation process as a pair.

Although no procedure requires that the nominations be linked, Republican leaders anticipated problems with Dial and teamed his nomination with Thompson's to secure the votes of Senate Democrats.

Sen. Richard Durbin and Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, Illinois Democrats, have placed Dial's appointment on hold, a technical maneuver that allows any senator to stop a vote on a nomination.

Durbin and Moseley-Braun say they object to Dial because he embraces policies that hurt two Illinois institutions - the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Dial especially angered the Chicago Board of Trade in September when he broke a tie on the five-member Commodities Futures Trading Commission and killed a board of trade proposal to eliminate Toledo, Ohio, and St. Louis as soybean delivery points.

On Friday, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman wrote a letter to several Democratic and Republican senators asking that Thompson's nomination be brought up for a vote before the Senate recesses, which could occur by Sunday. Majority Leader Trent Lott, however, will bring Thompson's confirmation up for a vote only if Dial's comes up as well.

Sen. Pat Roberts, the Kansas Republican who defeated Thompson in last year's Senate race, has been pushing her nomination through the Senate. On Friday, Roberts' chief of staff, Leroy Towns, said it seemed clear that Thompson's confirmation would not proceed if Dial's appointment remained frozen.

Democrats, however, insist that Thompson's nomination should proceed unimpaired.

"For them to argue there is some sort of parliamentary magnet holding them together is just absurd," Moseley-Braun spokesman Michael Briggs said.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Thompson

LOAD-DATE: November 08, 1997

2/9/4 (Item 2 from file: 433)
DIALOG(R)File 433:Charleston Newspapers
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01569374 (THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)

USDA begins collection of the 1997 census of agriculture
Charleston Gazette, P 05
January 15, 1998

JOURNAL CODE: CTG RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT SECTION HEADING: Metro West
Kanawha
Word Count: 293

It is the season for farmers and ranchers to "Make It Known -- America Counts on Agriculture." More than two million farms and ranches nationwide will receive a 1997 Census of Agriculture report from within the next few days. However, there is something different about this census, according to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "We are about to undertake a process that touches every farmer and rancher in the nation, and for the first time in history, USDA is responsible for this task," Glickman said. Previous censuses of agriculture were conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The transfer of the census to USDA represents the consolidation of the entire Federal agricultural statistics program into one agency. Now there will be one source for all important information on agriculture. "By combining the resources of the former Bureau of the Census with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) staff, we expect to make the results available more than six months earlier than in the past," Glickman added. "Not only does the census reach everyone during mailout, but perhaps more importantly, the results published in the census of agriculture report impact farmers and ranches both directly and indirectly." Although there are many studies about large-scale farming, the census is unique because it is the only source of local county-level information about small family farms. Completed report forms are due by Feb. 2, 1998. The USDA wants farmers to know they are willing to help in the completion of forms. A toll-free number, 1-888-4AG-STAT, will be answered by local staff from USDA's 45 NASS field offices. In addition, other local USDA offices will be available to help. Another "first" for the census of agriculture will be the collection of information about Christmas trees, maple trees tapped and farms with all land under the Conservation Reserve Program. NASS also has fortified efforts to improve the coverage of minority-owned farms. Also for the first time, all farm operators on American Indian reservations will be counted. Response to the census is required by law. That same law protects the privacy of the reports; information about individual operations is strictly confidential, and census responses are immune from legal processes. For more information, call the Kanawha/Putnam FSA Office at 776-5256.

LEVEL 1 - 7 OF 23 STORIES

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February 22, 1998, Sunday SUNRISE EDITION

SECTION: ;BUSINESS; Pg. 8m

LENGTH: 276 words

HEADLINE: USDA to Spend \$ 30 Million On Pork to Shore Up Prices

SOURCE: AP

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

The Agriculture Department will buy \$ 30 million worth of pork to help boost sagging hog prices for farmers, Secretary Dan Glickman said.

Purchase of the hams, ground pork and canned pork, which will go into emergency food assistance programs, comes as current hog prices are running about \$ 17.50 per hundred pounds below last year's levels, according to the National Pork Producers Council.

Prices are expected to drop as much as 30 percent below 1997 levels during this spring and summer unless the market rapidly improves.

"The purchases will help producers during a period of low market prices and many food banks and other charitable institutions who are reporting that their stocks of protein foods such as meats are low," Glickman said.

The pork council attributes the price decline to high supplies of meat coupled with lower-than-expected demand, driven in part by fewer exports to Asian countries that are in the midst of a financial crisis.

"Global events are impacting hog prices and many U.S. pork producers' very survival is at stake," Jerry King, president of the producers council, said Friday.

But pork farmers want additional actions. In a letter to Congress, 75 producers said more needs to be done to boost exports, including purchase of pork for international food aid programs and requiring that pork trade barriers be lowered as part of an International Monetary Fund bailout in Asia.

Glickman noted that the Agriculture Department has already granted export credit guarantees to enable South Korea to purchase \$ 13 million worth of pork as it recovers from its financial woes.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

O-DATE: February 22, 1998

LEVEL 1 - 14 OF 23 STORIES

Copyright 1998 Journal Sentinel Inc.
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

February 21, 1998 Saturday Final

SECTION: Business Pg. 1

LENGTH: 89 words

HEADLINE: USDA to prop up hog market

SOURCE: Journal Sentinel wire reports

BODY:

The Agriculture Department plans to buy \$30 million worth of pork to help boost sagging hog prices for farmers, Secretary Dan Glickman announced Friday. Purchase of the hams, ground pork and canned pork, which will go into emergency food assistance programs, comes as hog prices are running about \$17.50 per hundred pounds below last year's levels, according to the National Pork Producers Council. Prices are expected to drop as much as 30% below 1997 levels during this spring and summer unless the market rapidly improves.

LOAD-DATE: February 22, 1998

LEVEL 1 - 15 OF 19 STORIES

Copyright 1998 The Omaha World-Herald Company
Omaha World-Herald

February 12, 1998, Thursday METRO EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 455 words

HEADLINE: Greenspan Is Enlisted To Press for IMF Funding

DATELINE: Washington

BODY:

The Clinton administration brought Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan to Capitol Hill Thursday to bolster its battle to win support for an extra \$ 18 billion to help the International Monetary Fund cope with financial crises in Asia.

Greenspan accompanied Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman during a closed-door briefing of members of the House Agriculture Committee.

After the discussions, members said they still had doubts about the IMF funding request.

Rep. Larry Combest, R-Texas, said he wants commitments from Asian nations to remove various barriers to American farm exports.

"There are still a lot of questions out there," Combest said. "I don't think we are at a point to say one way or the other" whether IMF funding will pass.

Rubin and Glickman said the discussions were constructive but conceded that there were unresolved issues. Both said they hope Congress will approve the request for more IMF funds because the Asian crisis otherwise could spread.

"What you have got is a serious crisis in Asia which we are doing everything possible to deal with in an effective fashion," Rubin said.

Glickman noted his agency's economists estimated that the Asian crisis could result in a loss of \$ 2 billion to \$ 3 billion in U.S. farm exports this year, depending on how long a recovery takes.

Rubin and Greenspan also were scheduled to appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Its chairman, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., opposes the IMF funding because of the IMF's "deadly prescription of higher taxes and higher interest rates" for failing economies.

The battle for the IMF gained support Wednesday from former Presidents Carter and Ford, along with Cabinet members in previous administrations and 88 of the country's top business executives.

In two-page ads appearing in the Washington Post and the New York Times, the group urged Congress to resist "a dangerous drift toward disengagement from the responsibilities of global leadership." It urged congressional support for the

administration's request to replenish the resources of the IMF, which has led effort to assemble \$ 100 billion in rescue packages for South Korea, onesia and Thailand.

Some Republicans say they will not vote for the measure unless it includes a proposed restriction on international family-planning groups that receive federal funds from performing abortions overseas or lobbying foreign governments to liberalize abortion policies.

"You have to recognize that linkage (of the anti-abortion measure and IMF support) is a reality whether anyone likes it or not," Rep. Sonny Callahan, R-Ala., told Rubin.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 12, 1998

Lifestyle

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Corps of the solution

Assembled from all over U.S.,
AmeriCorps team takes on
variety of projects in county

By **FRANCES BORSODI ZAJAC**
Herald-Standard Staff Writer

Since its members began arriving here last October, the first Fayette County AmeriCorps Team has tackled projects ranging from heritage preservation to cleaning up illegal dumpsites to organizing a food project for the hungry.

"It's been very fulfilling because of the kinds of work we are doing," said Adam Baake, 22, of Bellingham, Wash. "You see direct benefits to the community — now and long term. There's not many jobs out there where you feel every action has a concrete benefit."

The team, which has a commitment to work through the federal fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, consists of five young adults with diverse backgrounds.

Baake, who has a history degree from Cornell University, is among the youngest of the group. The other is local woman Jaime Fecek, 22, of Brownsville, who has a degree in public relations from California University.

Team coordinator Susan Thagard, 28, of Pittsburgh, has a degree in fine art and a certificate in planning from the universities of Maryland and Utah.

Craig Kelso, 25, is a native of Springfield, Mo., who has a bachelor's degree in history from Southwest Missouri State University. Last summer, he moved to Morgantown and is working on a master's degree in public history at West Virginia University.

Amy Myers, 28, is a native of Atlanta, Ga., who has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maryland and a law degree from Maryland Law School.

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**"It's been very fulfilling
cause of the kinds of
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where you feel every
action has a concrete
benefit."**

—ADAM BAAKE
*Fayette County
AmeriCorps Team member*

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which engages 20,000 Americans in performing service that meets community needs in return for an educational award.

It may be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments and non-profit organizations.

Locally, the Fayette County team is working through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission's internship program and is based in the National Road Heritage Park headquarters in Farmington.

The heritage preservation commission put together the team, searching for members who were interested in heritage development.

AmeriCorps sites are selected because they meet any of three criteria: empowerment, enterprise or champion zones. Fayette County is a champion community, meaning it has met specific income and unemployment levels.

Here is a breakdown of the various projects that involve the Fayette County AmeriCorps Team:

Youghiogheny River Trail: Kelso is compiling an inventory of historical sites that can be seen from 43 miles of the Yough River Trail North, which runs from McKeesport to Connellsville. Kelso estimated there are 30, including coke ovens, parching ovens, the Overholt Distillery. He will then develop interpretative materials for the sites. Funding to produce the materials (possibly plaques) is not available at this time, but the program will be ready should funding become available.

"I've been going to various historical

2

societies and developed a survey form (for the historic sites). I'm trying to develop a data base for anyone who comes into the area and is interested in the heritage," said Kelso.

The survey is expected to be completed by the end of the summer and copies will be given to the Regional Trails Corp. and all historical societies along the trail, including Connellsville Historical Society, Tri-Town Historical Society and Perryopolis Area Heritage Society.

Improving sewage systems: Kelso has been working with USDA Rural Development and Yough Sewage Authority to link funding sources with individuals not connected to any sewage system in the Dawson-Vanderbilt area. He has hosted two town meetings for the project which could affect up to 1,500 people.

Kelso noted federal funding is available on a limited basis, but there is usually a five-year waiting period.

"My goal is to let them know there are options available and a possible source of funding," he said.

National Road Heritage Park — Flat Iron Building: Kelso is working on a brochure for the Flat Iron Building in Brownsville which is expected to be opened to the public this fall as an interpretative and welcome center for the National Road. The brochure, which will be available on-site and through mailings, will include information on Brownsville and area sites. Kelso said Brownsville area artifacts, such as old photographs and postcards, can be donated to the interpretative center by contacting the Brownsville Historical Society at Nemaquin Castle.

East End Community Center: On May 11, Myers led a team that included community members and other volunteers as they made cosmetic improvements to the Uniontown center, located at 395 E. Main St. The center provides a safe haven for children to learn social and academic skills through one-on-one tutoring and mentoring programs. About 285 students participate each year.

Faris Carpets and K-mart donated paint and other materials for the project, which included painting both the interior and exterior of the center.

"Ultimately, the roof needs repaired and they need shelves," said Myers.

Fecck and Thagard were also involved with the project.

Junk yards: Myers is producing an inventory of junk yards along the National Road in Pennsylvania with a goal of cleaning them up.

"I've talked to three owners and they've been cooperative," said Myers.

Myers said two junk yards in Brier Hill near the Peter Colley Tavern and Brownsville Drive-in were recently purchased and the new owners are going to clean them up.

She also said there is a plan to replace a fence at Shartzler's Auto Wreckers near Nemaocolin Woodlands and that school children will be recruited to paint a mural on the new one. Funding for the Farmington project will be made through the National Road Heritage Park.

Planting historic trees: A tree-planting ceremony will take place from Connellsville to Dawson May 25 along the Yough River Trail using seeds from famous trees. The work is being done in cooperation with the Regional Trails Corp. and Allegheny Power, which is supplying the trees.

Myers said local officials can choose up to 20 trees from a variety of historic sources, such as a white ash from the Cincinnati home of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin;" a paper birch from the Portsmouth, N.H., boarding home where father of the U.S. Navy, John Paul Jones, lived; a honey locust from the tree that provided shade to President Abraham Lincoln when he delivered the famed Gettysburg Address; a chestnut oak from Stratford Hall, Va., the birthplace of Robert E. Lee; an eastern redbud from the Glen Echo, Md., study of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton; and sycamore seeds that were part of the official payload of Apollo 14 in 1971.

Improving houses: Baake is working with USDA Rural Development to inform rural home owners about a grant-and-loan program for improvements to their property. One percent loans of up to \$15,000 are available for low-income applicants while property owners 62 and older may be eligible for grants up to \$7,500. Baake has assisted at information meetings in Vanderbilt and Dawson.

"We've had small turnouts but positive results. I think we've had five applicants.

We plan to do more meetings," Baake said.

Developing a local loan program: Baake is working with three local banks — Integra Bank of Fayette County, Fayette Bank and Integra Bank of Washington County — to develop a local low-interest program for property owners along the National Road. The program is a partnership with the National Road Heritage Park to provide loans at an interest rate under the prime rate. Owners who wish to rehabilitate historic homes or businesses along the National Road can make application to the heritage park. There are no income guidelines. Their requests will be reviewed by a committee of community members. The program will begin in early summer.

"The program serves two purposes: it's a catalyst for community development and it improves the desirability of the National Road as a tourist destination," said Baake.

New interpretative center and headquarters: Baake is also working on a project to convert one of the oldest garages on the National Road into an interpretative center on 20th century uses of the road. Baake will not yet reveal the location but said it will be an adaptive use of a now-vacant structure. It will be restored into a 1920 garage which includes the interpretative center and National Road Heritage Park offices when completed. Artifacts pertaining to automobile travel and early 20th century will be accepted at a later date. Funding for phase 1 will be available this summer. Baake said the project will not be completed until at least 1998.

National Pike Festival: Baake is organizing an art-and-essay contest for elementary- and middle-school students along the National Road, using the theme, "Life Along the National Road." Thagard is working with officials to coordinate festival events, including entertainment and the wagon train.

National Register of Historic Places nominations: Baake completed nominations for Centerville and Scenery Hill which will be placed before the state committee for review in June. If the nominations pass, the communities could expect to be on the National Register before the end of the year.

Baake is also submitting applications for two additional properties — the Josiah Frost House at Searights, which is associated with the Searights Tavern, and the Dougherty Tavern in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County.

(4)

Supervising interns: Baake will supervise two interns obtained for the National Road Heritage Park from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, who are developing an interpretation plan for the S-Bridge, located in Washington County along the National Road. The bridge, one of four surviving bridges in Pennsylvania and Ohio, is being restored through a federal program administered by PennDOT. Interns Renu Pavate, a graduate student majoring in architecture from Washington State University, and Molly Miller, a historian from Hiram College in Ohio, arrive May 20.

Baake, Kelso and Ann Safely, of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as well as a National Road Heritage Park board member, are supervising four interns obtained from the heritage commission. The Fayette County Redevelopment Authority who will be conducting a survey of potential historic districts. They begin work in June.

Rails to Trails: Thagard is working in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Corps of Trails and the Allegheny Trail Alliance on a rail-trail maintenance study. It's a how-to guide on building and maintaining the trails that is aimed at assisting future projects.

"The idea is to be used by all trail groups across the country," said Thagard who is concentrating on the Pittsburgh-to-Cumberland segment.

Thagard is also helping the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation on his greenway implementation program, which establishes criteria for prioritizing efforts to build a trail.

When her current projects are completed, Thagard will continue to assist these groups.

Cleaning up: Fecek recently organized a cleanup with students and teachers from the Frazier School District and other volunteers

to pick up trash along six miles of the future Yough River Trail North near Perryopolis. The group worked in cooperation with the Regional Trails Corp., Pennsylvania Clean Ways and Perryopolis Area Heritage Society to clean an area from Wickhaven to Round Bottom, and cleared 68 acres of George Washington Grist Mill Park in Perryopolis. The group hauled six dump-truck loads of trash from the area.

Fecek explained the students were able to obtain community service credits from Frazier for the project. Students who complete a certain number of hours receive a certificate and an invitation to a banquet. Fecek prepared for the effort by speaking at the high school along with a state geologist.

"It was a big success," said Fecek.

USDA Summer gleaning project: Fecek is also organizing a project to rescue food that might otherwise be wasted from area restaurants, schools, catering services and grocery stores to be donated to the Fayette County Community Action Foodbank in Uniontown.

Fecek will lead a team of five additional AmeriCorps volunteers. Only eight states will receive teams for this program, which is new for the USDA and predominantly done in the South.

"This team wants to make sure that the project lasts once they're gone," said Fecek.

Major partners are Linden Hall near Dawson and Nemaocolin Woodlands in Farmington as well as Threshold Housing. The latter is providing office space for the gleaning team.

Education: Fecek attempted to work with schools on an education project that fell through due to weather and teacher schedules.

However, she created a brochure on field trips to historical sites in Fayette County for students in grades kindergarten through 12.

All members of the team said they have enjoyed their work in the AmeriCorps programs so far.

"It's been very fulfilling," said Thagard.

"For me, it's a great learning experience. I'm growing in leadership skills," said Kelso.

"You're learning how the world works," said Fecek.

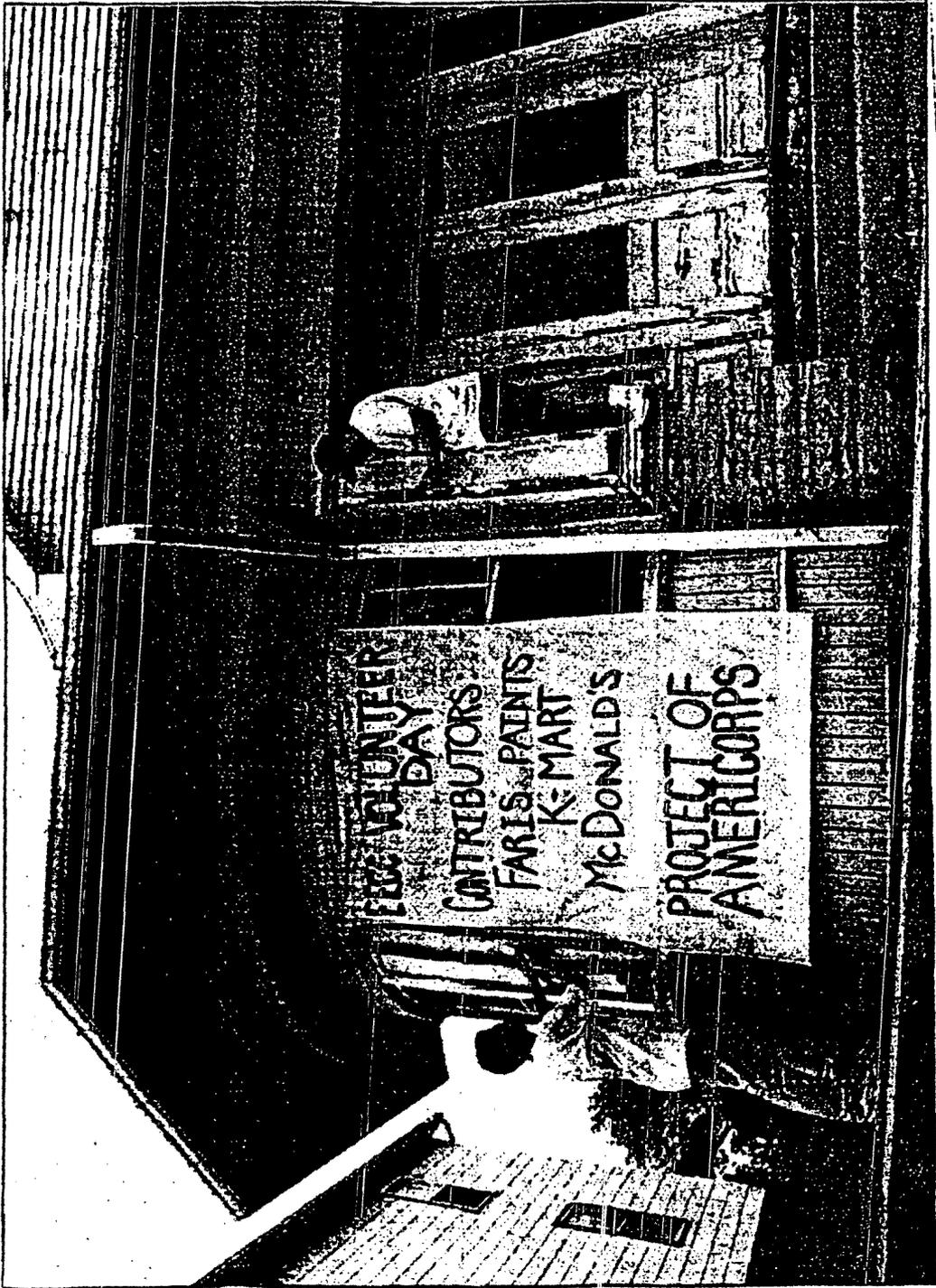
"It's an excellent opportunity to work with community leaders," said Baake.

Noted Thagard, "It's nice to take on projects that people always wished could be taken on but never are."

Members say it's likely another AmeriCorps team will be assigned to Fayette County in October.

For more information on any AmeriCorps projects, members can be reached at the National Road Heritage Park at 329-1560.

(5)



(6)



(Herald-Standard Photos by Rosie Jordan)

In top photo: Adam Baake and Craig Kelso help clean up the outside of the East End Community Center, while Sarah Endriss (left) and Alex Rogers, both from the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps, help freshen up

USDA to purchase ailing hogs

■ Animals with pseudorabies will be sold at market price.

By ANNE FITZGERALD

REGISTER AGRIBUSINESS WRITER

The economic crisis raging through the U.S. pork industry may have a silver lining, both for the owners of hog herds plagued by a viral disease and

for the wider industry.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced Thursday the government will buy out hogs afflicted with pseudorabies, which has plagued the pork industry for decades.

Under the program, farmers with hogs carrying the disease could sell them to the government for the current market price. The government then

would have the animals slaughtered.

Eliminating the disease is expected to open up some foreign markets to U.S. producers.

Al Tank, executive director of the National Pork Producers Council in Clive, called the program "a three-for," because it could rid U.S. hogs of the disease, increase foreign exports and reduce the glut of

pneumonia on the market.

In addition, Glickman announced a moratorium on USDA credit lending for farmers wanting to build additional hog production facilities, calling it "an important signal to the market and lenders" that the government was serious about slowing growth in the supply of hogs on the market.

Mike Dunn, a Keokuk native who is undersecretary of

agriculture for marketing and regulatory programs, said the pseudorabies indemnification program could cost as much as \$85 million.

Iowa, the nation's No. 1 pork-producing state, has more U.S. hogs afflicted with pseudorabies than any other state, he and others said.

Glickman announced the

PORK Turn to Page 4A

USDA offers to buy sick hogs

PORK

Continued from Page 1A

buyout in a radio broadcast outlining his department's efforts to ease the growing financial crisis facing hog farmers.

The new program will accelerate a national pseudorabies eradication program established in 1989. At that time, the disease was found in 30 percent of Iowa's hog herds and cost Iowa pork producers an estimated \$20 million in losses annually.

The state-federal campaign to eradicate the disease has reduced those numbers, but it still is a major problem for the industry, officials said.

1.7 Million Animals

In all, 1.7 million animals in 1,291 U.S. hog herds have the disease. In Iowa, 480,320 hogs in 632 herds have the disease, or more than 28 percent of all U.S. hogs under pseudorabies quarantine and 49 percent of the nation's herds, according to government records.

Participation in the voluntary program would take diseased animals off the hands of farmers and put money in their pockets, government



Dan Glickman announced the buyout in a radio broadcast.

and industry officials said. Alternatively, farmers whose hogs have the disease can administer vaccines to eradicate it, but that is a costly and time-consuming option.

It may take six months for the government to buy the diseased herds, Dunn said. By contrast, using vaccination to eradicate the disease would require another two years, he said.

Officials also said the buyout program could open the way for certification of U.S. pork as being free of pseudorabies. In turn, that would boost pork exports and help clear the price-depressing supply of pork that has plugged the pipeline from farm to market this year.

Dunn called the program "a fantastic opportunity" to rid the U.S. hog herd of the disease, while also opening more markets for U.S. pork

exports. While consuming just a small portion of all pork produced here, pork exports have grown dramatically in recent years. Aside from this year's setbacks due to financial woes in such markets as Asia and Russia, exports continue to be a bright star for the pork industry.

Challenges Remain

The industry still faces enormous challenges in the months ahead, including what to do about the increase in imports of Canadian hogs.

Shipments from Canada are up 37 percent this year over last, further depressing U.S. pork prices, Tank said.

"That is a huge issue, and we have got to find a way to address it," he said. Pseudorabies is a herpes virus that spreads from pig to pig through the air and by physical contact. It cannot be contracted by humans, and meat harvested from infected hogs is not harmful to human health.

But the disease can be fatal to hogs. Young pigs are particularly susceptible, according to experts.

PERRYDALE, Ore. — Students piled toilet paper all over the front step at their rydale, then side to celebrate. tion was well de- dale students had mumental amount useshold goods, in- rous packages of und Charmin bath- r the needy. r was one of the after items for oliday donation ountainous stack me rising up out- ol was reminis- ery store stock of apples and es of fresh water- nix, green beans, eanut butter and u and cheese, e and rutabagas ; the front step. 7, a week before ve, students be- abling the pile it to food banks. s will receive onations direc- ren won't be left s collected \$1,290 in drive, and the hange will pay oungesters. Stu- K-12 school also ile of donated distribution. ne pretty good," n Brandon Atha school, we got a id money. The 's got good kids.



COIN DRIVE — Instructor Dan Dugan helps gather \$1,290 in coins that students contributed to buy toys for needy children.

Pretty much everybody in the school brought something."

The holiday spirit transcended cliques or clubs. While the 310 students in the rural Perrydale school district west of Salem are predominately farm kids, students stressed that the donation drive was a school-wide effort, not limited to FFA students.

The food and clothing drive started last year when 10th grade teacher Dan Dugan challenged Kirk Hutchinson's freshman ag class to a contest. They assigned points to respective articles of clothing and for pounds of food. The class with the most points would win.

Hutchinson's freshmen won, and a tradition was

started. This year, students retained the competitive spirit while again remembering the true purpose of their drive.

"We want to help people," said Tracy Neal, sophomore class president and FFA sentinel. "As much as we want to beat each other, it's all to help people."

Creativity made the experience fun. Students called their coin drive the "copper-silver," and under the rules, pennies were deemed "good" while silver coins were deemed "bad." The result was students trying to dump as many of their nickels, dimes and quarters in other classes' jars while hoarding pennies in their own containers.

The food and clothing drives, completed in two weeks, stressed self-reliance and initiative. Students approached farmers and grocers directly for donations. Some even contacted the toilet paper makers and received free packages of bathroom tissue.

Hutchinson, who serves as FFA coordinator at the school, said he incorporated FFA principles into his talks about the effort.

"I want kids to learn service to their community is important," he said. "This is real teamwork. This is teamwork put into action."

Sometimes the lessons came in unorthodox fashion.

"We just did a unit on ag sales, and I told them calling up a person and asking for toilet paper is what ag sales is all about."

"Never before have U.S. pork producers experienced such a devastating economic state," said NPPC president Donna Reifschneider.

The Farm Bureau presidents wrote to Glickman that without immediate action, "the entire structure of the industry will be irreparably damaged."

Glickman said the \$50 million government pork purchase would be expedited to provide immediate relief, including a \$3.1 million purchase of 4 million pounds last week.

Government buys pork to boost prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is buying \$15 million worth of pork to boost sagging hog prices and keep food banks from running out of meat during the holiday season.

The purchase will make up to 50 million pounds of pork available to the poor.

"Traditionally many of America's food banks face food shortages during this time of year," Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said.

Prices for hogs are at their lowest prices in more than 40 years because of an oversupply. Last week, Glickman formed a pork crisis task force that would make recommendations to help the industry. On Monday, he met privately with separate groups of meatpackers, retailers and farmers.

Last month, Glickman announced the purchase of \$50 million in pork for food assistance programs. The latest purchase was welcome, but it doesn't go far enough, said Steve Cohen, a spokesman for the National Pork Producers Council.

Capital Press 12/25/98

METRO

Beetle 'magnet' created

BY LYNN SWEET
SUN-TIMES WASHINGTON BUREAU

Chemical may aid in detecting pest

Scientists have discovered a powerful new compound they hope can be used to help locate infestations of the Asian long-horned beetle, which has destroyed more than 900 Chicago area trees, the Sun-Times has learned.

Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman will announce today that researchers in his department have developed, are testing and seek to patent what a department official called a new "chemical attractant and lure."

USDA scientists isolated and were able to artificially reproduce two chemicals produced by male beetles that appear to be "potent attractants" to both sexes, the source said. In tests at USDA's Insect

Chemical Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., the lure proved so strong it caused both male and female beetles to fly upwind when it was released at the far end of a wind tunnel.

U.S. and Chinese scientists have just started field tests in China, where the beetle originated, and officials in Chicago have asked to test it in a newly discovered infestation area in Kilbourn Park.

The USDA official said it is hoped the compound "may help flush out undetected infestations and better monitor high-risk areas" by attracting beetles to a baited trap. The only way to find beetles now is to look

for them and their exit and egg-laying holes with the naked eye or binoculars.

Glickman is to announce the discovery today during the first meeting of the President's Council on Invasive Species, formed last February in the wake of the invasion of the beetles and other destructive pests.

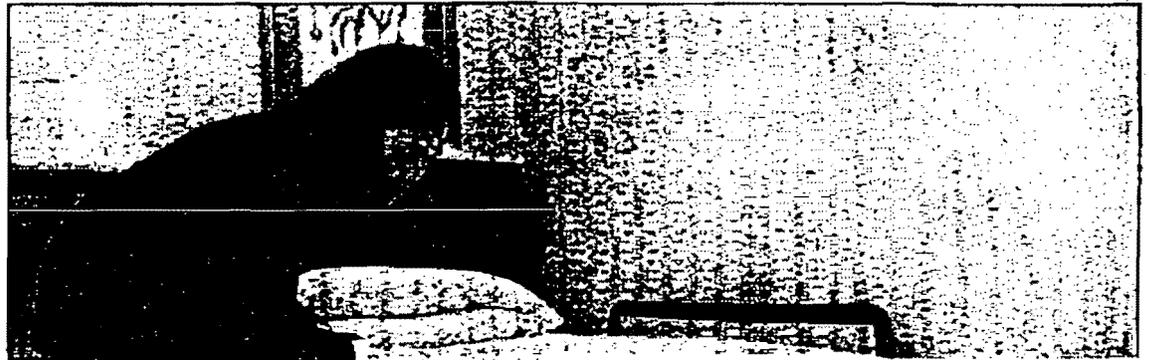
In Chicago, the state expanded its Asian long-horned beetle quarantine to cover a quarter-mile area centered on Keating and Cornelia, where five infested trees have been found since July 14. The area is bounded by Roscoe on the south, Patterson on the north, Lamon on the west and Knox on the east.

No Asian long-horned beetles in any living stage of development may be removed from the area, nor may any hardwood, firewood or any part of any tree that is a host to the beetle. Known hosts include maple, horse chestnut, apple, Chinaberry, mulberry, poplar, cherry, pear, locust, willow, elm and citrus.

State and federal surveyors found five beetle-infested trees Wednesday in DuPage County near Addison, adjoining the area along Rohlfing Road, where 42 trees with beetle exit holes or egg-laying sites were destroyed in April. Experts in bucket trucks checked trees around Clarendon and Junior Terrace in Lake View but found no new signs of infestation.

Contributing: Brenda Warner Ruizoli from Chicago

Kids becoming guests of honor at city's hotels



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New London Day 11/7/99

Plum Island considering a higher level of research, security



Luis Rodriguez, a microbiologist at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, uses a powerful microscope to view a virus specimen.

Officials say country ill-prepared to deal with new diseases

By PAUL CHODURE
Day Staff Writer

Plum Island, N.Y. — After years of saying little about what they do, officials at the animal disease research facility on this tiny island are on a campaign to reassure the public of its safety and make the argument about the need for even more dangerous research here.

Scientists are becoming increasingly aware of viruses that are a threat to both animals and people, yet the country is ill-equipped to study this new public health danger, said P. Keith Murray, director of the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa. To properly evaluate these new diseases will require an animal research facility with a higher level of security, Murray said.

Murray made his comments Tuesday to a group of journalists invited to tour the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. The visits come one day after the research center hosted local government officials from towns in southeastern Connecticut and Long Island. The sudden openness has come in re-

sponse to published reports that the Department of Agriculture, which operates the research center, is considering becoming a "Biosecurity Level 4" facility. The highest designation, it would allow highly contagious diseases that can be deadly to humans, as well as to animals, to be investigated on Plum Island. Animal illnesses that can kill humans are not the subject of research there.

Shrouded in secrecy and off limits to the public, the 800-acre island has long been rumored to be the site of biological warfare research, a contention strongly denied by officials Tuesday. Animal research has been conducted there since 1954, when it was aban-

See PLUM ISLAND page 4A

From A1
labeled as a military facility
The public will get an opportunity to question the practices on Plum Island and the plans for its future when the USDA hosts an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Oswegatchie Elementary School

pressure found in the area of highest contamination — the 40 animal containment rooms. They range from the size of a large closet to a 1,000-square-foot room capable of handling two dozen cattle, said Jeff Babcock, animal care supervisor.

The negative pressure feature

labeled as a military facility
The public will get an opportunity to question the practices on Plum Island and the plans for its future when the USDA hosts an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Oswegatchie Elementary School in Waterford. The federally owned island is located only a few miles from the Connecticut coast and less than a mile from Long Island.

While it has not made a formal request to Congress, the Agriculture

Department is discussing the need for a Level 4 facility for animal research, officials said. Because animal research is done there, Plum Island is the lead candidate for such a facility, said Dr. Alfonso Torres, the Deputy Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at the USDA. He estimated construction costs at about \$75 million.

Level 4 research is conducted at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., but that work focuses on fatal contagious illnesses that threaten humans. There is no such facility dedicated to animal research, said Murray. Until recently, Murray served as director of the only such facility in the world, located in Geelong, Australia. It opened in 1985.

Murray said recent history shows the need for a Level 4 animal research facility:

In 1971 there was a large epidemic of Venezuelan equine encephalitis across much of the southern U.S. Normally circulated in wild birds and mosquitoes, the illness in 1971 spilled over into humans. Thousands of people were infected and about 50

died. Spraying and the use of vaccines halted the spread. The country's pig industry was seriously damaged.

Murray said scientists have no explanation why such outbreaks are becoming more common. Without a proper research facility to investigate them, the country is vulnerable, he said.

"Nipah Virus is a very serious potential threat to the U.S. swine industry. Its introduction would devastate the industry. More importantly... Infected swine would be a dangerous source of infection for the general public as well as those working in the swine industry," Murray said. "Yet despite the dangers posed by Nipah and Hendra virus... the USDA cannot do research on these viruses. We have no programs to develop diagnostic tests... to ensure that these viruses are not accidentally brought into the U.S."

Murray said the increase to Level 4 would not be to protect the public, but provide greater protection for workers. Scientists would have to

pressure found in the area of highest contamination — the 40 animal containment rooms. They range from the size of a large closet to a 1,000-square-foot room capable of handling two dozen cattle, said Jeff Babcock, animal care supervisor.

The negative pressure feature means no microorganism can flow out of the room, but instead is sucked inward to remain in containment. Highly sensitive filters are used to capture any particles that are vented to or from the building.

Items are only released from the research center after being sanitized and tested to make sure no living organism remains, said Thomas Sawicki, safety officer for the facility. Viral samples shipped to and from the facility are packed in high-impact shipping crates and packed with an organism that would kill the virus should there be a breach in the container.

All visitors to the high security areas must remove all jewelry, completely strip and don underwear, jumpsuits and sneakers provided by operators. Upon leaving, the jumpsuits and clothing are discarded; the

suits to be burned and the clothing disinfected. All visitors must shower extensively before leaving, making sure to scrape under their nails, blow their noses and spit to make sure they carry no microorganisms out with them. Eyeglasses must be dipped in disinfectant before exiting containment.

Despite these precautions, visitors also agree to avoid for five days any contact with cattle, sheep, goats, deer, pigs, pet birds, domestic poultry and cannot visit during that time farms, zoos and pet stores

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■ In the early 1980s, a new disease, Hendra virus, was discovered in Australia and was found to be lethal in both horses and humans. The virus was quickly controlled before it spread.

■ Recently, West Nile Virus was found in New York and Connecticut. Again, a virus common in birds and mosquitoes affected humans and other animals. Eight human deaths were linked to the outbreak, said Lee Ann Thomas, acting director the research center.

■ This year a new virus — the Nipah Virus — was discovered in Malaysia where it spread from pigs to farm workers. About 100 deaths were attributed to the outbreak, and

gate them, the country is vulnerable, he said.

"Nipah Virus is a very serious potential threat to the U.S. swine industry. Its introduction would devastate the industry. More importantly, infected swine would be a dangerous source of infection for the general public as well as those working in the swine industry," Murray said. "Yet despite the dangers posed by Nipah and Hendra virus... the USDA cannot do much on these viruses. We have no programs to develop diagnostic tests... to ensure that these viruses are not accidentally brought into the U.S."

Murray said the increase to Level 4 would not be to protect the public, but provide greater protection for workers. Scientists would have to wear "space suits" when dealing with these deadly viruses. Better facilities would be needed to handle large animals purposely infected for research purposes.

During the most current fiscal year, ending Sept. 30, about 250 pigs were destroyed during Plum Island research, as well as several cattle and sheep, Thomas said. All animals used in research on the island are destroyed and their carcasses incinerated.

Reporters taken on a tour Tuesday were shown the extensive measures already taken to ensure no virus escapes from the research laboratories.

Research facilities are kept under negative pressure, with the lowest

All visitors to the high security areas must remove all jewelry, completely strip and don underwear, jumpsuits and breakers provided by operators. Upon leaving, the jumpsuits and clothing are discarded, the suits to be burned and the clothing disinfected. All visitors must shower extensively before leaving, making sure to scrape under their nails, blow their noses and spit to make sure they carry no microorganisms out with them. Eyeglasses must be dipped in disinfectant before exiting containment.

Despite these precautions, visitors also agree to avoid for five days any contact with cattle, sheep, goats, deer, pigs, pet birds, domestic poultry and cannot visit during that time farms, zoos and pet stores.

Each year a hunt is conducted to kill any deer that have managed to swim to the island and breed there. Last year about a dozen were found and killed, Sawicki said.

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2/19

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NEWSBYTES



Food Industry "Ready" For Y2K, But Will Public Listen?

November 18, 1999: 1:47 p.m. ET

BETHESDA, MARYLAND, U.S.A. (NB) -- By Bob Woods, Newsbytes. Food industry and government officials gathered at a supermarket in suburban Washington, DC today to declare that local food stores will be ready for the Year 2000 date change. But a new survey out today shows that not all Americans are buying Uncle Sam's view of Y2K.

At a press event held in a Bethesda, Md., grocery store, Giant Food Inc. Vice President Barry Scher said that food companies are "ready for consumers to buy food and grocery products over the New Year's holiday and beyond."

Scher and others assured the public at the event - which Newsbytes attended - that there is no need for concern from the public about the ability to buy food, as "there will be plenty of groceries on hand."

Echoing what many officials said at this morning's event, Scher urged consumers to "shop like they would for any other holiday season."

"Even without the year 2000, there's going to be a lot of busy stores, and a lot of shopping," Scher said. "Your local retailer has been working with suppliers to be well-stocked. If people would just use common sense, there will be no problems."

John Koskinen, the chair of President Clinton's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, said the food industry has spent "billions" in fixing and remediating their systems for the Y2K event.

The task of fixing the food industry's Y2K

bugs, though, were daunting as the sector has many links where a failure could hurt the overall system, said Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

But all may not go completely smoothly, Glickman said. "I'm not saying there might not be some spot shortages because of consumer overbuying or weather-related problems, but that is no different from... any storm situation." Most wholesalers and retailers have 30-day to 60-day inventories of non-perishable goods, though, so any spot shortages would be short in duration, he also said. Many companies also have contingency plans to deal with any unanticipated events.

Additionally, the US' trading partners around the world have also shown "great improvement over the year," including Mexico, which is a key supplier of winter fruits and vegetables, he said.

Overall, the food industry sees Y2K as "a non-event," Scher added.

A new Harris Interactive pool that tracks the public's "panic level" in regards to Y2K, though, shows that 24 percent of all consumers are planning to stock up their pantries with at least some food-related goods in preparation for Y2K.

Bottled water and canned fruits are predicted to top the items to fly off the shelves at higher-than-normal rates, according to the company's survey - nine in ten consumers said they expect to buy bottled water, and four in five anticipate purchasing canned fruits and vegetables before Jan. 1, 2000.

"Regardless of whether Y2K proves to arrive with a bang or a bust, a number of consumers are hedging their bets," said Peter Gold, director of consumer services for Harris Interactive, in a statement. Gold blamed media attention being given to the Y2K bug for some Americans' need to feel "safe rather than sorry."

The media's spotlight on Y2K was also a topic at today's event in Bethesda, with "Y2K The Movie" being broadcast this weekend on NBC. Both government and food-industry officials, though, said they believed that the public would be able to see that the movie is just entertainment, and would not go off in a panic-buying binge.

"The entertainment industry is very good on capitalizing on problems - where they exist," Glickman said. "What we're trying to

tell people today is that there's no reason to panic, and entertainment is entertainment and nothing else."

Yet not everyone is convinced that Y2K will be A-OK. Harris Interactive's study found that female shoppers were 50 percent more likely than male shoppers to pantry-load before the end of the year. Female shoppers aged 25 to 44 were "much more likely" to load up on groceries before Jan. 1 than females in other age segments.

Meantime, male shoppers aged 25 to 34 were two to three times more likely than male shoppers were in other age ranges to stock-up, Harris Interactive said.

For its QuickQuery study, Harris Interactive asked 1,903 people via the Internet for their opinions on Y2K. Individuals in the sample are reportedly responsible for at least half of their household's grocery purchasing.

Harris Interactive said it is conducting the QuickQuery studies to aid in manufacturers' and grocery retailers' forecasts for the upcoming holiday/Y2K season. Harris officials said they will conduct their survey two more times before Jan. 1.

General merchandise purchases, were not included in the survey, Harris Interactive added.

Reported By Newsbytes.com,
<http://www.newsbytes.com>

12:29 CST Reposted 12:37 CST
(19991118/Press Contacts: Jack Gribben, Y2K Council, 202-456-7010; Peter Gold, Harris Interactive, 212-539-9682; Jamie Cryan, Edelman PR Worldwide, 212-704-4566 /WIRES Y2K, PC, BUSINESS/Y2KFOOD/PHOTO) ▶▶

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LYONS

Continued from Page 1

are ant invasion in the southern portion of the state will begin in the spring. The cost will be at least \$6 million per year to fight the onslaught. The counties on the border line include Orange, San Diego, and portions of Riverside and Los Angeles.

WATER

Lyons called the water issue "very complex." He has three people in his department assigned to water.

"There are different and competing concerns that have to be dealt with when it comes to the distribution of water," he said.

"The interest of someone in San Diego who pays \$600 an acre for water is different from someone in Modesto who pays \$5 an acre for water or so cost in Northern California. My job is to make sure there's a steady supply of water, and make that available, as equitably as possible to farmers."

He said he supports Calif ed efforts to allocate water to agricultural and urban uses evenly across the board. He said farmers must be engaged in these discussions, and encouraged to participate in the Calif hearings that were held because the state during the year.

"If farmers aren't at the table, we've got real problems because farmers are the ones who can accurately express their needs."

OMO

He said that producing more food for an ever-increasing population can come only through advanced biotechnology in agriculture. The so-called OMO issue is one that concerns Lyons as well.

"Agriculture and consumers must discuss how we're going to feed billions of people with the crops we have. Our department and other agencies are going to have to work together on this."

The perception, especially in Europe, is that genetically modified organisms, or OMOs are dangerous to health, but he said the use of biotechnology has been an essential part of agriculture for many years.

Farmers, environmentalists and scientists will have to get together to look at quality assurance with water management."

This leads to the issue of biotechnology in agriculture. "We're going to be involved with genetically modified organisms and we're going to have to try to bridge the gaps between the various concerns through science and education."

Sitting back, Lyons reflected on his job.

"I want to be a catalyst. I want to try to spark discussion and action among the different communities. There are different segments of this industry, and I'm trying to bring them together. They may not agree with each other, but I hope they'll see their point of view."

It seems a difficult task, but Lyons says the hardest thing about his job is being away from home. Lyons of Modesto, about 76 miles south of Sacramento, says he hates to miss his kids' ball games.

The Modesto native is a graduate of California State University, Chico. He and his wife Shury have four children.

The Lyons family has strong roots in the Central Valley, and has been in agriculture for 76 years. He's managed the family ranch in the Modesto area for the past 28 years. The ranch produces a number of crop and livestock commodities.

He's served as chairman of USDA's Farm Service Agency state committees since 1968, overseeing and enforcing national farm programs and policies for USDA farm programs in the state.

Since 1978, Lyons has been elected to a number of agriculture-related boards and commissions, including the board of directors for the California Farm Bureau Federation and the Modesto Irrigation District, the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and San Joaquin Counties Cattleman's Association.

"We need to educate the consumer about biotechnology and its benefits."

Bill Lyons, Calif. secretary of ag

around the Pacific Rim, including Hong Kong and Tokyo. Agriculture representatives are there now trying to expand our presence. In fact, I'm going to travel to Hong Kong in the next year. We have some of the best quality food products, and we have to be very aggressive in marketing them."

FUTURE ISSUES

"There are a number of big issues we'll have to face in the future," Lyons said. "One of the big issues is labor. Agribusiness, the state and labor will have to sit down together to talk about the state of farm labor."

Two seasons have already taken place, but more face-to-face discussions are needed, he said. The state's employment development department is trying to bring the farmworkers, unions and farmers together to discuss the need for an adequate supply of workers and the need for worker safety among other issues.

"Water will continue to be an issue we'll need to deal with," he said. "The population will continue to grow, while the land on which we grow the food to feed this population won't get any larger."



ON THE RUM - California Secretary of Food and Agriculture Bill Lyons rarely sees his office. Since appointed by Gov. Gray Davis, Lyons has traveled the state meeting farmers and becoming acquainted with their issues.

Ag challenges keep Bill Lyons hopping

By ROBERT PALOMARES
Capitol Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO - Just after Bill Lyons Jr. took over as California's secretary of food and agriculture, he sped down the Central Valley to Fresno and other citrus-growing counties to witness firsthand the stress that stalks that segment of agriculture.

Then he had to go further south to see damage done by fire ants, then came the Calif ed water hearings that his department was taking part in.

Then, the glary-winged sharpshooter devastated valuable vineyards in northern San Diego and Riverside counties, and threatened vineyards in the northern part of the state. Then, the Mexican fruit fly was spotted in San Diego County, resulting in a 72 square-mile quarantine.

"It's been an exciting firm year," he said sitting in his corner office across the street

from the Capitol.

From fighting a cold, Lyons has allowed down much. He's courted this week with experts on genetically modified foods to discuss what he considers an important issue.

Lyons, 48, said that there are many issues facing agriculture in the state. And even small issues on a state level may have an important impact on an segment of the multimillion dollar state agriculture industry.

"There are many issues facing agriculture over the next few years, and all sides of all these issues have to cooperate to overcome them," he said.

On the citrus front, Lyons said his boss, Gov. Gray Davis, helped get federal funding for the losses suffered by the citrus farmers. This year's citrus harvest seems to be going along well, Lyons said.

A five-year battle against the

Forum focuses on Hunt's Point produce-inspection scandal

21 arrested on corruption charges.

By DENNIS POLLOCK

THE FRESNO BEE

The Hunt's Point Terminal Market inspection scandal will be the focal point for a forum sponsored by the Fresno-based California Grape & Tree Fruit League Thursday in Selma.

Speakers will include Rep. Cal Dooley, D-Hanford, and two representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Kathleen Merrigan, administrator of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, and Bob Koeney, director of the Fruit and Vegetable Division of the marketing

service.

Richard Matocin, president of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, will moderate the session.

It will focus on the FBI's arrest last October of eight current and former USDA produce inspectors and 13 produce wholesalers on federal corruption charges. The arrests culminated a 3½-year investigation by the FBI that was code-named "Operation Forbidden Fruit."

Indictments charge that the inspectors routinely accepted cash payments in exchange for agreeing to downgrade produce shipments to the benefit of buyers and the detriment of produce growers and shippers.

The charges raised serious issues regarding the integrity of federal produce inspections and the USDA commercial dispute-resolution system and sent shock waves through the Valley, from which much of the nation's produce is shipped.

Many shippers want to learn whether they will be able to receive financial compensation for shipments not inspected properly.

Topics to be discussed at the forum, scheduled for 1:30 to 4 p.m. Thursday at Pea Soup Andersen's in Selma, will include:

- Actions being taken by the USDA in the

Please see Forum, Page C4



Rep. Cal Dooley, Hanford, speak at Thursday forum.

Forum: Scandal shocked many

Continued from Page C1
light of the Hunt's Point indictment.

- Shipper options for filing claims for losses.

The time frame for resolving such issues.

- A USDA project to develop a computer data base of produce inspections.

- Industry recommendations for revising USDA produce-inspection procedures.

Details: 226-6330.

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Flora and Fauna

Department of Agriculture

A Debate Over Poisoning Birds

By Ben White
The Washington Post Staff Writer

Here's a little fact you probably didn't know about your friendly U.S. Department of Agriculture: It poisons birds.

The avian executions are conducted not out of malice, but to protect farmers in the northern Great Plains, who complain that they lose a substantial portion of their lucrative sunflower crop each year to swarms of migrating blackbirds.

The stakes for farmers are high. USDA estimates that the annual sunflower crop is worth from \$330 million to \$500 million, depending on market conditions. The seeds are sold for both snack consumption and for use as a cooking oil.

USDA estimates that blackbirds can inflict \$5 million to \$10 million of damage each year.

The pilot project began in 1994 with a target of 250,000 kills. This year, USDA hopes to wipe out as many as 2 million birds in both North and South Dakota, the heart of sunflower country.

The killing is to resume later this month.

Previously, USDA had experimented with laying poison bait later in the year, but found that birds could simply perch atop the fully-grown sunflowers and ignore the poison rice kernels scattered on the ground.

Needless to say, naturalists and bird lovers are not big fans of the effort. They argue that it is unclear whether killing the birds actually protects crops and contend that the poison may actually kill other, endangered birds. Blackbirds themselves are plentiful and in no danger of extinction.

Late last month, Daniel P. Beard, vice president of the National Audubon Society, wrote a letter to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman demanding an immediate end to the

project, which Beard said was "based on dubious science and economics."

George Linz, who leads the project out of the USDA's Wildlife Services office in Bismarck, N.D., says the bird-inflicted damage is obvious to anyone who cares to look. Linz also says that exhaustive searches of sunflower fields have found no evidence to indicate that other birds are being hurt.

The birds may yet get a reprieve, however. The period for public comment on the project ended Monday and USDA officials will weigh the comments and are expected to decide sometime next week on whether to continue.

MAN ON A MISSION: USDA is also going after "alien invaders."

Secretary Glickman is in the middle of a multistate tour to combat non-native bugs, plants and diseases that the agency says threaten American agriculture.

Glickman's tour will take him to four cities where the invasions are a particular problem: New York, Miami, San Diego and Long Beach, Calif.

In New York, the problem is the Asian long-horned beetle, which destroys trees, and the West Nile virus, which the agency says has killed several people and nine horses.

In Florida, citrus canker is the culprit, estimated to have cost \$70 million in crop damage. In California, Glickman plans to highlight the dangers posed by invading fruit flies that threaten the state's fruit and nut production.

Glickman will visit airports to check security and talk with travel reporters, urging them to pass along tips to help travelers ensure that they don't bring any dangerous pests into the country. He will also travel to the U.S.-Mexico border just south of San Diego to observe the inspection process for incoming freight.



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"Federal Page"

WISCONSIN STATE FARMER
November 3, 2000

Glickman announces \$300 million bioenergy program

WASHINGTON

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced details of a new \$300 million program to encourage expanded production of environmentally friendly fuels made from corn, soybeans and other crops. The program, which was initially proposed in President Clinton's 2001 budget as part of the farm safety net, will help expand markets for agricultural commodities and promote use of biofuels like ethanol and soy-based biodiesel.

"This program will help us tap into a huge domestic energy reserve on our family farms," said Glickman. "Encouraging the use of bioenergy benefits American farmers, while improving our energy security and helping to protect our environment."

Biofuels offer a renewable, clean, domestic source of fuel that can create new markets for America's farmers. Ethanol, practically nonexistent 20 years ago, now accounts for 25 percent of the nation's gasoline supply. About 1.6 billion bushels of corn are used each year in U.S. production and processing of biofuels. President Clinton issued an executive order last summer that set a goal of tripling the U.S. use of renewable energy.

Under the program, USDA will make cash payments to bioenergy companies that increase their purchases of corn, soybeans and other commodities to expand production of ethanol, biodiesel or other biofuels. The program will provide higher payments to small and new-to-

market processors, including cooperatives, to encourage the expansion of domestic bioenergy production capacity. USDA will provide up to \$150 million for the program this fiscal year and another \$150 million in fiscal 2002.

The new regulation, under development during this past year, was finalized under a USDA rule-making process. A proposed rule was issued this summer, followed by a public comment period. Sign-up for the program will begin in December.

Further information will be available on website <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/bioenergy/bioenergy.htm>.

Glickman also announced that USDA is soliciting proposals for pilot projects that use harvested vegetation to produce energy.

Biomass, plant materials containing cellulose and lignin, can be burned, converted into combustible gas, or used to produce liquid fuels. The land must be enrolled in USDA's Conservation Reserve Program and the vegetative cover, such as grass, must be an approved cover for use in the conservation program. Pilot projects will be for a minimum period of 10 years and the total acreage per project may not exceed 50,000 acres.

The maximum acreage for all pilot projects will not exceed 250,000 acres. No more than one project will be approved in any state.

Those interested in submitting proposals for biomass projects should contact their state Farm Service Agency.

AGRI-VIEW, November 2, 2000

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Biofuels offer renewable, clean, domestic sources of fuel that can create new markets for America's farmers.

Ethanol, practically non-existent 20 years ago, now accounts for 1.2 percent of the nation's gasoline supply.

Already, 567 million bushels of corn, over 5 percent of U.S. production, are grown annually for use in biofuels.

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Glickman For Better Conservation, Insurance

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman recently suggested several steps that he said would help strengthen national farm policy.

Among those, he said, must be protections for the family farm as corporate farms continue to grow.

"This is an issue that troubles me, particularly in the livestock industry as we see significant increased concentration in hogs, in chicken, in beef," he said.

In the next farm bill, Glickman said, the national crop insurance program should be expanded to include livestock and other commodities. He also embraced strong conservation measures to entice farmers to take payments to leave land unilled.

"I would have payments to farmers for land practices that would, in many cases, be as substantial as some of the payments of program crops," he said.

UPDATE 2-Stenholm, Veneman US agriculture sec'y contenders

(adds Glickman quote paragraph 9)

By Charles Abbott

WASHINGTON, Dec 5 (Reuters) - Rep. Charles Stenholm of Texas, a possible Democrat in a Republican Cabinet, and veteran regulator Ann Veneman have been tagged by farm lobbyists, consultants and lawmakers as likely front-runners for agriculture secretary in a new administration.

While the outcome of the presidential race remains in dispute, Veneman, a Republican, and Stenholm were prominent among a half-dozen people from each party considered as possible successors to Dan Glickman as head of one of the largest federal departments.

With nearly 100,000 workers, the Agriculture Department oversees 191 million acres of national forests, pays farm subsidies, inspects the safety of the meat supply, and spends more than \$50 billion a year on public feeding programs like food stamps and school lunches.

"Obviously, it isn't going to shake out until we know who won Florida," said Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau, the nation's biggest grower group.

Stallman was referring to the legal dispute over Florida's 25 electoral votes, which are needed for either Republican George W. Bush or Democrat Al Gore to garner the 270 votes needed to win the White House.

Although Stenholm, a conservative Democrat, is seen as a possible choice for Gore or Bush, he faces pressure from his party to remain in Congress. Stenholm represents a district in Texas seen likely to swing to Republican control should he resign his seat.

Congressional staff workers say the narrow margin of control for Republicans in Congress would deter any incumbents from taking a Cabinet job.

Republicans need every seat to retain their majority on close votes while Democrats cannot squander seats when control is almost within grasp.

Still, the departing Glickman offered support to his fellow Democrat. "The next agriculture secretary will need to be someone with a broad base," Glickman told reporters. "A person like Stenholm is a broad-based person."

VENEMAN SERVED UNDER BUSH

A lawyer, Veneman served as the No. 2 official at the USDA during the administration of Bush's father, former president George Bush, and later became California's agriculture director. She would be the first woman agriculture secretary if selected.

While Veneman and Stenholm have agricultural backgrounds, sentiment was rising in some quarters for appointment of a farmer to be agriculture secretary. The last three secretaries -- Glickman, Mike Espy and Ed Madigan -- came from the House Agriculture Committee.

"I assume it will be a factor," said private consultant Bill Leshner, who cited farm-group comments in favor of a farmer to head the department. "At a minimum, I think one of the top two (posts) would have to be a farmer."

New presidents often try to strike a balance among the three major U.S. farm regions when they name an agriculture secretary and the deputy secretary, the No. 2 official in charge of day-to-day operations.

The Midwestern farm states are most concerned with corn, soybeans and wheat, while western states are more interested in

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to stay on, as some have expected. When the secretary said he would say no.

Glickman has not yet tendered his resignation to the White House, but

Joe

insisted he has no intention of staying for another term.

"I would not stay in this job. It's been almost six years and that really is long enough. It's not healthy to have someone in this position for too long. You need new ideas and new people... I've always said 'you never say never' in this world, but I think they really do need new leadership here and most

federal agencies."

He's not dead-set on leaving because he doesn't like the job, though. Glickman called it frustrating at times, especially when he's trying to get more money for programs than the White House Office of Management and Budget wants to give. But "This has been a terrific job," he said.

With absolutely no doubt that he will move on after Jan. 20, Glickman has begun looking for a new job. He won't say what new positions he is considering, but suggested there's a good chance it will be something that will keep him involved in U.S. agriculture policy. End:

[Begin BridgeLinks]

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[End BridgeLinks]

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