PENICILLIN FOR VETERINARY TREATMENT OF FARM STOCK

Perhaps of equal importance as the announcement of the successful development of penicillin, was the result of tests conducted at the Maryland, New Jersey and New Hampshire experiment stations, and the announcement of a penicillin product, veticillin.

Veticillin is the most powerful agent yet discovered for the treatment of any of the diseases of farm animals and household pets.

Early results indicate that veticillin is the most effective agent so far discovered for the treatment of bovine mastitis. The drug is injected directly into the infected udder exerting a powerful killing action upon the organisms causing the infection. It is also believed that a large number of animals lost from wound and blood stream infections, from anthrax and swine erysipelas and shipping fever, may also be saved by the new drug.

Experiments are still being conducted. One is to determine the usefulness of veticillin for actinomycosis, a serious disease of the jaw in cattle known to farmers as lumpy jaw. Its effectiveness against this condition seems likely to be established in the near future.

Various state agricultural experiment stations, working with commercial interests including Lederle laboratories, are conducting tests of many different types of diseases and it is expected that many will be successful. It is also true that it will be found that veticillin will not prove a cure-all, a panacea for many types of diseases of livestock and pets, any more than penicillin has proven such for all human ailments.

Dr. A. S. Ereuchner of the University of Maryland, Dr. James Murphy of the New Jersey experiment station and Dr. Slanetz of the New Hampshire experiment station along with a vast number of scientists are devoting considerable attention to the value of veticillin. Most of their tests are incomplete, and final announcements will not be made for sometime.

The government has recently announced that a limited supply of penicillin material will be released for veterinary use. The product will not be sold direct to the farmer, and pet owner, but must be secured through a licensed veterinary.

Farm authorities estimate, even according to early reports on the success of veticillin that a saving running into the hundreds of millions of dollars will result from the controlled use of veticillin. It has been stated by authorities, that it is perhaps the greatest development for the industry since the discovery of pasteurization.

The supply of veticillin will be unlimited after the war against Japan has ended. There seems to be no limit in the postwar supply. While the price of penicillin has been materially reduced during the last few months, radical further costs in veticillin are to be expected.

END OF TOP EGG PRICES IS URGED

Suspension of egg ceiling prices and an increase in ceilings for the heavier weight poultry were proposed to Congress today.

Government officials and poultry industry representatives offered it to combat danger expressed of extreme shortages later in the year.

The suggestions were laid before the House Food Investigating Committee headed by Representative Anderson (D., N. M.), who listened intently and suggested that the War Food Administration and the Office of Price Administration try to get together on them immediately.

Warning of a possible "severe shortage" of eggs and a liquidation of the nation's egg-laying flocks, Leon Todd, executive secretary of the National Poultry Defense Committee, declared black markets are diverting a large portion of this year's reduced egg supply and encouraging the sale of laying flocks for poultry meat.

A temporary removal of ceilings on eggs, Todd said, would raise egg prices to a level profitable for poultrymen to hold hens for laying rather than sell them for meat. It also would tend to channel eggs back through legitimate markets, he said.

Anderson's questioning of Todd and Tom Stitts, chief of the dairy and poultry branch of the Office of Marketing of the War Food Administration, indicated the future War Food Administration and Agriculture Secretary was planning a drive for a sharp expansion in poultry production to offset shortages of red meats.

"It takes less time," Anderson said, "to convert feed into chickens to get meat than it does hogs or cattle."

Stitts expressed the opinion, however, that a shortage of hatching eggs would make it impossible to offset this year's deficit in red meats.

Stitts did say, however, he believed poultry production could be increased 300,000,000 or 400,000,000 pounds by offering producers higher ceiling prices on roasting or heavier weight chickens, than on broilers. It would encourage feeding to heavier weights.

Such an increase would raise per capita civilian supplies three to four pounds above quantities now indicated for the year.

CUTBACKS TO BRING EARLY INDUCTIONS

Col. Henry C. Stanwood, State Selective Service Director, yesterday said most Maryland draft boards would immediately induct workers who lose their deferments in war industries because of cutbacks.

Earlier in the day, Federal officials in Washington had predicted a seventeen per cent reduction by fall in the number of key industrial workers, 26 through 29, who now have draft deferments. They estimated that 60,000 out of 350,000 men of that age, now classified as irreplaceable, would be affected by cutbacks in war production and a general easing of the manpower situation.

In line with this and a strong demand from the armed services for men under 30, the Government's Interagency Deferment Committee, formed last February to assure retention in industry of indispensible men 26 through 29, is tightening its criteria for deferments.

To qualify for deferment, workers had to be certified by one of fifteen Government agencies. Most of these deferments were issued in March and April and will expire in September or October.

In the case of layoffs due to cutbacks or in the event certain jobs lose their urgency rating, however, Selective Service plans to withdraw deferments before they expire.

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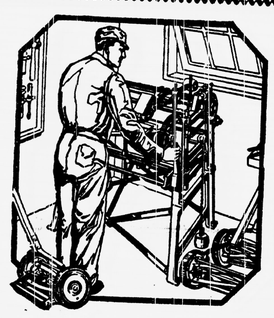

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