

Maritimes Resist Changes In Feed Grain Freight Rate

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR
Probably the most important farm policy matter brewing in the Maritimes this week is that of freight assistance on Western feed grain. The Eastern section of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture is convening a meeting in Ottawa on Friday of this week.

This meeting will deal with representations prepared by the Feed Grains Committee of the Maritime Federation of Agriculture. These representations as approved will then be presented on Friday evening to the Hon. Maurice Sauvé for discussion.

Without going into the fine print of the difficulties involved in the new proposals are bad a war for many of the Maritimes and its farmers. The Federation has been pressing for the setting up of an Eastern Feed Grains authority which would be responsible to the administration of these matters and which if presently in operation would probably have withheld approval in principle on the proposed changes.

The assistance policy is one of vital importance to the Maritimes and any changes which would lower our detriment must be strongly resisted and this resistance will be an active item in Ottawa on Friday.

DAIRY PRINCESS
A traditional feature of the past week has been the selection of the 1964 Dairy Princess. This program is yearly carried out by a committee of young women from the United Farmers of Canada.

The selection was made last Saturday at the Experimental Farm and on Monday evening the new Princess was crowned and presented before the grandstand during the official opening of Old Home Week.

The new Princess travels to Toronto and will compete on Sept. 4 for the title of Canadian Dairy Princess.

All state is an immediate two weeks visit to Britain's Food Fair. This visit is sponsored by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

As the 1964 Dairy Princess competes in Toronto she will no doubt have the best wishes and enthusiastic support of all Islanders in her efforts to win the Canadian Award.

BIG SHOW
While this letter is written early in the week, yet it almost appears certain that Old Home Week is away to an excellent start. Monday and Tuesday were fine and crowds seem to be encouraged to the key to success in this show, of course, rests very strongly on the weather.

Rain and exhibitions, cold weather, in addition, do not go together. Hot weather speeds up business in all the different booths and makes people relax and enjoy themselves much more.

In the coliseum a number of new booths have appeared and generally all booths appear to be smarter.

This year the Dairy Princess' booth which has been carried on in almost the same manner in many years has installed an extra milk dispenser and has, in addition, a guest book and this is an innovation which is proving quite popular.

Cattle barns are well filled, the midway blares and swings as in the past, race horses parade, form up, and each race provides slightly over two minutes of highpowered activity.

All in all Old Home Week is a highly charged feature of noise, color, excitement, high interest and real novelty. For the management it represents intensive planning for the entire year, planning which can be seriously thrown out of gear by failure to observe a few of the numberless details and by of course, failure of co-operation on the part of the weatherman.

PP PIGS
Specific Pathogen Free pigs are really coming into their own in Ontario. At the outset, a lot of farmers looked on this program with skepticism. They could see that the initial cost was higher than normal to get into such a program, and they were not sure whether or not they could make up the difference through better performance.

Fortunately there were enough breeders with vision to play with the program through the early stages of development, so that now many a hog producer can benefit from this program.

It has been said many times that if we can control disease, we can produce an economical product. This has been well demonstrated by the SFF program. The elimination of pneumonia and pneumonia has given these pigs an opportunity to grow in accordance with their inherited ability. Previously these diseases interfered with growth and feed efficiency even though some pigs did not show symptoms of being sick.

Now that pigs can be purchased free of these two costly diseases, we must allow for the fact that they will allow in formulating feeds to allow these pigs to grow at this faster rate. Special feeds are now formulated specifically for SFF pigs, whether they can be commercial production units or feeder operations. Since these pigs can grow more rapidly, we are able to use high efficiency rations and closely approach the type of results with swine that we are presently getting from broilers.

At the outset some problems existed in SFF pigs because of inadequately balanced rations. It was not very long ago that we required 3 1/2 to 4 pounds of feed to produce a pound of pork; but, today, using disease-free pigs and high-energy properly fortified rations from start to finish, we can produce pigs through to market weight which require only 3 1/2 pounds of feed per pound of gain.

This is the big step that was needed so that the available nutritional information on pigs could be properly utilized. Since the swine producer must compete with the producers of other meats, then it was necessary that he produce a pig that had the ability to grow fast, convert feed efficiently, and produce a good carcass.

We are rapidly approaching other classes of meat. No longer can we consider hogs as a refuse storage for scraps and poor-quality feed. These animals can be efficient, thus it is necessary to give them properly balanced diets. Efficient swine production is rapidly approaching efficient broiler production. Only through a good breeding, good disease control, and good nutrition can we continue to make strides in this direction.

CONFIRMED ORDERS
KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) Defence Minister Tun Abdul Razak confirmed Wednesday imposition of "shoot on sight" security regulations on 1200 miles of Malaysia and Singapore coastline. The orders follow the closing of Malaysian waters to Indonesian traders.

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