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FDA Bans The Use Of DES In Cattle

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration Wednesday banned all use of the drug DES in beef cattle and sheep because it said illegal residues continue to be detected in edible tissue.

The agency said alternative growth-promoting products are available to avoid another meat price increase. But the Agriculture Department and cattle producers predicted the ban will boost retail beef prices by several hundred million dollars a year.

The FDA said its action was based on new USDA tests which detected residues of DES or diethylstilbestrol in livers and kidneys of animals slaughtered 120 days after the synthetic estrogen was implanted in their ears. The

use of DES in animal feed has been illegal since Jan. 1.

DES has caused cancer in laboratory animals and has been linked to vaginal cancer in the daughters of women who took it during pregnancy.

The FDA recently announced, however, that it will approve the use of DES as a "morning after" birth control pill for short-term use by women who did not take precautions before sexual intercourse.

"It's nothing short of tragic that within weeks following the announcement by the FDA that DES as a morning after pill is safe for humans, it's unsafe because of infinitesimal quantities having been found in beef livers," said C. W. McMillan, vice presi-

dent of the American National Cattlemen's Association.

"A person would have to consume several thousand pounds of liver daily to get the equivalent DES in one of the morning-after pills," he said.

The association, representing about 250,000 beef cattle producers predicted the ban would boost retail meat prices eight cents a pound or roughly \$1.8 billion a year.

Acting FDA Commissioner Sherwin Gardner, in announcing the new action, said a number of other livestock growth drugs are available to producers.

The FDA earlier had estimated that an animal given DES reaches the market weight of 1,000 pounds 35 days sooner on 500 pounds less feed.

Most feedlot operators switched to more troublesome implants after DES feed additives were banned, McMillan said. Alternative drugs are much more expensive than DES which costs only about 50 cents per animal, he added.

Highly sensitive USDA tests involving radioactive tracers confirmed DES levels ranging from .04 parts per billion from a half dose to .12 ppb from a full dose,

the FDA said. Federal law prohibits the use of any carcinogenic animal drug if residues are detected in edible portions.

The ban on DES implants effective Friday, but FDA said that animals already implanted and meat from slaughtered animals may be marketed.

DES has been used in animal feed and ear implants for more than 20 years.

Five Seniors Receive Graduate Army ROTC Fellowships

Army ROTC fellowships for graduate studies have been awarded to five senior cadets, announced Col. Thomas R. Parsons, professor of military science.

Recipients are Mark A. DeHarde of San Antonio; Robert E. Howard III, Shreveport; Leslie C. Lyons, Honolulu; Ronald F. Petersen, College Station, and Gregory P. Walk, Houston.

They will have two years graduate study at Army expense after receiving appointments in the Regular Army, Col. Parsons said.

The fellowship recipients will attend graduate school as officers on active duty, with full pay and allowances.

Each winner ranked in the top five per cent of all senior Army ROTC cadets in the U. S. who applied for Regular Army commissions. Standings were based on academic and military performance and Graduate Record Examination scores.

Col. Parsons noted the number of A&M recipients represents almost 10 per cent of the total selected.

Phony Pro-Nixon Ballots Sent To TV Opinion Poll

WASHINGTON (AP)—An official of President Nixon's re-election committee says committee workers sent in thousands of phony ballots to a television station poll which showed overwhelming support for Nixon's decision to mine North Vietnamese waters, the Washington Post reports.

DeVan L. Shumway, spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, was quoted in Thursday's editions of the Post as saying the committee sent "about 2,000 ballots and responses" to the poll conducted by Washington Metromedia station WTTG.

The paper also said another former Nixon committee official said the panel sent in about 4,000 of the responses agreeing with the President.

Final results of the poll taken during the week of May 15, 1972, showed 5,157 agreeing with the President and 1,158 opposed.

When the station reported the results of its poll, it qualified the results by saying several

thousand of the postcards apparently had been typed on the same typewriters and had much the same phrasing, the Post said.

The Post quoted Shumway as saying: "When you're involved in an election, you do what you can."

The paper also quoted James Dooley, former head of the mailroom at the re-election committee, as saying that committee workers were sent out to buy about 1,000 newspapers from which the ballots were clipped. In addition, the Post quoted Dooley as saying, about 2,000 postcards were filled out and mailed in.

"Work ground to a halt in the press office while everyone filled out 15 postcards," the paper quoted Dooley, 19, as saying. "Ten people worked for several days buying different kinds of stamps and postcards and getting different handwriting to fake the responses."

The Post said Wednesday that the Nixon committee conducted a

campaign last May to distort the over-all view of the American public's response to the mining. That effort, the Post said, included paying for telegrams of support being sent to the President and the placing of an apparently deceptive advertisement in The New York Times supporting the mining and criticizing an editorial in the Times opposing it.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
Radio Committee will discuss summer organizations in Room 3C of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p.m.

A&M Collegiate Horseman's Association will elect officers at 7:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall of the Animal Industries Building.

FRIDAY
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship will hear Roger London at 7:30 p.m. at 600 Fairview, College Station. Rides will leave All Faiths Chapel and the steps in front of the corps area at 7:15.

India Association is presenting a film, "Anokhi Rat," in the Zachry Engineering Center at 7:30 p.m. Admission for members is \$1.25 and \$1.75 for non-members. Guests of non-Indian origin will be admitted free.

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