CVMA does not support Prop 2

By ROD SMITH

THE New Jersey Supreme Court last week upheld the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s animal husbandry and treatment standards, including cage egg production systems and sow and veal calf stalls, but sent the entire package back to the department, ordering it to review and fine-tune its standards.

The ruling, by a unanimous court, was based on an animal welfare group’s petition challenging the New Jersey Department of Agriculture’s decision to allow “tail docking” as a husbandry practice.

The court said tail docking is “a significant stressor” and that the department’s decision was based on “unscientific factual data”.

The court also found that the department’s decision was not supported by scientific evidence and that the department’s decision was not “reasonably supported by the record”.

The court ordered the department to review its decision and fine-tune its standards.

New Jersey court upholds welfare standards

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Cattle broker buying Westland plant

By ROD SMITH

AN Arizona cattle feeder and livestock broker is preparing to acquire the closed Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. plant in Chino, Cal., and reopen it as American Beef Packers, a new company.

He did not say how much he plans to pay for the facility, but he did say none of the Westland/Hallmark owners will have an interest in the new company.

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