

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

### Section 21, Pages 601 - 630

This collection contains correspondence regarding indemnities for cattle killed by tuberculosis, concerns over the findings of veterinary inspection, discussion of an outbreak of rabies among Kansas dogs that affected cattle, complaints of veterinary treatments killing animals, and general discussion about livestock diseases. The correspondence is mostly between the Livestock Sanitary Commissioner and various livestock owners throughout Kansas.

Creator: Kansas. Livestock Sanitary Commission

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## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

Topeka, Kans.  
December 5, 1926.

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
Live Stock Commissioner,  
Topeka, Kans.

Dear Sir:

While I was making an investigation of the farm of F. J. Denewiler of Winchester December 3d, I was called to the telephone and advised by Miss Atchison that Warden Mackey of the State Penitentiary had talked with Lacy Simpson and advised him that Dr. Dill was testing the cattle and had found 19 reactors and that Mr. Simpson had asked Mr. Burdick that I be sent to make an investigation.

I tried to call Dr. Dill at Winchester and his wife advised that the doctor had left for Lansing only a short time before I called. I drove on over to Lansing and called on Mr. Mackey and found that Dr. Dill had not arrived so waited in the office for him.

Dr. Dill advised that he had called at the end of 24 hours and found some reactors, and also at a later reading found enough more to make 19 reactors. I advised Dr. Dill in the presence of Mr. Mackey that we were not condemning cattle in Kansas on 24 hour or anything but 72 hour readings. He said he had condemned lots of them on 24 hour readings and that they all showed lesions. I asked that the 19 head of so-called reactors be driven into the barn where they could be examined. After they were examined by each of us, we went out to where Mr. Mackey was. He asked me what I thought of it and I told him that there was not a reactor in the bunch. Dr. Dill then said to me, "I notice when you were inspecting the cattle that you were awful afraid of getting kicked and did you not inject some of them last year without tying them?". I told him that I did and that a lot more veterinarians do who know a lot more about testing cattle than you do. The remainder of the herd was examined and I advised Mr. Mackey that if the 19 were reactors that 65% of the rest were too for they had the same sized marks caused by too large amount of tuberculin being injected. The day I was there was 72 hours and no reactors were present as to my judgment.

The warden and the farmer did not seem to want to take my word and seemed to think there was still a doubt but what there were 19 reactors in the herd. A retest was agreed upon to be started at once by Dr. Dill. As I did not have tuberculin for the





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Page 2 -- Dr. R. B. G.

Subcutaneous or Ophthalmic tests. Dr. Dill ordered some from Kansas City. Dr. Dill started the temperatures at 3:00 P.M. December 3d and injected the tuberculin that night and was left some tuberculin to sensitize the eyes with but used the diagnostic discs which he purchased as the sensitizing agent, therefore, no diagnostic agent was available for use to complete the test. I was not feeling very good so I returned to Topeka the night of Dec. 3d. Dec. 4th at 5:00 A. M. Dr. Dill took the first post injection temperature. I was not present but was there at 7:00, 9:00 - 11:00 - 1:00. In fact I took temperatures myself and as the chart will indicate none of the animals gave a reaction.

I called on Warden Mackey to advise him that no reactors were found. The farm manager was with me at the Warden's office. Both seemed well pleased, but they both asked that Dr. Dill and I make a retest in 60 days to eliminate any chance for a mistake. It is my opinion that Dr. Dill advised this for there never was a chance for any doubt as to whether or not there were reactors there at the end of the time for a test to be properly made.

I advised the Warden to take the retest proposition up with the office. He asked me to make a report to him. I advised that I made my reports to you but that I would make a note on the bottom asking that a copy be mailed to him.

Very truly,

Vet. Inspector.

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 10, 1926

Floyd W. Hobbs,  
County Attorney,  
Holton, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Referring to yours of the 8th and also to our  
telephone conversation yesterday.

Animals having died with a contagious or infectious disease cannot be moved from the premises on which they died only in accordance with the rules and regulations or permission granted by the Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner of the State, otherwise the law requires that the carcasses be burned or buried not less than three feet under ground. As stated to you over the phone, it is the policy of this department to permit the movement of carcasses from farms to rendering establishments. In order to protect against the spread of any contagious disease, we require a water tight tank on either a truck or wagon in conveying dead animals from farms to the rendering plant; also require a lid to the tank, or that it be thoroughly covered with a canvas. During the transportation of dead animals, we also instruct the party in charge of the hauling of these carcasses to provide a disinfectant, such as creosote or a solution of carbolic acid and thoroughly disinfect the soles of their shoes and wheels of the truck or wagon before leaving the infected premises. By complying carefully with the requirements of this kind, there is no danger, in fact we have granted the movement of carcasses of domestic animals many times during the past years and so far no bad results have occurred.

If there is any further information or assistance we can be to you or to your people, we will be glad to have you command us.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

FLOYD W. HOBBS  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
PRACTICE IN ALL COURTS  
HOLTON, KANSAS

Dec. 8, 1926.

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
State Livestock Sanitary Com.  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Complaint is made to this office that a  
Topeka rendering company is transporting dead  
hogs through this county that have died of an  
infectuous or contagious disease.

If this is a violation, I am wondering if  
you will ask them to discontinue this practice  
and advise me whether or not it is a violation.

Yours truly,

*Floyd W. Hobbs*  
*C. Atty*



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 10, 1926

B. J. Stockler,  
Inspector in Charge,  
Live Stock Exchange Bldg.,  
St. Joseph, Mo.

Dear Sir:

For many years at times farmers in Kansas, buying stock cattle and especially young cattle at the Kansas City market and for that matter at other public markets, have sustained from slight to very heavy death losses which this department has investigated and in almost every case found the trouble to be hemorrhagic septicaemia, stock yard fever, etc. I was in hopes that when they commenced to use the hemorrhagic and mixed infection bacterine that better conditions would prevail but I see no change for the better. There have been a number of cases recently reported to this office and in every instance the cattle had been treated with hemorrhagic bacterine before leaving the yards or soon after reaching their destination. In one shipment of record there has been a 40% death loss and of course other losses follow a diseased bunch of live stock even though they do not all die. It seems to me, in order to protect the country buyer, some sanitary requirements or order will have to be put into effect applying to the movement of state yard cattle.

I am submitting this matter to you for your consideration and would be glad to have you offer any suggestions you might have as to what should be done. Of course whatever action this department takes will only apply to the movement of cattle off the public stock yards to Kansas points. But no doubt the other states are having similar difficulty and more than likely the bureau will be asked to take part in establishing some regulations applying to the interstate movement as well.

I am writing inspector in charge at Wichita and Kansas City as bad results have been reported in shipments from both of these places as well as St. Joseph.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this matter and an early reply, I am

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 10, 1926.

Dr. J. A. Fleming,  
Inspector in Charge,  
Room 800 Live Stock Exchange,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

For many years at times farmers in Kansas, buying stock cattle and especially young cattle, at the Kansas City market and for that matter at other public markets, have sustained from slight to very heavy death losses which this department has investigated and in almost every case found the trouble to be hemorrhagic septicaemia, stock yard fever, etc. I was in hopes that when they commenced to use the hemorrhagic and mixed infection bacterine that better conditions would prevail but I see no change for the better. There have been a number of cases recently reported to this office and in every instance the cattle had been treated with hemorrhagic bacterine before leaving the yards or soon after reaching their destination. In one shipment of record there has been a 40% death loss and of course other losses follow a diseased bunch of live stock even though they do not all die. It seems to me, in order to protect the country buyer, some sanitary requirements or order will have to be put into effect applying to the movement of stock yard cattle.

I am submitting this matter to you for your consideration and would be glad to have you offer any suggestions you might have as to what should be done. Of course, whatever action this department takes will only apply to the movement of cattle off the public stock yards to Kansas points. But no doubt the other states are having similar difficulty and more than likely the bureau will be asked to take part in establishing some regulations applying to the interstate movements as well.

I am writing inspector in charge at Wichita and St. Joseph as bad results have been reported in shipments from both of these places as well as from Kansas City.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this matter and an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 10, 1926

Dr. F. D. Ketchum,  
Inspector in Charge,  
Live Stock Exchange Bldg.,  
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

A great many complaints come to this office from farmers purchasing stock cattle at the Wichita market and also from other public markets on account of death losses. In almost every case where investigation is made the veterinary inspectors pronounce the trouble as stock yard fever, hemorrhagic septicaemia, or mixed infection, etc. In some cases these losses are heavy. For instance, a man in Harvey county purchased 20 head of stock cattle at Wichita a few weeks ago and the records show that they were given hemorrhagic septicaemia vaccination. So far and up to the time of the last report, he had lost eight head of the twenty. Of course this is an extreme case but nearly every shipment of stock cattle off the public yards to Kansas points, especially young cattle which have been reported to this office, have had death losses. I have been in hopes that the hemorrhagic bacterine treatment would prevent these losses, but I am not so certain that there has been any change for the better since the hemorrhagic bacterine treatment has been used.

I will be glad to have any suggestions you might have in mind as to what sanitary methods could be applied to correct this situation. Of course whatever action this department takes will apply only to the movement of cattle off public stock yards to points in Kansas. I am of the opinion that the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry will be asked to take some action as relating to interstate shipments.

Thanking you in advance for an early reply, I am

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ

cc-Dr. H. F. Dotson,  
Wichita, Kansas.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
LOCAL OFFICE

Wichita, Kansas. Dec. 13, 1926.

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
Commissioner,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of Dec. 10, 1926, concerning losses through hemorrhagic septicaemia of cattle which are purchased in public stock yards. This is a condition which has greatly interested me for several years. During a part of the years of 1923 and 1924, the Bureau inspectors at Wichita vaccinated quite a large number of stocker cattle with hemorrhagic septicaemia bacterins which apparently reduced the losses to quite an extent. On our follow-up inquiry as to the losses following these shipment through hemorrhagic septicaemia, it was found to be less than one per-cent.

In many instances stock cattle handled through public stock yards, owing to the excessive fill which is desired, are not handled in a way to produce the highest degree of health and I believe that if such cattle were watered and fed regularly and normally, that they would resist the infection much better.

Referring again to the vaccination of stock cattle for hemorrhagic septicaemia, I might add that a number of years ago while I was in St. Paul, Minn. a number of cattle dealers there insisted on having cattle on which they took mortgages, vaccinated with hemorrhagic septicaemia bacterins before they were shipped and claimed that the results were satisfactory.

Anything which I can do or suggest in the line of controlling losses from this disease, I am more than willing to do.

Very respectfully,

FDK/PGF

*J. D. Ketchum*  
Inspector in Charge.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 14, 1926

Mr. D. C. Collier,  
928 Main St.,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of the 8th inst.

I am very glad to report that the prevalence of hog cholera on Kansas farms did not increase to any extent during the summer and fall months. There have been of course a few more cases reported during the last six months than perhaps any six month period during the last four years, but the percentage is very small.

A questionnaire was sent out, prepared by the inspector in charge, U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with this department in animal disease control, on November 1st and sent to a veterinary practitioner in every county of the State. The first and second questions of the questionnaire are as follows:

1. How many outbreaks of hog cholera have come to your attention since July 1, 1926?
2. Number of hogs in the herds involved.

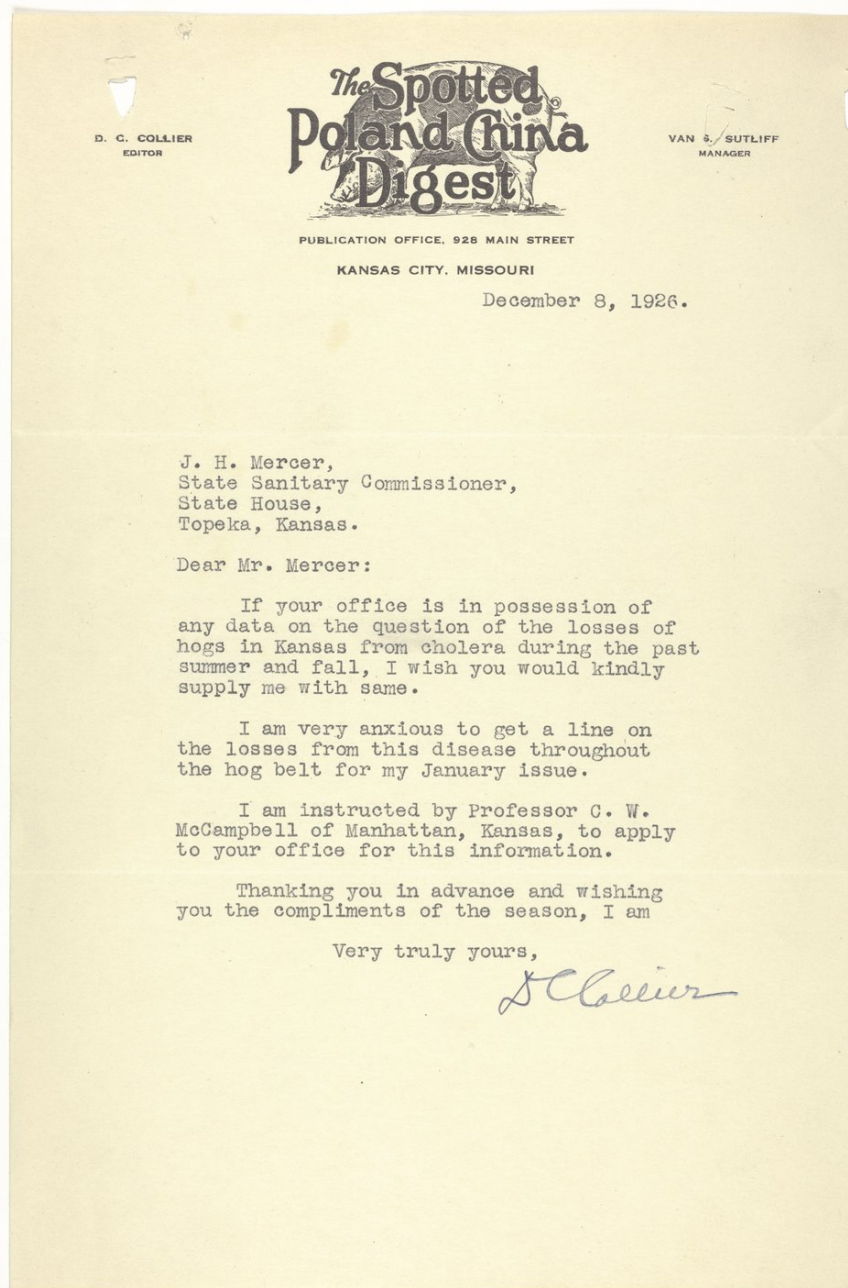
There were 373 inquiries sent out and 184 answers received. The answers show that cholera had been found in 580 herds and involving a hog population of 20,762. The reports also show that in most cases where serum vaccination was administered before the disease had become wide-spread in the herd, that very slight losses prevailed. With this data and other information we have in connection with the disease among hogs in this State, it can be safely said that the out break of hog cholera in the past six months would not exceed 2% above the very low normal hog cholera outbreak in the State during the past 10 years. We consider that this low percentage of hog cholera out break and losses in Kansas are due, first to the county hog cholera control work that was inaugurated in this State in 1925 and carried on for a period of two years in cooperation with representatives of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the use of the anti-hog cholera serum.

Very truly yours,

JHM:CHZ

Commissioner.

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929



J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

December 15, 1926.

County Treasurer,  
Mitchell County,  
Beloit, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

We are inclosing herewith account sales with check attached in the amount  
of \$26.73, sent to this office by the

Jefferson-Lowry-Davis Commission Co.

covering net proceeds from the sale of one cow -- tag No. 55

originally belonging to: Purdy Helm, Glen Elder, Kansas.

These animals were recently condemned on account of being infected with  
the contagious disease tuberculosis, and disposal has been made in accordance  
with the law governing matters of this kind.

Kindly acknowledge with your official receipt for our files.

Yours very truly,

11-1095

Commissioner.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

*Batman*

December 20, 1926

Dr. G. R. Kennedy,  
Chase, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 8th with respect to the testing of the Nick Shorts cattle at Great Bend and also note your explanation with respect to the tagging of said animals.

I am rather surprised to note your admission that you might have placed the T. B. condemned tag in one of the Shorts' cow's ear. Such a mistake should not be made under any circumstances whatever and a mistake of this kind is not excusable. You of course realize what affect an act of this kind has and this case is an exemplification of same. You can readily understand what you would do if you had purchased a milk cow from someone and afterward would discover a T. B. condemned tag in her ear. It might require a lot of proof to convince you that the animal had not at one time been classed as a reactor, therefore hereafter make no mistakes of this kind.

So far as to suspicion of your competitor at Elmwood is concerned, it is not material in this case, unless you could by evidence connect him up in some way as having something to do with the matter. I am of the opinion of course that the Shorts cow was free from any T. B. reaction when you made the test as I am sure you would have no object in classing her otherwise. The mistake was in the placing a condemned T. B. tag in the cow's ear.

I am sending Mr. Batman, the present owner of the cow, a copy of your letter.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ

CC-H. E. Batman,  
Great Bend, Kansas.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

PHONE 32  
DAY OR NIGHT

DR. G. R. KENNEDY  
VETERINARY PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

Chase, Kansas Dec 18 1926

Mr. J. H. Mercer  
Manhattan, Kans

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> at hand and in reply vice say. I have tested cows for milk <sup>30</sup>Shanty of Ellinwood farm for 2 years once each spring & I think he had 2 cows each time I tested for him. I tested from 20 to 30 town cows in Ellinwood each year & comply with their milk ordinance. he (Mr. Shanty) never had a reactor any time I tested for him but I might of through mistake put a Condemed tag in one cows ear but dont know if it is lit. I always carried 2 sticks of tags one said I.B. tested & the other I.B. Condemed & #3 on opposite side of both tags, sometimes tags would slip off of the sticks & fall loose in the car, & on putting over

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

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then back on, may of gotten one on the  
wrong stick & never noticed<sup>st</sup> but all say this  
mitch that he never had a T.B. cow that I  
tested or she would of been turned in:  
I always clip or brand a T on left hip or jaw &  
some times both: of course if clipped it would not  
show up now  
I know of this thing to happen just that way  
with me a year ago & the fellow called my  
attention to it & I found I had put a Condemed  
tag in by mistake so I told him to remove  
it & sent a (T.B. tested) tag over for him to  
put in place, this may of been my tag & I may  
of put it in, but was nothing but a mistake of  
I did: Cause he had no T.B. cows.  
I have a Competition at Edinwood who  
dislikes me for testing cows in his town &  
tried to get me in trouble one time: if you  
recall I wrote your office about it. about 2  
yrs ago & I knowedent put it past him to put  
same # tag with T.B. Condemed on in, in place of  
the one that was there: how ever I am not  
saying he did it. Cause out of several thousand  
cows tested & thousands of tags used I might of  
done so my self by getting a tag on the wrong  
stick but I do no she was not Tubercular as he  
had no T.B. <sup>cows</sup> Every time I tested for him  
hoping this will straighten out matters  
Satisfactory, I mean  
Resps M. Kennedy



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 20, 1926

Mr. H. E. Batman,  
Great Bend, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Following up our communication of the 17th instant, I am enclosing a copy of a letter just received from Dr. G. R. Kennedy of Chase; also a copy of my reply, that explain themselves.

According to the records and the statement of Dr. Kennedy, Mr. Shorts did not mislead you in any way when he sold you the cow as a clean healthy animal. If you have any doubt that the animal is not healthy and she is a milk cow, it is suggested that you have her tested for tuberculosis especially since it has now been close to two years since she was last tested.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ

Enc.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 20, 1926

Dr. Chas. Webster,  
Great Bend, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 12th instant with respect to a T. B. condemned tag found in the ear of a cow belonging to one H. E. Batman of Great Bend.

We have looked up the records in this matter and find that the records in this office show that Dr. G. R. Kennedy of Chase, Kansas tested two head of cows for Sick Shorts on April 9-12, 1926, tag numbers 1 and 662. Both animals were classed as healthy under the test.

I have taken the matter up with Dr. Kennedy and am enclosing you a copy of his reply. Under the circumstances it would appear that the test was regular and that the condemned tag that Dr. Kennedy placed in the ear of the cow at the time was a mistake.

I am writing Mr. Batman advising him that there is nothing to be done and if he wishes the cow to be retested, he can go ahead and do so.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 17, 1926.

Mr. H. E. Batman,  
Great Bend, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

We are advised by Dr. Chas. Webster, a Bureau of Animal Industry veterinarian, that you have recently traded for a cow which bears Condemned Tag No. 1 in her left ear.

The records show that this animal was tested by Dr. G. R. Kennedy of Chase, Kansas, under date of April 12, 1925, and that at that time she was the property of Mr. Nic Schartz of Ellinwood, Kansas. She passed a clean test.

We are taking the matter up with Dr. Kennedy and as soon as we hear from him we will write you further as to how your cow should be handled.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM:A

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 17, 1926.

Dr. G. R. Kennedy,  
Chase, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

We have just been advised that Mr. H. B. Batman of Great Bend, Kansas, has traded for a cow which bears condemned tag No. 1 in the left ear. On tracing the animal back it has been found that she formerly belonged to Nic Schartz (or Nic Shorts) of Ellinwood, Kansas.

We have looked up the records in this office and find that under date of April 12, 1925, you tested two animals belonging to Nic "Shorts" and both of them were classed as healthy. One of the animals was tagged No. 1 and the other No. 662.

In order that we may clear this matter up we will appreciate it if you will advise whether or not you placed "Condemned Tag No. 1" in the ear of the animal in question.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM.A





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
LOCAL OFFICE

25 Federal Bldg.,  
Topeka, Kansas.  
December 13, 1926.

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
State House,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

We are enclosing herewith letter we have just received  
from Dr. Chas. Webster of this force, and our reply thereto.

This for your information.

Respectfully,

INSPECTOR IN CHARGE.

M.

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

25 Federal Bldg.,  
Topeka, Kansas.  
December 13, 1926.

Dr. Chas. Webster,  
Box 218,  
Great Bend, Kansas.

Dear Doctor:

Your letter of December 12th received.

This is a matter for the State Department to handle, and we have turned your letter over to them. We have no record of the cow in this office.

Do nothing further in the matter, unless further advised.

Respectfully,

M.

INSPECTOR IN CHARGE.





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

LOCAL OFFICE

Great Bend, Kansas.

Dec., 12, 1926.

Dr. N. L. Townsend, Inspector in Charge,

Topeka, Kansas.

XDear Sir:-

Friday evening after my return to Great Bend Mr. H. E. Batman of Great Bend approached me about a cow he had received in a trade.

This cow had a T B Condemned tag in the left ear and Mr. Batman said it had no number on it. When he traded for the cow he thought it was a registry tag of some kind and paid no attention to it, later however he noticed the cow coughing, particularly after a short run, and his suspicions becoming aroused he examined the tag with the above results.

Saturday I had no engagements so accompanied Mr. Batman and Mr. Will Schultz to see the cow. I found her as told I would, except that the tag was numbered 1. In tracing the cow back we found she had been through several hands--Lloyd Spruill, H. E. Sipes, a Mr. Snyder of Ellinwood, Kans., and originated at Nic. Schartz place in the city of Ellinwood. When questioned why he would sell a condemned cow Mr. Schartz said he had not sold a condemned cow and produced an Official Health Certificate showing that this cow (No. 1) had been tested by Dr. G. R. Kennedy, of Chase, Kans., April 7 and 12, 1925, and had passed a clean test. Mr. Schartz had another cow on the place tested at the same time, her No. (662) also appeared on the above chart but the tag was of an entirely different style. The condemned tag being one of the kind with two holes in it for the lock and the other one of the large aluminum tags with nothing on it but the number. I succeeded in finding the preceding number (661) but could not locate the cattle which had been tested after the Schartz cattle therefore did not find 663.

Although this cow has not been proven a reactor, ~~#####~~ she appears to be one to the layman and does exhibit the coughing symptom, and inasmuch as Mr. Snyder fed her milk to eight little children for about four months and others used it for shorter periods of time, and having a condemned tag in her ear, considerable feeling has been stirred up.

I have not seen Dr. Kennedy. Why he should place a condemned tag in her ear then declare her free from TB I do not know. The chart does not bear any evidence of having been changed.

I have been requested to write you fully in this matter and seek you advice. Therefore will you kindly instruct me what steps you desire, if any, I should take in the matter.

Very respectfully,

*Chas. Webster*  
Asst. Vet.



## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
LOCAL OFFICE

- 18 -

South St. Joseph, Missouri.

December 21, 1926.



Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
State Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter dated December 10, 1926, referring to losses on account of septicemia hemorrhagica, stock yard fever, etc., among stock cattle shipped from stock yards to the country and asking that I suggest some sanitary requirements to help avoid such losses.

Experiments conducted by the Bureau with hemorrhagic septicemia bacterins and aggressin indicate that little or no immunity is conferred on animals that are suffering from this disease in the incubative stage. It might be advantageous, therefore, if stock cattle could be immunized on the day of arrival at the yards instead of the day on which they are shipped to the country. This would not be a practicable undertaking, however, unless the cooperation of the yard traders could be enlisted and an agreement entered into that the animals which they purchase, especially those not more than two years old, be immunized as soon as delivery is made to them.

As hemorrhagic septicemia usually manifests itself in cattle whose vitality has been weakened any measure that will result in better care being taken of shipments from the time they leave the farms and ranches until they reach their final destinations will serve to reduce losses from this disease. Among the causes that lower the vitality may be mentioned failure to receive sufficient feed, water and rest at required intervals while enroute to market, heavy fills at the yards in order to increase returns, rough handling at all stages of the journey and other hardships, especially exposure to the inclement weather of the fall and winter months.

Cars which deliver animals, affected with this disease, at the South St. Joseph Stock Yards are cleaned and disinfected under Bureau supervision and animals showing visible evidence of the disease are not permitted shipment from the yards. In addition to Bureau requirements that pens, chutes and alleys that have contained diseased cattle be cleaned and disinfected and the usual cleaning of the yards, at the Bureau's suggestion that portion of the yards used for stocker and feeder cattle is cleaned and disinfected before the heavy fall movement.

Competent men carefully administer septicemia hemorrhagica aggressin or bacterin to the cattle shipped from here for stockers and feeders.





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
LOCAL OFFICE

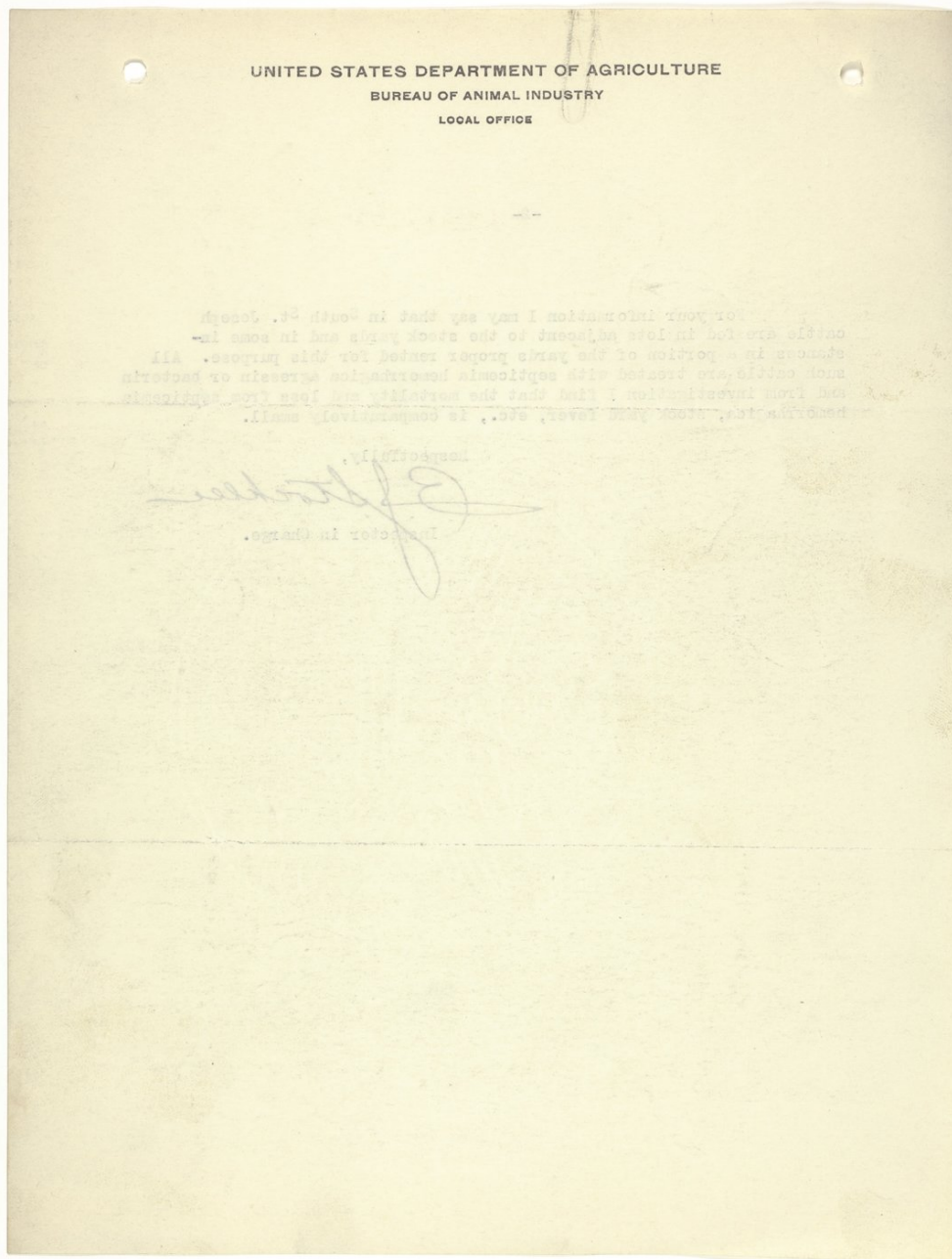
-2-

For your information I may say that in South St. Joseph cattle are fed in lots adjacent to the stock yards and in some instances in a portion of the yards proper rented for this purpose. All such cattle are treated with septicemia hemorrhagica agressin or bacterin and from investigation I find that the mortality and loss from septicemia hemorrhagica, stock yard fever, etc., is comparatively small.

Respectfully,

*B. J. Stocklee*  
Inspector in Charge.

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929





## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 23, 1926.

Dr. B.C. Harrison,  
315 E. Waterman,  
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Murphy & Sons of Corbin, Kansas, advise that it will be all right for you to arrange to test their herd and others in their vicinity at any time convenient to you. They ask however, that they be advised two or three days in advance just when you will be at Corbin.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

A

## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

December 20, 1926

Dr. B. C. Harrison,  
315 E. Waterman,  
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Doctor:

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter just written to Thos. Murphy and Sons of Corbin that explains itself. I am also enclosing a few blank accredited herd applications so that if you test any other herds in and around Corbin and they want to come under the accredited herd plan, you can have them sign up the application.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ

Enc.





J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

## State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

MS J. H. Mercer  
Topeka, Kans.

Wichita Kans  
Dec. 19-1926

Dear MS Mercer,

Yours of the 17th at hand and will say that I am to handle the two bunches of sheep at Arkansas City this coming week and will dip if the weather permits Wednesday and Thursday. The band belonging to Keefe and Owens at Ark. City are badly infected with scabies and the other band was 14 miles east from Ark. City and was sold from the Keefe and Owens band in September and I did not go out to see them but will when I am down there to dip. There is some controversy between Keefe & Owens, and the party who bought the sheep in September, as to whether sheep were infected when sale was made, and from conditions present in this particular band which I inspected, would indicate that infection had been present for some little period of time. They are about the worst ones I have saw.



J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

## State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
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TOPEKA

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They also have a band of goats that have been with infected sheep during the summer and I am of the opinion they should be dipped also as I think there is some chance of carrying the mite on them and later show up scabbers again in the sheep if allowed to run together.

I think I could give Mr Murphy & Sons of Corbin, Kans. a dating of Dec 28<sup>th</sup> to begin a T. B. test in their locality if that would be satisfactory to all concerned, as I will in all probability be busy the following week with said sheep again at Ark City. Awaiting your early reply I beg to remain

Yours Truly-

B. C. Harrison  
315 E Waterman  
Wichita, Kans.



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J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

Wichita Kans  
Dec 23-1926

Mr J. H. Mercer.  
Topeka, Kans.

Dear Mr Mercer,

Find enclosed inspection reports of the Kreef and Owens sheep, dipped yesterday and also inspection made and mite demonstrated on the band belonging to R. D. Warren of Silverdale Kansas, that were sold to him in September from the Kreef and Owen band -

There seems to be some controversy between these parties and they think they can settle on something definite in a few days and we will know then who will dip the sheep. They are very badly infested and show signs of having carried the infection for quite a period of time, but I was not asked in regard to how long they might have been infested, so we made no statement of any kind as to time, or anything of that nature, and both Mr Owen and Mr Warren saw the mites under the glass and it is up to them individually to settle as to the care of sheep and treatment of same. Mr Owen said they felt sure something would be done by the time we dip their band the second time, which I think will be about Jan 3rd 27. if weather will permit treating at that time.