

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

Section 23, Pages 661 - 690

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

Date: June 1926-September 1929

Callnumber: Livestock Sanitary Commissioner, Correspondence, 1926-1929

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 310296

Item Identifier: 310296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/310296

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



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

COPY

KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
MANHATTAN, KANSAS
DIVISION OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

December 21, 1926.

Mr. A. R. Beckett,
Olathe, Kansas. R. 6. Box 31.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of December 17 in which you ask for information about the feeding of some silage of questionable quality, and in which you state that Doctor Stewart has suggested to you that a sample of it be sent to this institution for investigation.

In regard to the feeding of this material, the best that I can do is to remind you of the old rule that the food of animals should be wholesome, and the more it departs from wholesomeness the greater the danger in feeding it. The results of feeding unwholesome material may vary from a very simple digestive disturbance, all the way through a series of conditions, and at times it may even cause death. We usually advise that if material of this kind must be fed, it be done in combination with relatively large amounts of food of known wholesome quality. In other words, that the animal shall receive only limited amounts daily of the questionable food. It is furthermore suggested that it is not a bad plan to start the feeding of this material to one or two animals of comparatively low value, and if it does not harm them it is not likely to harm the others.

It is not at all practical to test this material out in an experimental manner. We could of course ask you to ship us some of it, and we could then buy some experimental cows or other animals and feed it to them in order to see what the results would be. Even if this produced no results, it would not indicate that the food was harmless, but simply that we had not fed enough of it. Such an experiment can as readily be carried out by you on your farm.

Neither is it practical to test out this material in the laboratory, because that would mean to test it out for all the different germs known to be harmful, for all the different molds known to be harmful, and in a measure for all chemical poisons known to be harmful. To carry out a program such as I have outlined in this paragraph would take one man several years, and even then the results might not be conclusive, and of course any information arrived at by such a method would be valueless to you because it would be too much delayed.

The best advice I can give, therefore, is that you feed this material to one or two animals, that you give them only small quantities daily, and if this does not do harm, it will then be reasonably safe to give it to the remainder of the herd.

Please write me again if I can give you more information.

Very truly yours,

RRD:PEP

R. R. Dykstra,
Dean of Division.



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

December 21, 1926

Dr. R. R. Dykstra,
Veterinary Department,
K. S. A. C.,
Manhattan, Kansas.

Dear Doctor:

Sometime ago Mr. Ira Ash, Route 3, Holton, Kansas, phoned this department advising that he was losing a large number of hogs and asked for help. We sent Dr. Christenson to make the investigation. He reported the hogs to be infected with cholera. His report also indicated that Dr. Foulk of Holton, who had been treating the hogs, was not fully convinced that it was cholera.

Since there seemed to be a difference of opinion between Dr. Foulk and Dr. Christenson and also it appears that Mr. Ash was not altogether satisfied with the diagnosis made by either of the doctors, I thought it necessary for further investigation. In order that you might know just how Mr. Ash feels, I am enclosing you a copy of a letter received from him under date of December 9th and also a copy of my reply.

I am calling this matter to your attention for the reason that it does not appear that Dr. Frank made a very searching investigation. He does not state that he posted any of the sick hogs or that he took any specimens for laboratory analysis. This is a bad situation and this man has undergone a very heavy loss and if there is any way that can be devised to prevent heavy losses, we are very anxious to find them out--hence the reason for the laboratory report from the college. If Dr. Frank made any further investigation, other than his report shows, I would be pleased to have same.

Thanking you in advance for this information and an early reply, I am

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ

Enc.

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

KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AND MEDICINE

December 18, 1926

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

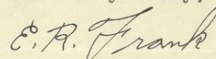
Dear Mr. Mercer:

Acting upon instructions from your office December 16, I investigated the diseased condition among the hogs on the farm of Mr. Ira Ash, ten miles north-west of Holton. I found the following conditions to be present:

Out of a herd of 222 head of shoats that were vaccinated about three weeks ago, ten head were alive. He had also lost nine head from a herd of 40 brood sows. A large percentage of the pigs were apparently sick with hog cholera when vaccinated, which would account for the heavy loss following vaccination. Mr. Ash suggested having the feed tested but this would not be practical after being on contaminated premises for a month.

Enclosed you will find my expense voucher incurred on this trip.

Yours very truly,



E. R. Frank
Instructor

ERF:GEC

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

7 mi. N 3/4 west of Holton

December 14, 1926

Mr. Ira Ash,
R. #3,
Holton, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 9th and note carefully same.
You certainly have had a very heavy loss among your hogs.

From the fact that Dr. Christensen and Dr. Foulk did not fully agree as to the diagnosis, I am wondering if it would not be advisable for me to send someone from the college to your place and get some specimens of feed and also destroy one of your sick shoats and take laboratory specimens for analysis. It might be that something could be learned that would be of help to us all in the future. Of course they would have to kill one of the shoats. If this is satisfactory, please let me know and I will send some one right away.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JEM:CHZ



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

Dr.
 Harry Ash, Nettawaka
 Talked to Dr. Bush-
 12-15-26 x Said they would
 send someone if possible
 will (Dr. Bush will go)

Number negative
 Number positive
 Number suspicious and held for test
 Remarks

Signed: _____
 Authorized Veterinarian

Note—In interstate tests this form is to be made complete
 by veterinarian applying test, who MUST immediately for-
 ward the original to the State Live Stock Commissioner at
 Topeka, Kansas, deliver the duplicate to the owner and keep
 the card for his personal file.
 In interstate shipment of test record shall be sent
 to the commissioner at Topeka. Duplicate given owner to
 accompany shipment and triplicate forwarded to the sanitary
 official of the state to which stock is shipped.
 The veterinarian is cautioned to exercise neatness, prompt-
 ness and accuracy.

IMPORTANT
 In case results from the intrastate test are not positive and
 conclusive in your mind, you are to proceed at once and apply
 the treatment as a check test.



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

Handwritten: 1290292

Handwritten: 1290292

Place.....

Date.....

Owner.....

Address.....

Kind of test applied.....

Number and kind of stock tested: {horses.
.....cattle.
.....hogs.

Number negative.....

Number positive.....

Number suspicious and held for retest.....

Remarks.....

Signed:.....
Authorized Veterinarian.

NOTE.—In intrastate tests this form is to be made complete by veterinarian applying test, who **MUST** immediately forward the original to the State Live Stock Commissioner at Topeka, Kansas, deliver the duplicate to the owner, and keep the stub for his personal file.

In interstate shipment original of test record shall be sent to the commissioner at Topeka. Duplicate given owner to accompany shipment, and triplicate forwarded to the sanitary official of the state to which stock is shipped.

The veterinarian is cautioned to exercise neatness, promptness and accuracy.

IMPORTANT

In case results from the intradermal test are not positive and conclusive in your mind, you are to proceed at once and apply the thermal as a check test.

IRA C. ASH
ROUTE 3
HOLTON, KANSAS

Mr J H Mercer: Dec 9th 1926
Dear Sir:

Received your letter
and report book today:
At the start of this hog sickness I
had 222 head of these weaned
shoats weighing from 80-130^{lb} - also
44 sows that these pigs come from
+ were with them - At first no
sows were sick then day or two later
the ^{some} shoats were off feed - Called Dr
Foulke and he pronounced it new

IRA C. ASH
ROUTE 3
HOLTON, KANSAS

corn poisoning - these shoats had
been on old corn pig meal & tautage -
on full feed ever since they were born.
the whole herd had only had 50 lb -
one feed - of new corn when we
noticed this sickness - Every day
there were more sick ones, then called
your office through Farm Bureau -
when your man came had about 50
dead ones: he advised vaccinating
which we did the next day through
Dr Foulke - vaccinated every one
that could breathe - this herd of hogs
have all died except about 30 shoats



IRA C. ASH
ROUTE 3
HOLTON, KANSAS

and 30 sows alive now - the shoats
are so weak, do not think hardly any
of these 30 will live & think a few
more sows will die - Am trying to
clean every thing up & am having
Topeka Rendering Company come for
dead ones right away - have disinfectant
& see that they are loaded right -
Had 125 same kind of shoats on
another farm which we vaccinated
& have not lost any yet -

I raise from 6 to 8 hundred hogs a yr
for the last 15 years & been so careful
have never had a sign of sickness

IRA C. ASH
ROUTE 3
HOLTON, KANSAS

except some trouble - these hogs were
raised on a clean place that had ~~never~~
had hogs on it, no sickness any
place around the country & if it is
cholera it is a mystery to me where
it came from - It is too late
to help this herd any more than we
have done -

Thanking you for the trouble
you have been to & hoping it
will soon straighten up -

Resp
Ira Ash

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

December 8, 1926

Ira Ash,
R. #3,
Holton, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

On or about November 29th Dr. R. B. Christensen, veterinary of this department, was sent to make an investigation of reported trouble among your hogs. He advises that you had quite a number of sick hogs and the principal cause of the trouble was cholera; that he conversed with you and Dr. Foulk, who had treated the hogs early in the month of November; he recommended treatment, care, etc.

Therefore, I wish you would let me know how your hogs are doing, and if they are not improving, whether or not you wish any further investigation made on the part of this department.

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the last Biennial Report of this department which contains some very good suggestions as to dosage, treatment, farm sanitation, handling of hogs, etc. We call your special attention to page 57.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ



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

December 29, 1926

Mr. R. W. McCall,
County Agent,
Hutchinson, Kansas.

Dear Mr. McCall:

Answering yours of the 24th.

We are planning to start the preliminary area testing in Reno county next week. Dr. R. B. Christenson, a veterinary representative of this department, will be in Hutchinson and meet with you and Dr. Peter I. Kershner on next Monday the 3rd. They will not be able to do very much testing next week but they should be able to get all plans arranged for the active work to start on the 10th. Our records show that there are five registered accredited veterinarians in Reno county that can take part in the area testing, provided they wish to do so. In order that you may have in mind the plan under which we operate, I am herewith giving you an outline of same:

"The federal government supplies a certain number of federal inspectors, and the state furnishes state veterinarians to take part in the work, and we always give the local accredited veterinarians an opportunity to take part in the work if they wish to do so. We usually send a representative of the department to spend three or four days in the preceding week before the work starts in making arrangements with the county agent so that everything will be ready.

Your part in the cooperative work will be to arrange for drivers for the state and federal veterinarians engaged in the work, and in cooperation with the federal and state representatives, allot territory for each veterinarian. You will then notify the owners, thru the mails on franking cards furnished you, of the date the veterinary inspectors will be at their place. I am enclosing a card used for the purpose.

In providing transportation for the state and federal veterinarians the only successful way is to have the board of county commissioners make an appropriation for this purpose. In the beginning of this work we depended on the farmers to haul the veterinarians from farm to farm, but that was a failure. The last five counties have appropriated money for the purpose and the county agent has employed the drivers. The cost of drivers has ranged from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day. The average being about \$3.50 per day in the five counties mentioned. It has not been difficult for the county agent to employ someone with a small car to drive the veterinarians



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

-2-

Mr. R. W. McCall

12-29-26

at a cost of from three to five dollars a day. The understanding with the driver should be that he is to assist the veterinarian on the farm in handling the cattle. Of course, the distance to travel each day is only a few miles, entailing a light expense to the owner of the car. You should take this matter up with your county commissioners at once and get them to provide for this transportation fund.

The local veterinarian is allotted not less than one township in which to work. He is required to test all the cattle to be tested in the township in accordance with our rules and regulations. He is not required to work every day but is required to complete the work in the allotted township within a given time, usually from 30 to 60 days. This department pays him for his work at 13 cents per head for the cattle tested. All that you are required to do in connection with the local veterinarian's work is to furnish him the names of the owners in the township where he is to work. Of course, we always allot the local veterinarian the township in which he lives if he wishes same. So far where the work has been done, local veterinarians have taken part in the work."

Should your county commissioners fail to make the appropriation for the payment of drivers for state and federal veterinarians, the next best plan would be for you to go among your people and raise a fund with which to pay the drivers. I feel quite sure however, if this proposition is presented in its true light to the board of county commissioners of your county, they will appropriate you funds with which to pay the drivers.

Dr. Christenson will have contracts for the local veterinarians and any of them that wish to take part in the work will be given all the necessary supplies, such as charts, condemned ear tags, branding irons, etc. After next week we will know just about how many state and federal men we will need to send to the county in connection with the local men.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ

Enc.



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

KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL
COLLEGE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND KANSAS COUNTY
FARM BUREAU CO-OPERATING

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF KANSAS

EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT WORK
HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT'S WORK
ROOM 11 NELSON BLDG.
OFFICE PHONE 772

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

December 24, 1926.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Since the Area Testing work is to start here soon I am wondering if I could not help materially by conferring with local veterinarians before time for the work to start and if necessary help them get lists of cattle owners in the various townships. Our present list is not as late as it is possible to secure and since our office force is small perhaps we should make this list about in the order that the testing is to be done.

If you have names of local veterinarians who have accepted territory I should be glad to have them and make any arrangements I can in helping them to plan for the work.

Very truly yours,

R. W. McCall

R. W. McCall, County Agent.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
LOCAL OFFICE

Hutchinson, Ks., Dec. 26, '26.
Dr. M. C. Townsend,
Topeka, Kans.
Dear Sir:

Mr. R. H. McCull, County
agent Reno Co. Farm Bureau, 11
Wilson Bldg. Hutchinson, Ks., states
that he has made no arrange-
ments with the Reno County
Commissioners for money to defray
expenses of drivers in the County
area; his reason for no
definite arrangements is that
the Reno Co. Farm Bureau will
ask the County Commissioners for
an increased appropriation for the
next year but the County agent
feels they can not put both
over. Informing him that trans-
portation was the necessary item



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

II

N.L.T.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
LOCAL OFFICE

to be arranged for before the
campaign commences.

Mr. McCall has however
arranged with several
parties for free volunteer
transportation.

Respectfully
P. J. Kernahan
enc. att-

676

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

2.

should have the authority
to fix it & they then stand
some part if any. they seem
to think that did not have
any thing to do about the
affair. But when i told
them that the sheriff & mr.
West went out there & nailed
up cards on the gates & post
saying infected stock. stay
out by order of sanitary comm
they did not ho. how then.
They also agreed to pay for
help to watch at nights
so they would not get out
the last 3 or 4 days their
opinion & mine also those
others there at the time

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

3,
when i decided to ship the
cattle was if the 2 cattle
that was killed & posted at
the post was not found to
have this disease or any other
contagious epidemic that
they was released as far
ast your office & the sanitary
department concerned. i was
talking to mr murir to day
he was the gentleman that
drove of elar west in the
ford coupe if you remember
& he was saying that was his
idea. i have also talked to
mr Harry perill our
Representative he says if it
should be the only way

4.
to help me out on this he
says he surly will do what he
can & believe that it would
not be out of question but
that a bill could be gotten
through the Legislature for
the sanitary & live stock into
mr perill was a member
of the live stock committee
& with your support feels
confident that he can do
something. — now mr Mercer
in regards to the time &
labor in disposing of the
dead ones. I don't know what
to say. We had kind a give
up the idea of this Disease of
Rabies, but when mr West
brought a Dr Tubin out that
was supposed to be authority
on it again called it the
real Rabies. it seemed that

5.

The whole community was
scared of you driving by.
The parties & seemed to be
be of the opinion that we
working with them might be
carrying the thing around.
but we want to be fair
and just. I don't you think
that it would be best to
put it all together. Mr. Perill
says that I should make a
full state ment of my entire
loss. and give him when he
goes, & he will call at your
office & have a talk with you
& if possible your O.K. to it.
that's to its facts & will also
may want you to appear

before this committee. —
Mr Muir suggested that
a petition should be signed
by the stock owners that
was concerned & sent to
Mr Percill. what is your
idea on that. —
hoping to hear from you
soon again.
Very truly yours
Oscar Shogren



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

Jan 1927

I don't think there is any much
chance for any amount.
I was thinking if there was a chance
on the sanitation part in burying
as we sure done a lot of hard work. &
I had to live for most of it.
I had 2 bellows that buried 3 cattle. & when
I come to pay em they charged 20⁰⁰ for it
was so dry & was some job. had to use pick



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

January 15, 1927

Mr. G. E. Bengtson, Chairman,
Board of County Commissioners,
Saline County,
Salina, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 10th came to hand in due time and same carefully noted. I am very much surprised at the contents of your letter.

Since you have advised me that I fully understood that you could not indemnify Mr. Shogren and that I was trying to "pass the buck" to your board, it seems to me that if you would have given a little more attention to your official duties and given me this advice, in answer to my letter of September 29th, without a delay of three months before doing so, it would have looked very much better on your part. However, I am more concerned in devising a plan that would be fair to your county and to Mr. Shogren than I am in paying any attention to the charges as set out in your letter.

I am not "fully aware" that the statute prevents your board from indemnifying Mr. Shogren. The proposition that was set out to you in my letter of September 29th was a gentlemen's agreement in your office and I think is quite well understood by your county attorney and other persons that were present during the conference. I stated at that conference that if it did not develop that the Shogren herd of cattle were infected with rabies, that the county could indemnify Mr. Shogren by placing an appraised value upon the 46 head of cattle shipped and also upon the one animal that was ordered killed in the pasture for experimental purposes. I did not issue an order directing Mr. Shogren to ship his cattle but advised him that he could do so, but under the circumstances they would have to be sold for immediate slaughter. Furthermore, I never promised that I would help to get a bill through the legislature to indemnify Mr. Shogren. I stated plainly at the conference that it would be a difficult undertaking to get an appropriation out of the legislature of Kansas to indemnify Mr. Shogren for the losses he sustained since no charge could be made that his losses occurred on account of the act of the State or the county, and I still feel that it will be difficult, yet I will do everything I can in getting such a bill through the legislature.

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

-2-

Mr. G. E. Bengtson

1-15-27

I had a talk with Mr. Harry Perrill, the representative of the legislature from your county, a few days ago and assured him that I would help him in every way I could. Should he fail in securing an appropriation indemnifying Mr. Shogren, I will then submit the records in this case to the Attorney General for his advice and direction, and in the meantime it is hoped that the "passing buck" will be kept out of the case.

Very truly,

Commissioner

JHM:CHZ



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

W. C. BATTERSBY, COMMISSIONER
SALINA, KANSAS
WM. H. COST, COUNTY ENGINEER
SALINA, KANSAS

G. E. BENGTSON, CHAIRMAN
SHOGREN, KANSAS

H. C. CARNEY, COMMISSIONER
ROUTE NO. 2, SALINA, KANSAS
L. C. TEETER, RESIDENT ENGINEER
SALINA, KANSAS

COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SALINE COUNTY

SALINA, KANSAS, Jan. 10th. 1927

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

Dear Sir:

Your letter of January 7th. is at hand,
and contents noted.

As to the letter written by you on Sept.
29th. will say that you were fully aware of the
fact that we could not, under the present statutes,
indemnify Mr. Shogren.

You are fully aware of the fact that the
State Laboratory of Kansas had diagnosed the disease
as Rabies. When Mr. Shogren shipped these cattle, you
ordered them sold subject to Post-Mortem, which was
a great loss to Mr. Shogren on the price of the cattle.

Now it seems to our Board that you are just
trying to pass the Buck to us and yet you promised
that you would try to get a bill through the Legis-
lature for indemnity for these cattle, and we sincerely
hope that you will do this.

Yours very truly,

G. E. Bengtson
Chairman, Board C. Com.
Saline County.



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

January 7, 1927

Oscar Shogren,
Assaria, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of recent date with respect to the loss of your herd of cattle.

I do not want to discourage you in any way, but I am of the opinion that it would be a very difficult matter for you to get a bill through the legislature, making an appropriation, indemnifying you for the losses in your herd of cattle.

Briefly, the first trouble that arose in your herd of cattle was diagnosed by Dr. Peterson and by a laboratory investigation, made by the State Agricultural College, as rabies. Your cattle continued to die. The State did all it could to control the situation but did not apply any treatment or prohibit you from disposing of all well cattle by reason of any quarantine, so you would have no claim for damages by reason of the act of the state or county officers. Therefore, in the absence of any evidence of this kind, I am of the opinion that it would be a difficult matter to convince the legislature that the state should pay you for the losses you sustained. I do not want you to feel that I will not give your representative all the assistance I can in getting a bill of this kind through, but I am only calling your attention to the fact that I do not believe that it can be done.

While we did not make any record of the conference we held in the commissioners' office in Salina on July 19, 1926, yet I feel that everyone that took part in that conference recalls the fact that it was considered that the best thing for you to do was to ship your cattle to market and sell them for immediate slaughter, and you thought so yourself, as it appeared that if you did not do something of this kind, you would continue to lose cattle. If it would develop that the cattle were not infected with rabies that an appraisement would be made on the basis of what we considered the cattle worth on the day we made the investigation in your pasture. I think it could be easily determined as to the value of your cattle at that time, had there not been anything wrong with them. I am still of the opinion that

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

-2-

Oscar Shogren

1-7-27

county commissioners could pay an indemnity to you on the basis of the value on your cattle at the time of shipment and pay you half of that amount less the net proceeds of the cattle that went back to you. I do not believe that you will be able to get any indemnity in any other way.

I am also of the opinion, since we failed to find your cattle infected with any contagious disease, under a searching investigation, and that we did not order them destroyed, it would be more or less a voluntary act on the part of the county commissioners to pay you indemnity. However, I am quite sure that they recall the agreement that was made in their office, that if your herd was not found to be infected with rabies, we would take the matter up and agree upon an indemnity, and I stand ready to do so at any time.

I am writing the county commissioners again today, calling their attention to the matter, and enclosing you a copy of my letter to them.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ

Enc.

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

January 7, 1927

Board of County Commissioners,
Saline County,
Salina, Kansas.

Gentlemen:

I wrote you on September 29th with respect to the payment of the indemnity on the Oscar Shogren herd of cattle. I have had no reply to the letter in question.

Mr. Shogren has written me concerning this matter. He is contemplating on having the representative from your county introduce a bill in the legislature asking for an appropriation to indemnify him for his loss. While I would be very glad to assist the representative from Saline county in a matter of this kind, yet I am of the opinion that it would be impossible to get an appropriation of this kind, indemnifying Mr. Shogren for his loss, on the record in this case. There is no record showing that Mr. Shogren's losses were occasioned by any act of the State or the county or that there was not every effort made possible to stop the death loss of his cattle. So, in the absence of any such evidence, I am sure the legislature would not feel disposed to make an appropriation to indemnify for losses of this kind as there are many other losses of live stock on the farms of Kansas, similar to Mr. Shogren's, for which the same demand might be made on the legislature for indemnity. Hence, it appears to me that the only indemnity Mr. Shogren can receive for the loss on his cattle, would be whatever Saline county might wish to do in accordance with the understanding that was held in your office on July 19, 1926 as outlined in a copy of a letter enclosed herewith.

Please let me hear from you by return mail so that I can advise Mr. Shogren with respect to this matter.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHE

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

December 14, 1926

Oscar Shogren,
Assaria, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Mr. John Short was in the office a few days ago. I was not here at the time but he talked with Mr. Lurdick, a representative of this department, concerning indemnity on your herd of cattle. I have just looked over our records and find that I never had a reply to my letter to the county commissioners under date of September 29th and my letter to you under the same date. I am enclosing you copies of the letters in question and will be pleased to have you read them over and then write me as to whether or not you have had a talk with the county commissioners in connection with this matter.

I would suggest also that you show this correspondence to Mr. Short. I think you fully understand that we are ready to do everything we can that is within the limitations of the law. I think however that this matter should be decided, one way or the other, soon.

Please let me hear from you at your very early convenience.

Very truly,

Commissioner.

JHM:CHZ

Enc.



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

John Mercer -

On Dec 3, Mr. Geo. Shurt, president of the Assaria State Bank came to see concerning the Shogren cattle ~~sold~~ at Assaria sold on account of suspected Rabies -

Mr. Shurt rather thinks if there is a legal way to do it that the county commissioners should help out a little at least - He says the cattle were first sold straight, then sold at a reduced price, which caused a loss to the owner.

I advised him to go home and get the figures on how the cattle