

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

Section 39, Pages 1141 - 1170

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

July 1, 1927.

Mr. J. L. Newman,
Milk and Milk Products Research Bureau,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 24th ult. addressed to the State Board of Health has been referred to this department for answer.

For your information wish to advise that tuberculin testing is carried on in practically every county in the state and at the present time there are twenty counties in Kansas in which all of the dairy and breeding cattle have been tested under the cooperative state and federal modified free area plan and they have been placed on the official Accredited Free Area list. The names of the counties referred to are as follows:

Allen	Johnson
Atchison	Leavenworth
Cheyenne	Lincoln
Clay	Osage
Doniphan	Pawnee
Douglas	Reno
Harper	Rice
Harvey	Sedgwick
Jackson	Stafford
Jewell	Wyandotte

Testing under the modified free area plan is almost finished in Bourbon, Brown, Kingman and Sherman counties and there are nine other counties on our waiting list in which testing will be started this fall and winter.

Trusting this is the information desired, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

A

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

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS RESEARCH BUREAU
WM. ALDEN SMITH, JR., BLDG.
NORTH CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

JUNE 24
1927

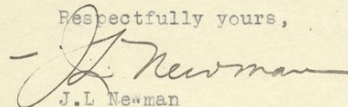
Chief,
State Board of Health,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

You would favor the Milk and Milk Products Research bureau greatly by telling us at once if possible what counties in your state have not yet established a campaign for the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle.

If you cannot send us this information please tell us at once where we may obtain it or please forward this letter to the proper department.

Respectfully yours,


J.L. Newman

JLN/AK.



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

July 8, 1927.

Dr. B. C. Harrison,
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Doctor:

Answering your letter of June 30 and in line with telephone talk with Dr. Watson, I am sending you correspondence and records that explain themselves. Please arrange to go to Protection and be there next Monday if possible so that you can start the test of the Rodgers herd of cattle.

While there, please call on Mr. F. S. Butts, Cashier of the Protection State Bank and after conferring with him if you find there are any other herds of cattle in the neighborhood that are to be tested, go ahead and test them while you are in the county.

If you have time while you are there it would be a good plan to run over into Clark County and look the Alexander herd of cattle over. If you do not have time that can be done later.

I am not writing Mr. Alexander but would suggest that you get in touch with him by 'phone or otherwise, and arrange to see him next week if you can. If you cannot see him next week arrange a future date for the inspection of his herd.

You can advise Dr. Watson that you will be back in Wichita to take care of the yards for the next two weeks and that he or Miss Lemon can arrange for their vacation to begin on Saturday evening July 16.

I am enclosing you a few accredited herd blanks so that if there are any owners who want their herds placed on the accredited herd list you can have them sign up and make the date of the application the same as the date of the test. Return these papers with your report after you have tested the Rodgers herd etc.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM.A

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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Wichita, Kansas.
June, 30th, 1927

Mr. J. H. Mercer.

Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr Mercer,

In line with our conversation, when you were in Wichita, will say that I have had an excellent time during my vacation, and am back ready to go to work.

You spoke of some party having some cattle at Coldwater to be tested, and wanted me to go and attend to that at the earliest convenience, and also while out that way to see the Alexander cattle at Ashland.

If you will give me the party's name at Coldwater, that I am to see, will go out there right away, and then to Ashland during the time we have to wait, or any other work you may have out that way, and we can take care of all at one trip.

As soon as we complete that work, I will be ready to help Dr Dotson, as we talked of, and I suppose he will want to take his vacation in the near future, although I have not talked to him since I came home, as I just arrived this afternoon.

Trusting this to be satisfactory to you I beg to remain,

Yours Very Truly.

B. C. Harrison.



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

July 8, 1927.

Dr. T. A. Fowler,
805 Live Stock Exchange,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Doctor:

I am enclosing you correspondence from one Percy Billington which explains itself. I would take from these letters that Mr. Billington wants to vaccinate hogs in Kansas and make a charge for same. Of course, we could not let him do this. The only thing he could do would be to make vaccinations as a representative of the Kaw Valley Serum Company. Find out all about this and make your report and suggestions accordingly. Return the enclosed correspondence with your report.

Kindly hand the enclosed letters and record to Dr. Grimes. This correspondence is in connection with band of scabby sheep located in Johnson County.

Under separate cover I am sending you correspondence which has to do with two disputed accounts with the Jensen Salisbury Laboratories. You have some knowledge of the \$20.00 item since it has been discussed with you on several occasions and I think the records will show that this item was checked up very carefully by Charley before the death of Mr. Henderson and it was found that your office did not owe the \$20.00. This office does not owe the \$20.00 and so far as I know we do not owe the \$8.10 item. However, this item might be in connection with the purchase of avian tuberculin by Dr. Eagle while he was engaged in work for the department in Johnson County. In any event, I want you to turn this whole record over to Mr. Williams and you confer with him and furnish him any information you have and then have him take the records and go to the Jensen Salisbury Laboratories and check over carefully the entire transactions connected with these two disputed items. We will then settle the question on whatever is agreed upon between Mr. Williams and the company.



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

Dr. T. A. Fowler,
805 Live Stock Exchange,
Kansas City, Mo.

-2-

7-8-27

If we do not owe these items we will not pay them but
if there is any question that we do owe them we will either
pay all or a part of them. In any event I want this fixed
up.

Try and have this attended to next week and hold
the papers until + come down.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM.A



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Topeka Kansas
7-9-27

Mr J. H. Mercer,
Live Stock Commissioner,
Topeka Kansas,
Dear Sir:

Following is a report of my official
activities for the week ending July 9th.

Work in office Monday
Testing cattle for W. J. Todd Maple Hill Tue + Fri
Testing cattle for W. H. Hays - Topeka - Wed and Sat.
Investigation among cattle on farm of A. M. Shaples
of Clinton. See special report.
Investigation on farm of Bob Horney, Winchell
See special report. Also work in office Tues
and Saturday.

Very Truly
R. B. Christensen

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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Topeka Kansas
7-9-27

Mr. H. Mercer,
Live Stock Commissioner,
Topeka Kansas,
Dear Sir:

Following instructions I made an investigation
of a condition among hogs on the farm of Bob Harvey of Winchell.
Mr Harvey has 23 pigs and 5 sows on his farm, he
states that one of the pigs first showed signs of sickness
then two more became faint and went off feed.

I did not find any temperatures very much above
normal and there was only one of the pigs did not
come up and eat when he threw some corn out to them.
One of the sows had a spasm while I was there and
showed every symptom of poisoning either plant or feed.

I advised the change of feed and pasture and the
administration of a laxative to all the hogs.

It is my opinion that the change of feed and pasture will
correct the present condition. Mr Harvey is feeding
a prepared pig meal that might be the cause so I tell
him not to feed it for awhile.

Very truly,
R. B. Christensen



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Topeka Kansas
7-9-27

Mr J. H. Mercer,
Livestock Commissioner,
Topeka Kansas,
Dear Sir:

Dr Kraus of Abage city called the
office and asked that some one be sent to the farm
of A. M. Sharpley of Clinton to make an investigation
of a condition causing the death of his cattle.
Dr Kraus drove me from Abage city to the
Sharpley farm and back to Abage city.

Mr Sharpley has lost three calves had had one
milk can sick. I held a post-mortem on a calf
that had died the night before I arrived.

The sick cow showed symptoms that would
indicate forage poisoning.

The only abnormal organs found in the animal that
died was, a few hemorrhages on the heart, intestinal
lymph glands and enlarged and congested kidneys.

The urine in the bladder was colored with blood
which in my opinion was due to the condition of
the kidneys

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J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

I advised Mr. Sharples to change the cattle to
an upland pasture as the pasture they are in is
in the timber and nearly all of it has been under
water several times this year.

Dr. Kraus is treating the sick cows.
My diagnosis was forage poisoning but I am
unable to say just what is the specific cause.

Very Truly
R. B. Christensen

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

July 11, 1927.

Mr. H. N. Holderman,
Meade, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th instant received and contents noted.

In reply wish to say I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the Biennial Report of this department and call your especial attention to Rule 10 on page 43. The rule cited has to do with the circulation of petitions to get signatures of 85% of the cattle owners so that the clean area tuberculosis test can be started in a county. I am enclosing herewith a simple form of petition.

Since you have a county agent it seems to me it would only take a little while to circulate petitions in Meade County. In this connection I might say that only dairy and breeding cattle are tested so you would not have any trouble in getting the signatures of owners who might handle largely steer cattle. Should your county become interested in the area work and you would get the petitions circulated and filed some time within the next thirty or sixty days the work could be done the coming fall and winter.

You will find other helpful information with respect to accredited herd and area testing on pages 50 and 52.

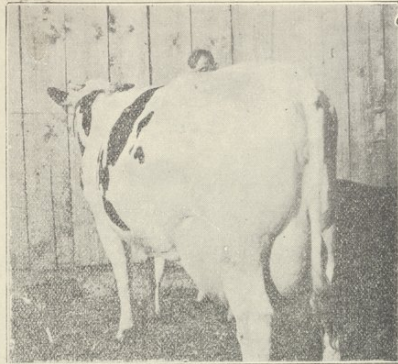
If we can give you any further information or help you in any way we will be glad to have you call upon us.

Very truly yours,

JHM:A

Commissioner.

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



Correspondence Solicited

Inspection Invited

H. N. HOLDEMAN, ARTESIAN VALLEY HERD

(ACCREDITED HERD)

HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN CATTLE, SINGLE-COMB
WHITE & BROWN LEGHORN CHICKENS.

BREEDER OF FORTY YEARS STANDING.

Barn Two Blocks East of Depot.

MEADE, KANSAS 7-5 1927

ARTESIAN GERBEN FAYNE KORNDYKE No. 674848.
Seven Day Record for 4-year old: Milk 653 lbs. Butter 27.65 lbs.

Mr J. H. Mercer

Topeka Kan

Dear Mr Mercer I write you to know
if it would be possible for Meade county
to have a county wide T. B. Test. I understand
we should have 25.00 of cattle owners sign
a petition to that effect. if you advise me
we will get busy.

Yours Truly
H. N. Holdeman

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

Jefferson Co
July 13, 1927.

Mr. Duke D. Brown,
County Agent,
Oskaloosa, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of the 8th instant, wish to say we will be very glad to issue to Mr. Dennler a permit to vaccinate his own hogs on your recommendation. However, Mr. Dennler has not as yet written us regarding the matter.

While writing I might say that I am planning to test all the dairy and breeding cattle, the poultry and hogs in one county in the state as an experimental project. I am wondering if this test could be made in Jefferson County. Our plan would be to place two veterinarians, one federal man and one state man, in the county and they would make all the tests. It would take probably three or four months to complete the work.

I wish you would study this matter over and confer with some of the farmers of your county and advise me what you think of this experimental test being made in Jefferson County. The work, of course, would be done at the expense of the federal government and the state.

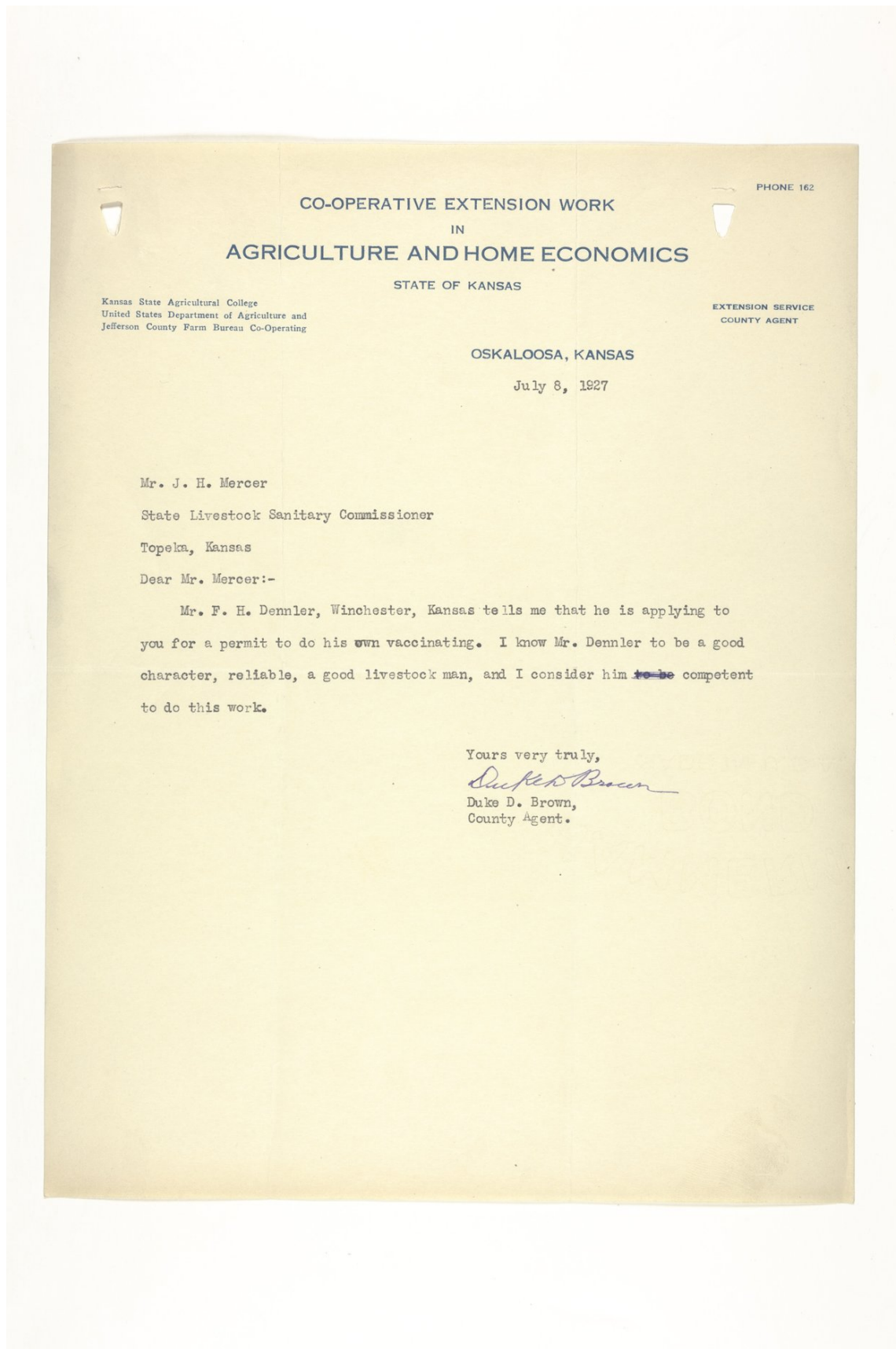
Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM:A



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



CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

PHONE 162

STATE OF KANSAS

Kansas State Agricultural College
United States Department of Agriculture and
Jefferson County Farm Bureau Co-Operating

EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT

OSKALOOSA, KANSAS

July 8, 1927

Mr. J. H. Mercer

State Livestock Sanitary Commissioner

Topelka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Mercer:-

Mr. F. H. Dennler, Winchester, Kansas tells me that he is applying to you for a permit to do his own vaccinating. I know Mr. Dennler to be a good character, reliable, a good livestock man, and I consider him ~~to be~~ competent to do this work.

Yours very truly,

Duke D. Brown

Duke D. Brown,
County Agent.



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

July 18, 1927

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

Dear Doctor:

I have yours of the 15th reporting the T.B. testing of the Rodgers herd of cattle at Protection and mange inspection of the Coggins and Alexander herds of cattle. I would take it from your report that the Rodgers herd of cattle and the Bachman dairy herd of cattle at Protection have been running together and that the bull that was pronounced as being so badly infected with tuberculosis had been with both herds. If this inference is correct the Bachman herd of dairy cattle should have been tested even though it would have required an order from this department to have compelled him to submit to the test. Since we never received any report from the veterinarian, Dr. Mark, and furthermore, since Dr. Mark is not registered as a veterinary practitioner of the state, we did not feel disposed to declare the cattle with which the bull had associated as infected cattle and issue an order compelling the test, and took the course and have them tested under the accredited herd plan.

Since your test reveals no reactor in the Rodgers herd, wish you would give me your professional opinion as to whether or not there might not have been some mistake of the diagnosis of the Doctor in question. Also give me any information you might have about Dr. Mark - his post office address, if you know same. Also, do you think we should proceed and require Bachman's dairy cattle to be tested.

Just what position did you leave the Alexander and Coggins' herd of cattle in. Do they understand that you are holding their cattle under quarantine. I am asking for this information for the reason that we do not want them to ship any of the cattle in question unless you consider them free from mange. I am not writing either Alexander or Coggins and will not until I hear from you and then if you think they should be held for further inspection I will direct that no cattle be shipped until another inspection is made.

Since June 30th was the closing of the fiscal year of 1927 your expense and salary voucher was not filed until the 14th. No doubt the auditor will have issued your salary by today or tomorrow and same will be sent you. I presume that you are at the stockyards at

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

Harrison -2-

Wichita this week relieving either Dr. Dotson or Miss Lemon. At least that was the plan as indicated to you in my letter of July 8th.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Wichita, Kan.
July 15, 1927.

Mr J.H. Mercer.
Topeka, Kans.

Dear Mr Mercer;

Find enclosed T.B. test charts on the Rodgers herd of cattle at Protection, Kansas, and also some inspections made on other herds for mange, while out in that locality.

In reporting on the Rodgers herd, will say that the conditions are not what they should be for maintaining an accredited herd, as Mr Rodgers is pasturing some cows from the town folk that have not been tested, that are associated with his cattle each day, and also are allowed to mix with the dairy herd almost daily that were spoken of in the communications.

I went personally and talked to Mr Nate Bachman who owns the dairy herd, and he did not seem to take very much of an interest in testing his herd and it seems that no one had talked to him previously, in regard to testing his herd, and he also stated that part of the herd belongs to his mother, and they had not thought of testing, and had not had any time to give it any consideration.

Mr Rodgers was of the opinion that we were going to compel Mr Bachman to test his herd, and made the statement that it was no use for him to test, and not make Bachman test his herd, as they were together often, and Rodgers stated he was almost sure that if the bull died from tuberculosis, he was infected from the Bachman herd, as he was with his herd as much or more than he was with his own herd. Some one had told Mr Rodgers that it was compulsory, that he have his herd tested, and he had the impression we were going to compel others that they test, otherwise he would not have done so, and that is the condition I found, and not a good spirit of co-operation in any sense.

In reporting the Alexander herd for mange will say that he had treated all his cattle, and I saw about six that showed effects of having had mange so I rather think he was mistaken, when he said what he did in regard to being caught on the market. Also the M.T. Coggins cattle had a number that show signs of having been affected with mange, but looked dry now, but is hard to be sure running at large this time of year in pasture.

Has my salary and expense check been mailed out to me?
I had not received it and was wondering if it had become lost, or was late in being mailed out.

Trusting this to be satisfactory, I beg to remain,

Yours Very Truly,

B. C. Harrison

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

July 8, 1927.

Mr. I. K. Rodgers,
Protection, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Dr. B. C. Harrison, a representative of this department, will be in Comanche County next week and while there will test your herd of cattle in line with your application for an accredited herd test which was sent to this office some time ago. Dr. Harrison would like to start the test on next Monday so please arrange to have the cattle up to be tested at that time.

Trusting this arrangement will be satisfactory, I am

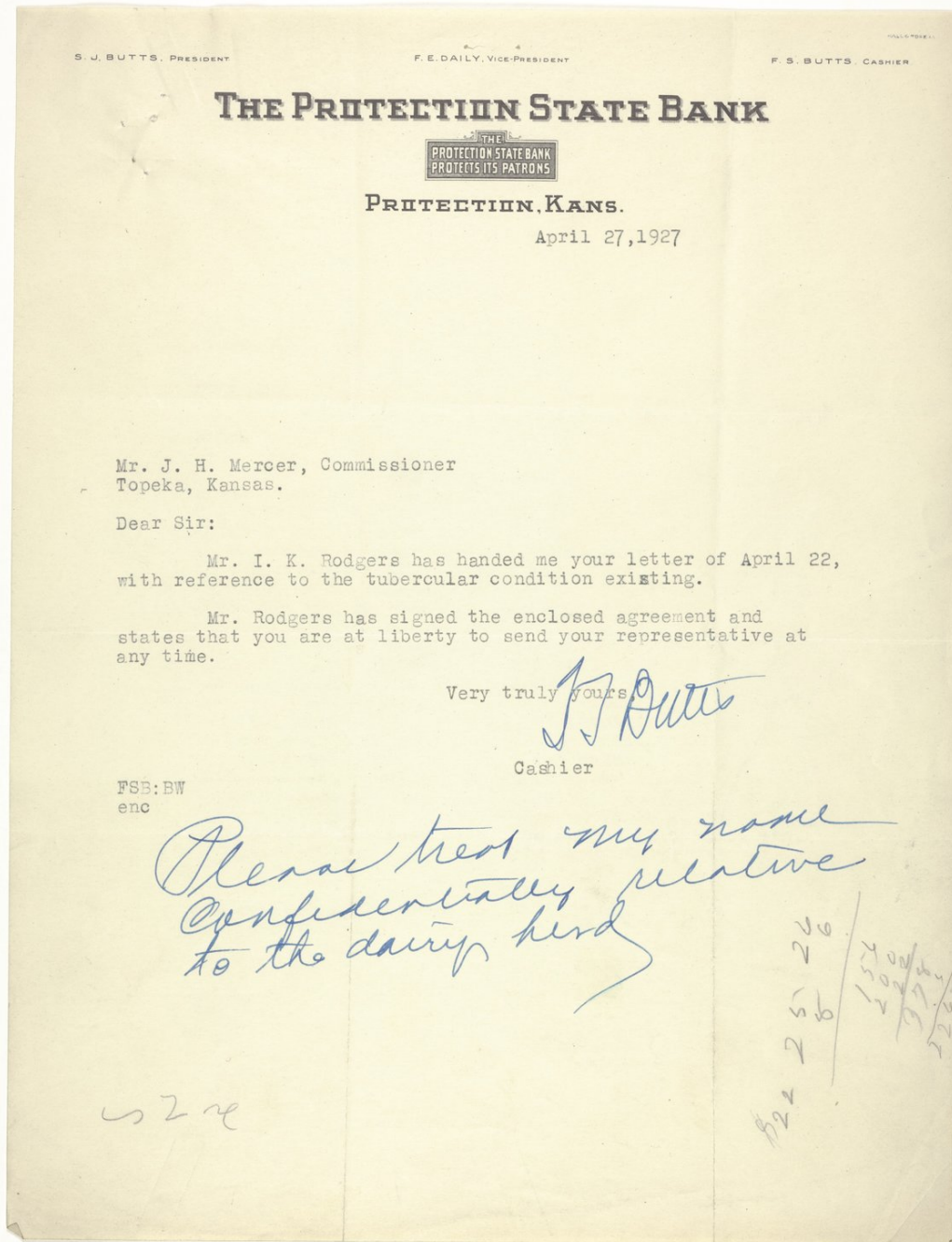
Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM.A



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



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

April 22, 1927

Mr. I. K. Rodgers,
Protection, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 17th and note
same.

In looking over the official veterinary records of the state we do not find the name of R. M. Mark. Dr. Mark has made no report to this office of his finding, which he should have done. It would appear, however, as a protection to your herd of cattle that the herd should be tested for tuberculosis, also the dairy herd referred to in the F. S. Butts letter reporting your loss. This herd can be tested at the same time.

I am enclosing a few copies of application blanks for accredited herd as it seems that both herds should be handled in this manner. By so doing, should you have reactors in either herd, the federal government can and will participate in paying indemnity. Should you want to have your herd placed on the accredited list make up the application and sign same and return to us and we will then have your herd tested at as early a date as possible. Otherwise, we think it necessary that your herd of cattle be tested and if you will advise me as to when you would like to have the test made, the number of cattle, etc., I will send some one at state's expense, to make the test.

I am not writing Mr. Butts, the banker, but you can confer with him, if you wish, as to the dairy herd he refers to.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

Protection

Stans

April 17 1927

Mr. J. H. Mercer,
my Bull had not
been tested, our home
Veterinary R. M. Mark.
came up and examined
him. and found lesions
of Tuberculosis. his
lungs, and liver were
covered with them. he
also had dried lesions
on his ribs. like leaves
on a laureus tree. That
is the condition we
found him in.

Your Resp.

J. H. Rodgers

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

April 15, 1927.

Mr. I. K. Rodgers,
Protection, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

We are just in receipt of a letter from Mr. F. S. Butts, Cashier of the Protection State Bank, in which he advises that you recently lost a Galloway bull that was pronounced tuberculous by your local veterinarian.

We have looked up the records in this office and find that we do not have a test chart showing that the animal in question had been tested. Therefore, we are wondering whether the animal was tested by your local veterinarian and classed as a reactor or whether he died and you had him posted and the veterinarian found lesions of tuberculosis.

We are enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope and will ask that you advise us whether or not your bull was tested and if so, who made the test. If he was not tested kindly advise why the veterinarian pronounced him tuberculous.

Upon receipt of the above information we will take the matter up with you further.

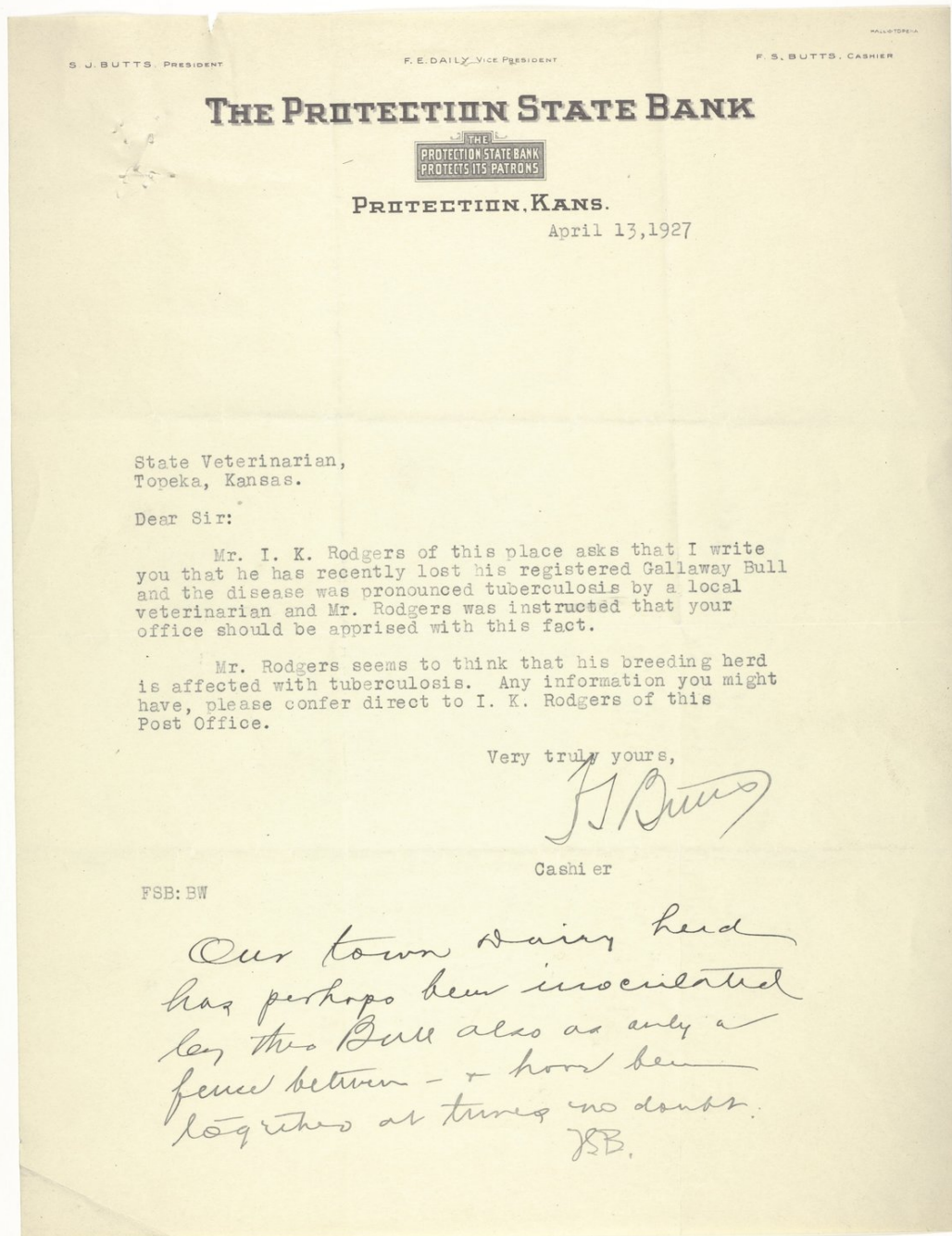
Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

A



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





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

July 21, 1927

Mr. E. E. Gray,
Sedan, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 19th at hand and same carefully noted. I am very much surprised at the contents of your letter.

As I recall it, on or about the 18th of June, either Mr. Eggen, Mr. Floyd or you phoned me that you were losing cattle and wanted me to send someone to make an investigation. I got in telephone communication with Dr. Dotson, a representative of this department, at Wichita, and instructed him to go to your farm at once and make the investigation. According to the records he made the investigation on June 19th and 20th. I am enclosing you herewith a copy of his report. I am also enclosing you a copy of a letter written Mr. Floyd, under date of June 25th.

Therefore, so far as my knowledge of this case is concerned and according to the statement set out in Dr. Dotson's report, you would have no grounds to charge negligence on the part of anyone connected with this department. According to your own statement and according to Dr. Dotson's report it seems to me that everything was done for you that could be done by the department and I am surprised that you, as a recipient of this service would raise the question of negligence under the circumstances. And if you can suggest even any means whereby a specimen could have been sent to the laboratory, examined and report made within less than three days, I would like to have it.

There can be only one question involved in this case wherein you could be reimbursed for your doctor bills, serum and expense you refer to and that is the charge and proof of negligence on the part of the Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner, as the state could not be held liable in any way for the expense you refer to. The Live Stock Commissioner or his bondsman are the only persons that can be held liable. The Live Stock Commissioner is held liable for any of Dr. Dotson's negligent acts, but as stated above, the reports do not indicate that he was negligent in any manner.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. C. W. Floyd and suggest that you confer with him and if you have knowledge of any negligent acts on the part of Dr. Dotson, make same in writing and a fair and impartial investigation will be made. I am sure that Mr. Floyd and Mr. Eggen will both agree that we were making every effort possible to help you save your cattle and I am very sorry that you are not satisfied.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

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

July 21, 1927

Mr. C. W. Floyd,
Sedan, Kansas.

Dear Cal:

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter just written to Mr. E. E. Gray that explains itself.

Mr. Gray has asked that this department reimburse him for medical treatment, medicine and serum, etc., on account of the negligent act of Dr. Dotson in not properly diagnosing the trouble with his cattle. I am very sorry that Mr. Gray feels about this as he does but for the life of me I can't see but what Dr. Dotson did everything that he could do, or that he knew to do. I wish you would confer with Mr. Gray and read Dotson's report that he made to me with respect to the investigation that he made of the Gray cattle, and if it is not correct in every way and you know of any negligent act on the part of Dr. Dotson I certainly would be glad to have you furnish me same.

Very truly yours,

JUM/W

Commissioner.



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

Sedan, Kansas,
July 19, 1927.

Mr. Joe Mercer,
State House,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

You are aware that along in the later part of June, we had some trouble in our cattle and you will remember that you sent a Mr. Dodson from Wichita, to examine these cattle. Upon examination he said that it was no doubt in his mind that the trouble came from some pdson they were getting in the pasture, that is, from something they were eating. He made an examination and found the intestines to be in a slightly inflamed condition and ordered that these be treated by giving them oil. He ordered the head severed and sent it in for examination. Mr. C. W. Floyd asked him why he was sending the head in, if he was sure there was a poison and he said he was doing so because there was always a possibility of something more serious. However, he continued to instruct me to get the cattle out of that pasture, at once because there was something in there that was might destructive and it might cost me considerable to leave them in it even over night.

In order to carry out Mr. Dodson's treatments it was necessary that I have help and Mr. C. W. Floyd volunteered to send one of his men to help me doctor the cattle, which he did, sending Mr. Chase Stephens. Those who helped me in taking care of the cattle under Mr. Dodson's instructions and before we had any report of the result of the examination which was a period of some three days, were P. F. Eggen, H. W. Martin, F. M. Souders, M. D. Call, Chase Stephens, Orville Smith, U. S. Wemmer, and C. M. Gray.

I feel, acting as we were under the instructions of Mr. Dodson, that the state should bear the expenses which have been incurred in the matter of the treatment of these individuals in the way of doctors' expenses, serum, etc., which became necessary after receiving the report that these cattle were infected with Hydrophobia. We believe that in view of the fact that we were acting under Mr. Dodson's instructions that this expense, was unnecessarily incurred; that if he had taken the proper precaution it could have all been avoided, which he should have done.

I should like for you to write to Mr. C. W. Floyd or Mr. P. F. Eggen or any of these other parties named, for particulars concerning this matter.

We have tried to state this case fairly and are sure that our statements will be borne out by the above named men.

Yours very truly,



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

June 25, 1927

Mr. C. W. Floyd,
Sedan, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Following up our phone conversation of Thursday I have a report from Dr. Dotson of his investigation of the cattle on the Edgar Gray farm advising that the laboratory at the Agricultural College had reported a positive case of rabies found in the brain of the head of the steer out of the Gray herd of cattle.

As stated to you over the phone, I think that under the circumstances that the carcasses of the dead animals that are in the pasture where these cattle were located, should be burned or buried. I don't think it would be much trouble to burn them now and perhaps the best way to do it would be to saturate the carcasses with kerosene oil or gasoline. I believe in handling them this way at this time, since several days have elapsed since the cattle died that this would pretty well burn them up. Also, I wish you would have Mr. Gray write me a history of how he has handled this herd of cattle, whether he has any knowledge of a rabid dog in his locality and also as to whether or not there are places in the pasture where skunks or other vermin might be found. I am asking for this information for the reason if this rabies trouble continues to increase, we will be compelled to take some steps to control same, and we want to know just where to begin. I am of the opinion that "polecats" are bad carriers of rabies and are just as likely to bite steers in a pasture as dogs might be.

I am leaving tomorrow for Cleveland, Ohio, to attend the annual meeting of the National Live Stock and Meat Board and will be gone about four days. Should anything come up that you might need anyone here in the office, you can get in touch with Mr. West or Miss Atchison and they will send you any help that you might need. I am not writing Mr. Gray but you can show him this letter if you wish and have him write me as regards to these matters, or have him tell you so you can do so.

Also, tell Mr. Eggen if the hogs that Dr. Dotson vaccinated do not get along all right to advise us.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Livestock Exchange Building,
Wichita, Kansas,
June 22, 1927.

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

Dear Sir:

As per your instructions, I made a trip to Sedan, Kansas, June 19th and 20th, to investigate sickness in the cattle on the farm of Edgar Gray.

As stated to you over the telephone yesterday, the college at Manhattan has reported positive rabies found in the brain of a steer on this farm. I felt pretty sure that the trouble was due to forage poisoning, however there were some symptoms suggesting rabies, which accounts for us forwarding the brain for examination. I advised Mr. Gray that I felt sure that his difficulty was due to forage poisoning, and that it was very necessary for him to move his cattle out of the pasture they were in. I think he did this that same day. I talked with Mr. Gray about burning or burying the carcasses, and it was agreed that if it was due to plant poisoning there would be no need of this labor and expense, he was quite busy and short of help, and it was thought disposing of the carcasses was not necessary, unless it developed that rabies or some other contagious condition was in evidence.

Of course with a positive diagnosis of rabies from the college, it would seem that it would be all right for him to turn his cattle back in this pasture, however I am more and more becoming somewhat skeptical as to the reliability of the laboratory report in many of these conditions, and believe that it would be a good precaution for these cattle to remain out of this particular pasture, at least until such time as his trouble stopped.

The college, as well as the local physician has advised that I should take the pasteur treatment to overcome the exposure that I was subjected to. I haven't fully made up my mind as to this, but suppose it would be the safe thing to do.

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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

J. H. Mercer 2.

While at Sedan, I vaccinated the Leonard hogs, and investigated some trouble that Mr. Eggen was having in his hogs, and found a low degree of intestinal infection in one animal that was posted, and advised Mr. Eggen a method of treatment.

Yours truly,

H. F. Watson

HFD*EL

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

EDISON F. KUBIN, D. V. M.
Veterinarian

McPHERSON, KANSAS.

July, 22, 1926.

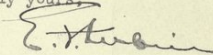
Hon. J. H. Mercer,
Topeka, Kansas.
Dear Mr. Mercer;

In making a report on the herd of steers belonging to Oscar Schogren, Assyria, Kansas I wish to refer back to July 10th. the date of a former visit. The steers that were sick at that time showed a more definite chain of symptoms than the ones at our last visit. From the owners own history they showed a more marked onset of the disease. Instead of a steer being sick two or three days before going down he would show the first symptoms only a few hours and from then on the advance of the various symptoms was very rapid. I mention this because I am sure these last cattle are sick longer and may even present other symptoms that may be complications or may be a lessened virulence of the disease.

Post mortem examination showed almost all body glands to be normal. In the two that were posted the prescapular glands were slightly inflamed as also were the deep inguinal. Small intestines slightly engorged with thickened mucuous membranes. Fourth stomach contained a small quantity of sand and some small stones. One of the subjects was down but alive and was destroyed for examination. Owner said he was sick five days. The other was sick three days but was still on feet and following herd.

I am enclosing vouchers covering my expenses.

Very truly yours,



*N.B. I have no blank
envelopes left mail
me some.*