

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

Section 40, Pages 1171 - 1200

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

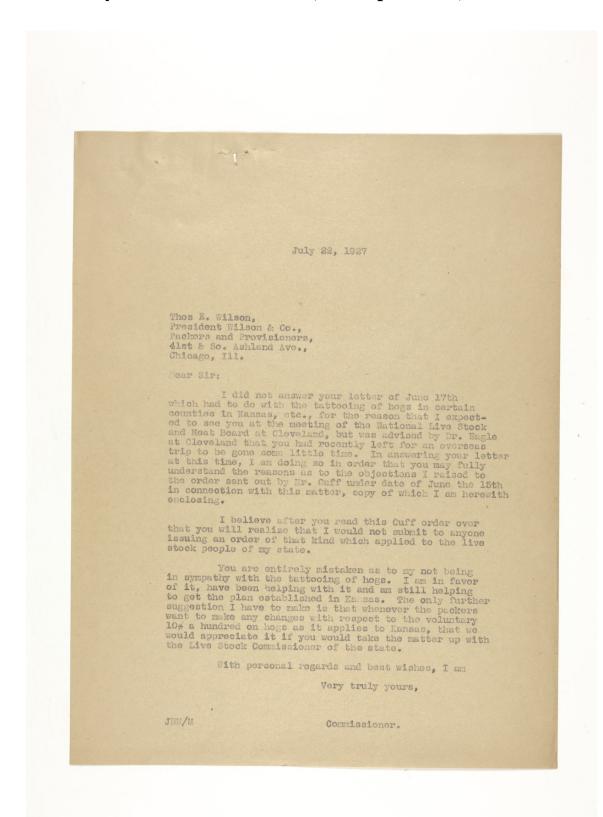
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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY







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EXECUTIVE DEPT.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer -

I understand through Mr. Cuff, Live Stock Commissioner of the Kansas City Live Stock Exchange that you are not in sympathy with the plan to make the tattooing of hogs a requisite in the payment of the 10¢ premium on accredited hogs from Jewell, Jackson, Atchison and Osage Counties, Kansas. I am sure it was not intended by Mr. Cuff or any of the packing companies which approved this plan to discriminate against any Kansas accredited counties. It is belived by several of the live stock commisioners and by a large number of packers that the system of tattooing hogs is an accurate means of identifying accredited hogs on the killing-floor to avoid the inconvenience of making separate killing tests. It will also make it possible for the various state officials to get in direct communication with each producer of hogs which show retentions for tuberculosis in order that information may be given to the owner whereby he will take steps to eradicate tuberculosis from his poultry flock.

It would be impossible to make such a requirement in all accredited counties at this time because comparatively few tattoo markers are now available. Mr. Cuff through your active co-operation has developed the tattoo system to a greater extent in Kansas than has been done in any other State. It was because the tattoo markers are already in use by a large number of shippers in these four counties that Mr. Cuff made the recommendation that the tattooing be required in these counties. He also states that there is a higher percentage of retentions in these four counties than in any other Kansas counties, with the possible exception of Johnson County.

There seems to be a sentiment among a large number of packers that unless something can be done to reduce the losses on hogs from accredited counties the payment of the premium will be discontinued. I understand that the Detroit packers have recently withdrawn from this plan because of the big percentage of retentions in the Michigan accredited counties. The plan of making the tattooing a requirement in all accredited counties in the United States may

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Page #2

result in reducing these losses so that the payment of the premium can be continued. It would seem to me that making this a requirement in four counties which are now prepared to do this tattooing so that it can be extended if feasible as rapidly as possible to other accredited counties in the United States is a move in the right direction.

Mr. Cuff states that the majority of farmers are willing to tattoo and that you made no objection to this requirement when he first took it up with you.

You and your associates have done some excellent work in improving conditions on farms from which accredited hogs retained for tuber-culosis have been received at the markets.

I am writing this letter to have you know that it was not intended to discriminate against Kansas accredited counties. On the contrary it is a compliment to Kansas that your counties are better prepared for this requirement at this time than are counties in other states.

Hoping that you and Mr. Guff can work this out together in a satisfactory manner and with personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

copy - Mr. H.R. Smith, Live Stock Commissioner, Exchange Bldg., U.S. Yards, Chicago

> Mr. R.L. Guff, Live Stock Commissioner, Exchange Bldg., Stock Yards, Kansas City, Mo.

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THE KANSAS CITY LIVE STOCK EXCHANGE KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI JUNE 4, 1927

ORDER EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 1927.

Since a comparatively large percentage of accredited county hogs is found tuberculous, it has been deemed advisable to aid in the location of infected premises in order that hog owners may be assisted in a clean-up of infected cattle, swine and poultry. Because of the large number of owners in the average shipment of hogs it is necessary that each owner's hogs be indelibly marked so that retained tuberculous hogs may be positively identified after slaughter. The best known means of marking hogs for ownership is the tattoo instrument.

Effective June 15, 1927 and in force at all markets an order has been issued by the large packing companies that the ten cent premium on accredited county hogs from Jackson, Jewell, Osage and Atchison counties, Kansas, will be paid only on lots which are tattooed to show ownership and which are accompanied by the premium certificate on which are listed the names of the different owners together with their addresses, the number of hogs and tattoo markings. The ten cent premium will not be paid at any of the large markets on hogs from Jackson, Jewell, Osage and Atchison counties, Kansas, unless hogs are tattooed.

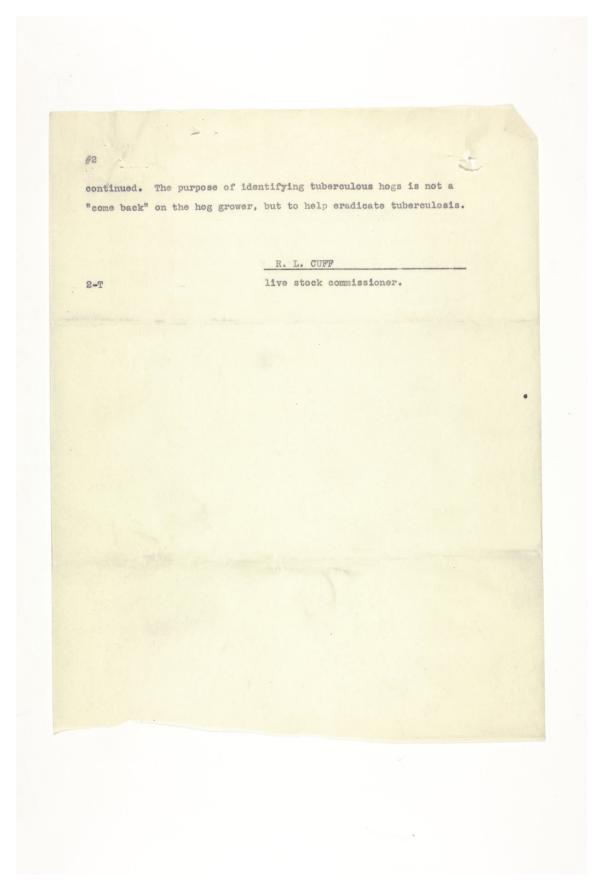
Kansas is now getting out a new premium certificate which will have space for listing the several owners in each shipment. Be sure that your certificate, properly signed in ink or indelible pencil and countersigned by your local banker or county agent, accompanies each shipment of accredited county hogs.

If you do not already have a tattoo instrument, you may secure one from a supply house or, if you wish, we can order one for you. The cost of a single set of handle and nine digits is \$12.50; in lots of six or more these instruments can be bought for \$10.00 per set. The National Committee has decided that letters designating the state, county and shipper or shipping point, must be used together with the number to designate the owner. For example:

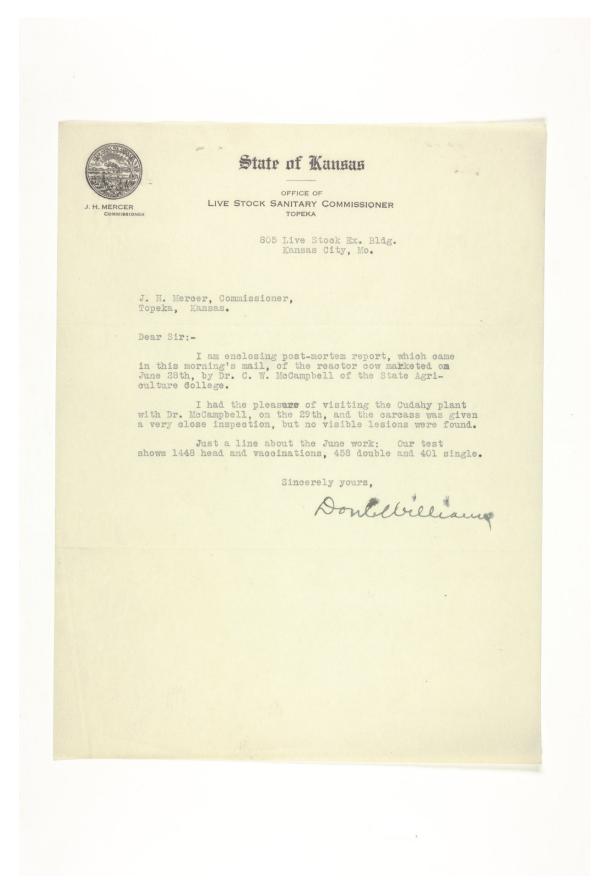
KGW1 designates hogs of Mr. John Smith, the first man to deliver hogs to The Webber Shipping Association of Jewell County, Kansas, the seventh Kansas county accredited. The cost of these letters is 65% apiece, plus postage.

During the past year the large packing companies have paid more than a third of a million dollars in premium money to hog growers in accredited counties. Unless the present high rate of retentions in accredited counties is lowered, it is unreasonable to expect that the payment of the premium will be











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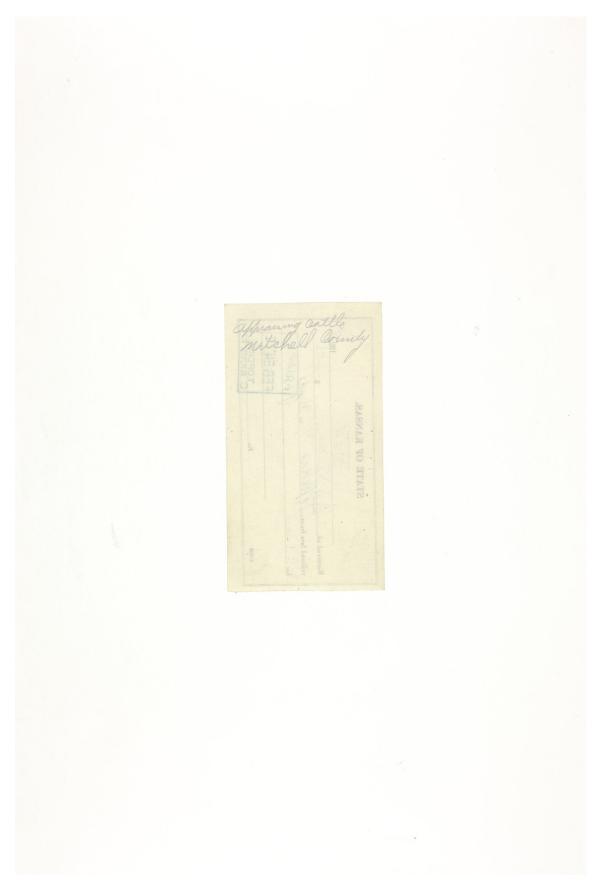






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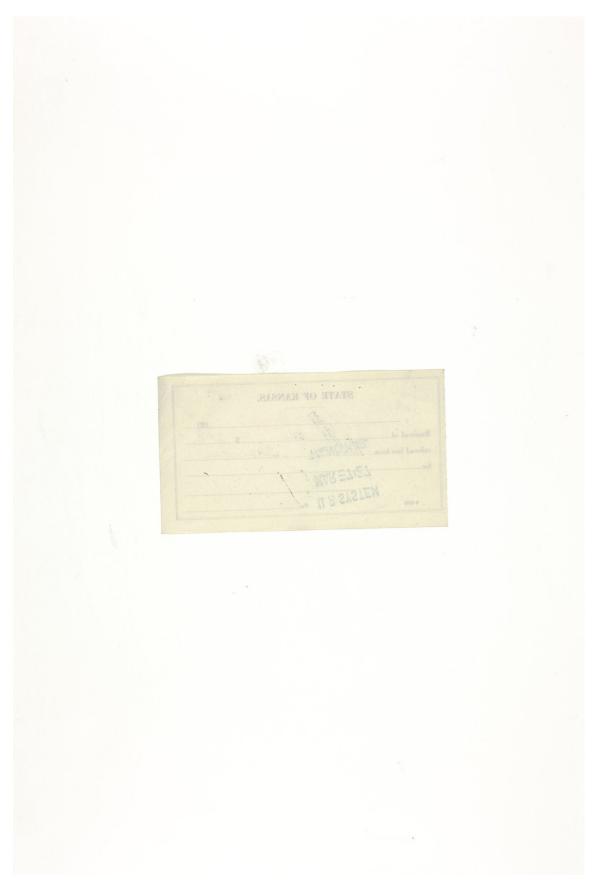






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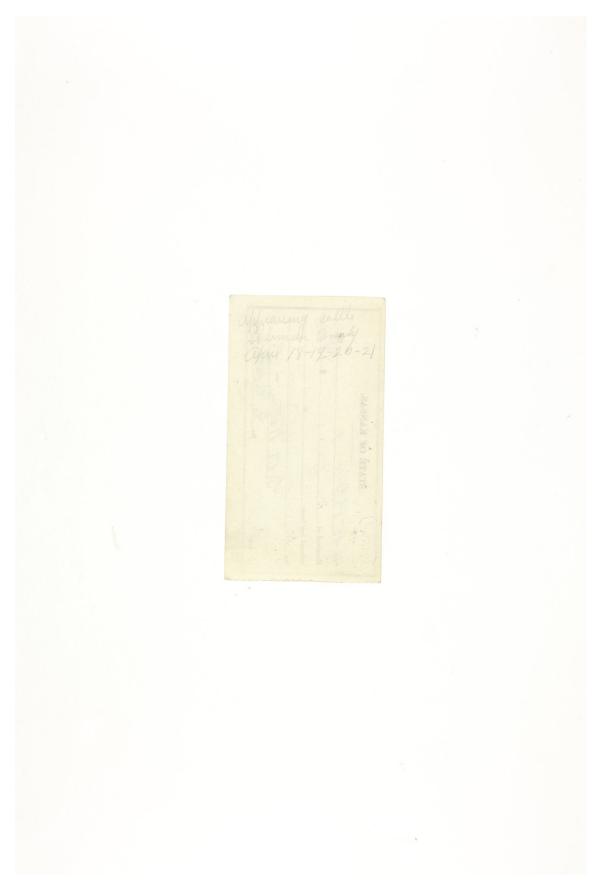






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