

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

### Section 47, Pages 1381 - 1410

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

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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

*Oct 1, 1927*

The following is a list of fully accredited counties in the state:

COUNTY	DATE ACCREDITED	DATE REACCREDITED	LOTS	NO. CATTLE TESTED
✓Harvey	6-20-1924	10-1-27	1,621	16,678
✓Leavenworth	7-1-1924		2,230	21,743
✓Lincoln	12-9-1924		1,564	28,467
✓Jackson	7-1-1925		2,480	24,573
✓Sedgwick	7-1-1925		3,575	35,068
✓Jewell	10-1-1925		2,888	35,599
✓Johnson	10-1-1925		2,423	19,843
✓Pawnee	1-4-1926		1,093	16,716
✓Atchison	3-1-1926		1,745	17,883
✓Rice	6-1-1926		1,738	19,097
✓Clay	7-1-1926		1,946	26,824
✓Douglas	7-1-1926		2,026	23,719
✓Wyandotte	7-1-1926		1,261	6,581
✓Osage	8-2-1926		2,923	27,235
Allen	1-1-1927		2,265	23,663
Cheyenne	6-1-1927		1,021	11,233
Doniphan	6-1-1927		1,765	10,757
Harper	6-1-1927		1,839	21,843
Reno	7-1-1927		3,166	36,312
Stafford	7-1-1927		1,446	14,888
Brown	10-1-1927		2,350	18,927

Tuberculin testing under the modified clean area plan is practically finished in Kingman, Sherman and Bourbon Counties. As soon as the testing is finished these counties will be placed on the fully accredited list.

Testing is just being started under the same plan in Chase, Coffey, Rawlins and Washington counties and the following counties have filed petitions with the State Live Stock Commissioner asking that testing be started: McPherson, Smith, Marshall, Wilson, Pratt and Cloud.

Total number of cattle tested in twenty-one fully accredited counties --- 457,149

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

### CO-OPERATIVE BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION

It was a pleasure for me to accept the invitation extended by your secretary to address <sup>one branch of</sup> the Kansas Official Council and I am glad to meet with the county commissioners today to discuss a matter which is of grave importance to our state. We take particular pride in results attained in the control of live stock contagions in Kansas and feel especially indebted to the county commissioners over the state for their loyal co-operation with the state department. We realize that your assistance has made it possible for us to conduct our work in an efficient as well as an economical manner. And at this time I wish to thank you for your co-operation.

Since county commissioners are generally recognized as good business men and are depended upon to exercise good business judgment in matters of county and state government, it will be my purpose today to discuss the subject which has been assigned to me from a business viewpoint, primarily.

Probably no disease affecting either the human race or live stock is better known or has been the object of greater study than tuberculosis. The tuberculin test for live stock was discovered in 1882 and has been in general use for many years. We began testing cattle in Kansas eighteen years ago in a haphazard manner but advancement has been made gradually. First the larger cities by ordinances required annual inspections of dairy herds which supplied milk and dairy products to those cities. The federal government and the various states issued from time to time regulations governing the movement of dairy and breeding cattle from state to state. These regulations required health charts for shipments based upon the tuberculin test. About ten years ago the United States Bureau of Animal Industry began a co-operative program which is still in effect and is known as the accredited herd plan. Under this plan owners of pure bred dairy and breeding herds enter into an agreement with the federal and state departments to handle their cattle in a particular manner. In consideration of this the



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the herds are tested free of charge by either federal or state veterinarians and federal indemnity is allowed together with the county indemnity when reactors are found.

During recent years testing has greatly increased throughout the nation. Until two or three years ago most of the cattle in the various states including Kansas were tested by accredited veterinarians in the various localities. Large numbers of cattle still are being tested locally in Kansas and when reactors are found they are appraised and one-half of the determined values are allowed the owners by the respective counties. The salvage is returned to the counties in compliance with our state law. About four years ago federal and state officials began to realize that a more systematic campaign should be made to control and eradicate bovine tuberculosis, and as a result the "modified free area plan" was adopted. Under this plan all dairy and breeding cattle in certain prescribed areas are tested under the co-operative arrangement with the federal, state and county officials.

In Kansas we tried out this plan first in an area comprising 22 townships in one county. This demonstration proved the practicability of the plan but showed that it was not advisable to test areas less than entire counties.

In order to assure the best co-operation in the various counties in the "modified free area" work we have issued a regulation requiring petitions asking for the test. These petitions must contain names of 85% of the cattle owners of the counties to be tested and must be filed in our office before the work is begun. It is customary for the county agent or a local farm organization to circulate the petitions and assist in providing transportation for the veterinarians who test the cattle. The "modified free area" plan of testing is conducted under an agreement between the state and federal departments in which the work is performed upon a fifty-fifty basis.

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All reactors under the modified free area plan of testing are appraised in the same manner as are state reactors. The chairman of the board of county commissioners in the respective county where the test is made, the owner of the reactor and a representative of the state live stock commission comprise the appraisal board. The amount of indemnity paid by the county and federal department is determined as follows: First the net amount of salvage is subtracted from the amount of appraisement and one third of the balance is paid to the owner by the county, one third by the federal government and the owner loses the remaining third. The following exceptions are made by the federal government in regard to indemnity; in no case will the government pay more than the county, no indemnity is allowed on grade bulls and a limit of \$25.00 is made for grade and \$50.00 for purebred animals.

Our policy in modified free area work is to employ local veterinarians in addition to our regular force and pay them upon a per head basis. We have found that 13 cents per head is a satisfactory rate both to the veterinarians and to the state.

The modified free area plan of testing has proven very successful throughout the United States. In Kansas it is meeting with general approval with little or no opposition when properly explained. We now have 21 counties fully accredited, 7 counties in which the test is now in progress and 7 additional counties which have filed the required petitions and are on the waiting list. When the test in these counties is completed and certified by the government we will have 35 counties in Kansas, which record gives us a plane among the leading states in T.B. eradication work.

I might say here that in those counties in Kansas which were first to have the modified free area test, the hog producers have received already more premium money from the packers than was spent in making the test. The four large packers have agreed to pay a premium of 10 cents per hundred pounds



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for all hogs produced in modified free area counties.

To those who feel that our progress is slow in tuberculosis control work, I wish to read the following from Dr. Charles Mayo - the celebrated surgeon, "Thirty years ago the yearly deaths from tuberculosis in each 100,000 persons numbered 200; they are now well under 100. Tuberculosis is diminishing - it is possible to almost eliminate the disease in human beings as well as in animals."

It is a commonly accepted fact that approximately 25% of the tuberculosis in children is derived from infection of bovine sources. So as we are able to reduce and eliminate bovine tuberculosis we will reduce tuberculosis in the human family. We feel our tuberculosis campaign work is of material consequence to the health of our children and from a business standpoint is a good investment for the state and the counties.

Now if there are any questions which any of the county commissioners wish to ask regarding tuberculosis or any other branch of our activities we shall be glad to have them now.



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

Oct. 3, 1927

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

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 30th ult. with respect to the two reactor cattle consigned to Martin Bros. & Lee Commission Company on which no killing record has been obtained on a reactor bull.

In the last paragraph of your letter you state that you cannot say who was responsible for the error but that you were inclined to the opinion that the shipper failed to notify the Commission firm. You are advised that the shipper has nothing whatever to do with notifying a commission firm about reactors that are consigned to the Kansas City market. You should fully understand that the plan is when reactors are to be shipped that the owner or the shipper notify this office and we in turn notify you. Therefore, it is your duty to co-operate with the government in locating the reactor cattle. The records in this office show that you were notified of the shipment of the two reactors cattle consigned to Martin Bros. & Lee Commission Co.

Therefore, under the circumstances, either you were negligent and careless in not notifying the government agents specifically as to the shipment or did not properly co-operate with the government in endeavoring to locate the two reactor cattle, as per the notice given you. Hereafter when you are notified of reactor animals consigned to the Kansas City market I want some one of you to go with the government agent and locate the reactor animal as per notice given you by this office.

We have checked this matter back to its origin and find that the animal was branded with a "T" brand on the jaw and was properly ear tagged. It was a Guernsey bull about five years old and more than likely the bull that was sold by Martin Bros. & Lee at that time was the bull in question. In any event I do not want these matters to happen in this way again. Especially so when you get notice from this office that reactor cattle are being shipped from the Kansas City market. I want our office there to know that they were or were not shipped and you can't determine this by letting some one else do the checking.

Very truly yours,

JHM/m

Commissioner.



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J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER

TOPEKA  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Sept. 30th, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

In answer to your letter under date of Sept 28th in which you inquire further information regarding two reactors consigned to Martin Bros. & Lee Com. Co along with other cattle.

We have again taken the matter up with the Commission firm and also the Government employees, with substantially the same results.

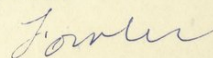
The Commission firm apparently did not know they were handling any reactors until the cow was observed at the scales with her condemned tag and brand. She was tagged by Dr. E. J. Cary after the Government employee assigned to this work had made inquiry at the office of the Commission firm following information from your office. After the cow was tagged, Dr. Cary called at the office of the Commission firm and also at their pens and could find no trace of the other reactor.

It developed later according to the records of the Company, they had sold a bull to the Cudahy Packing Co. straight which was evidently the animal.

It seems in this case hard to say just who is responsible for the error altho from the information obtained from the Government office, they did try to find the other reactor but failed. I am more inclined to the opinion the shipper failed to notify the Commission Firm and they therefore failed to cooperate with the Government employees here, however, I am convinced the animal was sold to the Cudahy Packing Co. and was slaughtered.

Yours truly,

TAF:EE







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

July 25, 1927

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

Dear Doctor:

You will recall the conference that we had with the stockyards and government on the 14th which had to do with the setting aside of pens in the Kansas City stockyards for the handling of tuberculin tested dairy and breeding cattle unloaded in the yards for feed and rest and also for the setting aside of pens for the handling of tubercular reactors.

We are very much in accord with strict attention being given to the handling of tuberculin tested cattle unloaded at the public market for feed and rest, and especially cattle destination Kansas. So far as the setting aside of pens in which you handle reactors is concerned, I want you to co-operate with the government inspectors in handling the Kansas reactors under this method. It is understood, however, should it interfere with the sale or the records in any way in connection with the Kansas reactors, that we will not continue it. So keep a close and careful record of the experiment so that we will know whether we want to follow the plan or not.

Dr. Carey made mention a time or two at the conference that reactor cattle quite often came to the yards without having been properly identified and that they were quite often sold for purposes other than immediate slaughter. From the fact that he stated that the Missouri plan in notifying his office of the shipment of reactors prevented any such happenings, I would take it that he was referring to the reactors shipped out of Kansas. I am writing him with respect to the matter and I am enclosing you a copy of the letter.

Our records here in this office show that the reactor cattle shipped from Kansas to the Kansas City market have been disposed of in line with the law. We have no record during the past year of any reactors not having been sold for immediate slaughter. If you know of any that have been sold otherwise, please report same to this office.

Very truly yours,

JHM/m

Commissioner.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
LOCAL OFFICE

800 Live Stock Exchange Building,  
Kansas City, Missouri.  
August 27, 1927.

Mr. J. H. Mercer,  
L. S. Sanitary Commissioner,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago during our conversation regarding the shipment of reactor cattle to the Kansas City Stock Yards, you requested that I advise you of any further incidents where reactors from Kansas were not properly handled and I am herewith reporting to you a case that happened this week.

August 24, 1927 the Long-Perry Commission Company notified Mr. Mayer of this office that they had a reactor cow that had been shipped from Redfield, Kansas but did not know who owned her. They showed him a roan cow that had no tag in the ear nor brand on the jaw, but claimed the man who accompanied the shipment told them the roan cow was the reactor. Mr. Mayer tagged this cow with U.S. Suspect tag C-693099 and she was sold to Armour & Company at .04 $\frac{1}{2}$  a pound and weighed 900 pounds. About 5:00 PM the same day, the Long-Perry Commission Company notified this office that they had received the manifest covering the load and found that a red cow identified with the mark "11" on the hip and owned by Ed. Simmons of Hiattville, Kansas was the reactor. This cow had been sold and weighed to Jacob Bros., speculators, and the roan cow had gone to the packers pens but Long-Perry got both of them back to their own pens and on the following morning Mr. Mayer removed the suspect tag from the roan cow and used it to identify the red cow, which also had no tag in the ear nor brand on the jaw. This cow was also sold to Armour & Company at .04 $\frac{1}{2}$  a pound and weighed 690 pounds.

It further developed that the reactor was out of another load and shipped from Hiattville, Kansas instead of Redfield, Kansas though both shipments were consigned by the Bourbon County Shipping Association.

Neither waybill was marked to indicate reactors were in the load, no certificate or permit was attached to the billing, and neither cow identified by a tag in the ear or a brand on the jaw.

Very respectfully,

*E. J. Cary*



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J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER

TOPEKA  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Sept. 9th, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Yours of Sept. 7th received regarding the reactor cow from Hiattsville, Kansas and following your instructions I have taken the matter up with Long-Perry Commission firm.

Mr. Long stated to me that he notified the Government office that they had a reactor cow in their pens from Bourbon County, so Chas. Meyers went to their pens and tagged a roan cow which the shipper pointed out to him and said he thought it to be the reactor cow which was in the shipment that came from Redfield, Kansas. Then later in the day, Mr. Long discovered that the Government had tagged the wrong cow and he notified them to that effect, explaining to them that they had made a mistake and tagged a cow in the load that had come from Redfield, instead of the reactor cow which was in the load from Hiattsville, Kansas. In other words, Long-Perry's help had given the wrong information to Mr. Meyers.

I am enclosing the two manifests which were in Mr. Long's possession at the time. Dr. Carey was advised about the reactor cow in their pens, so you can see by looking over the manifests that there was little reason for the mistake.

Yours very truly,

T A F : E E

*J. A. Fowler*

*W.C.P.  
8/24*



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

**INVOICE OF CATTLE AND CALVES**  
**BOURBON COUNTY SHIPPERS' ASSOCIATION.**

Hittsville, Kansas, 8-23-1927

Car No. \_\_\_\_\_ R. R. \_\_\_\_\_ Loaded at \_\_\_\_\_ A. M. \_\_\_\_\_

Shipped to Long Perry Com. Co. KCMo

**INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMISSION COMPANY.**

**CALVES.**

1. Grade Calves and sell on merit.
2. Weigh all calves together that sell at the same price as we average shrink.
3. Report marks on all but the largest lot of calves.
4. We do the pro-rating on both cattle and calves.
5. Mail original account of sales to Bourbon County Shippers' Association, Fort Scott, Kansas.
6. Remit proceeds to the Bourbon County Shipper's Association, Citizens National Bank, Fort Scott, Kansas.
7. Mail copy of account of sales to J. M. Mcnelly

**CATTLE.**

1. Sell all Cattle on merit.
2. Weigh cattle in separate lots according to ownership.
3. Report marks with sales.

Hittsville  
Address.

OWNER	Steers	Cows	Hf's	Bulls	Calves	Mark	Home Weight
Ed Simons		1 T.B. Cow				110N RH	678
" "					2	10N BK	345-
Wm Kappay	8		3			rimark	7110
E A Abbott	2					Jersey	1088
Irwin Woods		1	2		1	10N BK	3030
Geo Hartnett					1	10N RH	305-
R M Chambers					5	110N RH	1105
P H Klein					2	110N RH	375-
J. B. Seavers		3	2			10N RH	3920
H B Schoenstatt	1		1			110N RH	1560
Weigh to ownership J. M. Mcnelly							
That became of Ruptured pig that weighed 85 lbs in shipment of 8-9-27. Please let me know if it was dead. J. M. Mcnelly							



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

Oct. 4, 1927

F. A. Finch,  
Eureka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of the 1st instant.

On looking up our records we find that the W. H. Glunt herd of breeding cows has never been tested for tuberculosis during the last year at least. Neither has the Walter Hepler herd of cattle been tested for tuberculosis.

Therefore, in order to get your shipment through to Texas it will be necessary for you to get a permit from your state sanitary board authorizing the shipment to go forward to the state of Texas subject to their inspection and test at destination, etc. Otherwise the bulls and cows would have to be tested here before the railroad company would accept them for shipment.

I suggest that you write to H. F. Williams, state veterinarian, Fort Worth, Texas, and advise him of your purchase and also advise him that the cattle were purely range cattle and I am quite sure that he will issue you a permit for the shipment without the tuberculin test. I do not happen to know the name of the chairman of the Live Stock Sanitary Board but you could write the chairman of the Live Stock Sanitary Board at Fort Worth, Texas, if you happen to know him, as his office is located at Fort Worth, the same as the state veterinarian.

Should they not issue you the permit for the shipment advise us and we will arrange to have your cattle tested for you.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



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

F. A. FINCH  
BRAND: 9 ON LEFT HIP. EAR MARK: CROP LEFT EAR  
O. H. FINCH

FINCH BROTHERS  
RANCHES IN DONLEY AND HARTLEY COUNTIES, TEXAS  
GREENWOOD COUNTY, KANSAS

Eureka, Kas. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> 1927  
MERTINE, TEXAS

Joe Mercer  
Topeka, Kas.  
Dear Sir:-

Finch Bros will  
desire to move 92 cows 48 calvs.  
2 Bulls or the entire Breeding  
herd of William H. Glunt of  
Garrison, Kans. via Rock Island  
loading at Keets Kas. with  
destination Rehm, Texas,  
about Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>  
also 6 Bulls of the yearling  
age now belonging to Walter  
H. Hepler Manhattan Kas.

If there is any sanitary  
rules of this state or Texas  
regulating such movement  
will you please assist me  
or advise me to the effect.

yours Finch Bros.  
By F. A. Finch.



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J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

Livestock Exchange Building,  
Wichita, Kansas,  
October 4, 1927.

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

Dear Sir:

In accordance with instructions from Mr. West, I went to the State Training School at Winfield last Friday to investigate sickness they were having in new born pigs.

Up until last Friday they had lost about 75 pigs ranging from a day to a week old. Unfortunately they had destroyed all of the sick ones the day before my arrival, and I was unable to observe any of the sick animals or hold post-mortem, however the man in charge of the hogs said that the pigs were weak at birth and would begin to tremble, these symptoms would gradually become worse, they would become weak behind unable to stand and would die in two or three days. The pigs from the old sows being the only ones involved, those from the gilts seemed to be all right. I checked over carefully their methods and kind of feeding, and concluded it was a deficiency disease, that there was probably a lack of some essential vitamin in their diet. The symptoms would also point to a deficiency in lime and phosphorous, and a change of feed was recommended that would have a tendency to overcome a condition of this kind. The Jensen-Salsbery Laboratories at Kansas City, prepare a powdered drug containing a combination of lime, phosphorous, cod liver oil and etc intended to overcome conditions of this kind, and a hundred pound drum was ordered and instructions given as to the method of feeding.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Cook, and we had a nice visit, as I was detained for several hours on account of the storm.

Yours truly,

*H. F. Dutton*

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



J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

Topeka Kansas  
10-5-'27

Mr. J. W. Mercer,  
Live Stock Commissioner,  
Topeka Kansas,

Dear Sir: To day I made an investigation of a reported outbreak of Hog Cholera in Riley county. Dr Kilian informed me that he was busy vaccinating hogs. He further advised that in his opinion 95% of the hogs in Jewell township had recently been vaccinated and most of the farmers near an outbreak were getting their hogs vaccinated.

I called on Mr Copper, county agent, he stated that he and all of the local veterinarians in the county were co-operating in every way in an effort to control the disease. As soon as Mr Copper is notified of an outbreak he immediately sends out a circular letter to all farmers in the territory of the outbreak.

Mr Copper seems to think the local veterinarians are vaccinating nearly all hogs close to the farms that have infection on them. He advised me that Dr Fitch of the College was not a very good co-operator with the Farm Bureau and was not rendering much assistance in the control of the present outbreak of Cholera.

Very truly  
R. B. Christensen



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J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

Kansas City, Mo.  
Oct. 5th, 1927.

*Loether*

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Replying to your letter of the 3rd inst. regarding the two (2) reactors owned by H. Loether of Fredonia, Kansas, I wish to advise that every effort is made by me to locate all reactors coming from Kansas to this market, especially since you placed me in charge of the work here.

In order that you might have a more clear understanding as to how the reactor was lost I wish to submit you the following details. On Sept. 14th, I received your letter advising me that two reactors, tag Nos. 10539 and 10540, belonging to H. Loether of Fredonia were being shipped to Martin Bros. & Lee. Immediately, the Government office was notified to that effect and after making inquiries at the Commission firm's office and pens, it was found that they had no such shipment of cattle. Later in the day, when the cattle were being weighed, an employee of the commission firm noticed the cow branded "T", so he made further examination of the cow and found a condemned tag in her ear. At the same time, he examined the other cows in the lot and found no others tagged. He called up the Government office and some of the Government help was instructed by Dr. Cary to go down and tag the cow. The rest of the lot were weighed and let go on. If I am not mistaken Dr. Cary told me himself that there was only the one reactor in the load.

This shipment was billed from W. C. Blass to the Fowler Packing Co and unloaded at the Mistletoe Yards and driven over in the name of Blass, which might account for my inability to locate the Loether reactors. Perhaps I should have made further investigation myself after Dr. Cary told me there was no other reactor, but I naturally supposed he knew what he was talking about and took it for granted the other reactor was not in the load on account of the irregularity of the shipment.

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J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

Mercer -2

I am sure that you will readily see that there was a chance for the animal in question to get away under the circumstances and I do not believe you will still consider me negligent. I was in contact with the Government men when we were endeavoring to locate the reactor, but could get no further information. However in the future when such notices are received at this office, I will personally see that the reactor animals are located and tagged if possible.

Yours very truly,

TAF:EE

*J. A. Fowler*





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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

LOCAL OFFICE

614 South Buckeye Street,  
Topeka, Kansas, September 29, 1927.

*Loether*

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

Dear Doctor:

Replying to your letter of 28th instant concerning the H. Loether shipment of reactors from Fredonia, Kansas, you are advised that the Loether bull was branded. I have a distinct recollection of having branded the animal. Mr. C. E. Agnew, the county agent of that place assisted me in the branding operation. It was necessary to rope the bull and considerable effort was involved in the effort. The animal was a guernsey bull, dehorned, and about five years old.

It is possible that the brand was placed on the right jaw as there was some difficulty and danger in getting on the left side, however, I am not sure as to which side. I believe the brand was placed regularly and tagged likewise.

I am planning to make a retest of this herd soon, perhaps next week, and in that event will endeavor to investigate concerning the identity of the bull shipped.

Your M. I. Form 112F of September 16 showing animal tagged 10540 has been received.

Respectfully,

*E. C. Cannon*

Assistant Veterinarian.



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

September 30, 1927.

Mr. H. Loethor,  
Fredonia, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing herewith order drawn on the Board of County Commissioners of Wilson County for \$39.59. We are also enclosing account sale with check attached in the amount of \$9.46, issued by Martin Bros. & Lee Live Stock Commission Company, same being net proceeds from the sale of your reactor cow--tag No. 10540. Enclosed you will also find copy of account sale issued by Martin Bros. & Lee Live Stock Commission Company which shows that your reactor bull--tag No. 10539--brought a net of \$71.77. Check covering this amount was not sent to this office so we presume it was sent direct to you or to the shipper Mr. W. E. Blass. The government man at the Kansas City yards was unable to identify your reactor bull when he reached the yards but we have traced the matter and find that the animal was sold to a packer for immediate slaughter.

You will go before a notary public and qualify to this order and then present same, together with the attached copy of appraisal, to your Board of County Commissioners and they will issue you warrant on your County Treasurer covering same.

The enclosed order for \$39.59, checks in the amount of \$9.46 and \$71.77 issued by the commission company, together with check which will be sent you by the Federal Government, cover payment for your reactors as provided in section 47-615, Revised Statutes of 1923. This plan for paying indemnity has been agreed upon between the State and Federal Government and applies to all indemnities paid on cattle which are condemned as being tuberculous under cooperative state and federal accredited herd tests.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM:A



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

September 28, 1927.

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

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 23rd instant regarding the Loether bull wish to say that it would seem the government man there at the yards was careless in looking for the two reactors which were reported to you as being in the load. The records in this office show that the two reactors in question were tested by Dr. E. C. Cannon, a federal veterinarian, and we feel sure the reactor bull was branded "1" on the left jaw in line with federal regulations. Therefore, the federal man at the yards should have been able to identify him even though he might have lost his tag.

Will you kindly advise who you think might be at fault in this case?

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JMI.A

71.77  
8.46  
81.23

71.77  
8.46  
81.23

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



J. H. MERCER  
COMMISSIONER

### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF  
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER  
TOPEKA

Kansas City, Mo.  
Sept. 23rd, 1927.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

In answer to your letter of the 21st regarding the five(5) reactors being handled by the Drum-Standish Com. Co. will advise that I took the matter up with them and they have promised to send the account of sales and checks to cover, to you this week.

Also forwarded the post mortems you made inquiry about covering the reactor tag No. 12190 and tag no's 12674 and 12675.

Ragland Commission Co. will send you an account of sales on the bulls they handled for Mr. Jarboe during the months of Oct. Nov. and Dec.

With reference to the two reactors which were supposed to have been shipped to Martin Bros and Lee and belonging to H Loether am forwarding you the account of sales in duplicate of the bull which sold at \$5.75. The animal was not sold subject however, as the Commission firm had no knowledge of its being a reactor. The Government man was unable to find two reactors in the load when he tagged the cow.

Yours very truly,

TAF:EE

*J. A. Fowler*



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

September 21, 1927.

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

Dear Sir:

Upon receipt of your letter of the 17th instant in which you advised that only one of the reactors belonging to H. Loether of Fredonia, Kansas, had reached the yards we wrote Mr. Loether to find out whether or not the reactor bull--tag No. 10539--had been shipped at the same time the cow was shipped. The following is a copy of the reply to our letter which we just received:

"I rec'd your letter today and called up the shipper Mr. L. L. Gillett and he told me that he had a check for me for \$77.60. The bull sold clear for \$5.75 per hundred.

Yours Resply

H. Loether"

From this letter we take it that the bull was shipped at the same time the cow was. Please call at Martin Bros. and see if you can trace the animal in question.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

4

Fredonia Kansas  
Sep 20 / 1927

Dear Sir F Reed.  
Yours letter to day and  
Called up the Shipen Mr  
J Y Gillett and he told  
me that he had a check  
for me for \$77.60 Cts  
the Bull sold to him  
for 6-75- Per Hundred  
Yours Reply H. Lorch



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

September 19, 1927.

Mr. H. Loether,  
Fredonia, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

On September 14 you wired this office advising that your two reactors--tag No. 10539 a bull and tag No. 10540 a cow--were being shipped to Martin Bros. & Lee. Upon receipt of the message we notified our Kansas City office of the shipment but we are advised by them this morning that only tag No. 10540 arrived at the yards.

In order that we may trace this matter if it is necessary, we will appreciate it if you will advise whether your reactor bull--tag No. 10539--was shipped at the same time you shipped your reactor cow.

Enclosed find self-addressed stamped envelope for your reply.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

A

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

September 14, 1927.

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

Dear Sir:

We are advised that two reactors--tag numbers 10539 and 10540--belonging to H. Loether of Fredonia, are being shipped to Martin Bros. & Lee today. These reactors are from an accredited herd and have been appraised.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

A





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

If it's  
**SPEED**  
you want  
*Don't  
Write~*  
**TELEGRAPH!**

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT      J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Form 1204

SYMBOLS	
BLUE	Day Letter
NITE	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
LCO	Deferred
CITY	Cable Letter
WLT	Week End Letter

KN - HOTEL KANSAS, Tel. 4252

25K AH 8

FREDONIA KANS 1010A SEPT 14 1927

J H MERCER

COMMISSIONER TOPEKA KANS

BULL AND COW SHIPPED MARTIN BROS AND LEE

H LOETHER

1032A

Fredonia Kansas June 16/1927  
Mr J H Mercer Dear Sir  
I will want to have these  
cattle appraised as it will be quite  
a loss to me to loose the Bull  
Yours Reply  
Hugo Lortner



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

June 14, 1927.

Mr. H. Loether,  
Fredonia, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of a tuberculin test record covering your herd of cattle, sent in by Dr. E. C. Cannon which shows that one pure-bred bull and a grade cow reacted to the test.

Our records show that your cattle are being handled under the accredited herd plan so we presume you will wish to have these reactors appraised and disposed of at once. In order that we may know just what steps to take, however, we will appreciate it if you will advise whether or not you wish an appraisal at this time.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

A

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

Oct. 7, 1927

Mrs. J. M. Fulton,  
Argonia, Kansas.

Dear Madam:

Following up our letter of recent date which had to do with sending a representative of the laboratory department of the Agricultural College to make investigation of the trouble among your cattle, I have a report from Dr. E. R. Frank who made the investigation. His diagnosis of the trouble is forage poisoning caused by your cattle eating green cane. He advises that your herd had broken in on green cane at two or three different times. He states that the last time your cattle were in the cane field was October 2 and that on last Monday 10 head were showing symptoms similar to those that died and that the 10 head were given a laxative treatment and apparently were all right on Tuesday.

Will you please advise me as to the present condition of your herd and as to whether or not you feel that this diagnosis of Dr. Frank's is a correct one. Trusting that you will have no further trouble, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



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

KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AND MEDICINE

October 5, 1927

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Acting upon instructions from your office October 3, I investigated the loss among the cattle on the farm of Mrs J. M. Fulton at Argonia, Kansas, and found the following conditions:

There were 57 head of cattle in one pasture, consisting of 46 head of six and seven year old cows and the rest were two and three year olds, also some young calves. One cow died three weeks ago. Then a number of animals broke into a small patch of cane and ate it. A week later after a second growth of cane had started to grow they again broke into this patch of cane and ate it. Eight head died the week following. The cattle were then removed from this pasture and only two died the next week.

The symptoms noted were loss of appetite, rapid emaciation, staggering gait, jaundiced mucous membranes and animals died within four or five days after becoming sick.

Sunday, October 2, the cattle broke into another patch of cane and Monday ten head were showing symptoms similar to those that died. These ten head were given a physic on Monday and Tuesday they were apparently alright.

The only available animal for post mortem was a cow that had been dead for two days. The only pathologic lesion noted was an extensive catarrhal enteritis (extensive inflammation of the intestinal lining).

The only animals that died or were apparently affected were the older cows and one bull.

A diagnosis of forage poisoning was made.

Enclosed you will find expense account incurred on this trip.

Yours very truly,

*E. R. Frank*  
E. R. Frank  
Instructor

ERF:GEC