

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

Section 64, Pages 1891 - 1920

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

Office Marble Bldg.

Phone 1900

Co-operative Extension Work
IN
Agriculture and Home Economics
State of Kansas

Kansas State Agricultural College
U. S. Department of Agriculture
and Bourbon County Farm
Bureau, Co-operating.

Extension Service County Agent
and Home Demonstration
Agent Work.

Fort Scott, Kansas

July 21, 1928

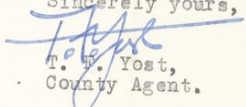
Mr. J. H. Mercer
Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner
State House Topeka, Ks.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

I desire to reply to your letter dated July 19, 1928. In Bourbon County we have a rather simple situation with reference to carrying out the tattooing requirements. At least $\frac{1}{2}$ the hogs shipped from here in this county are handled by the Bourbon Counties Shippers Association which has about 6 or 7 local shipping managers. The county organization has purchased a tattooing instrument for each of these managers and requires their use. Several of the private shippers in the County have also purchased these instruments.

I believe there will be absolutely no difficulty in enforcing this requirement in Bourbon County. I think there is a common understanding of this requirement among the hog raisers, with of course a few possible exceptions.

Sincerely yours,


T. W. Yost,
County Agent.

TFY:RRC



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

Office
At the Court House
Phone 371

Residence
418 Wisconsin Ave.
Phone 686

Co-operative Extension Work
In
Agriculture and Home Economics
State of Kansas

Kansas State Agricultural College,
U. S. Department of Agriculture and
Jackson Co. Farm Bureau co-operating

Extension Service
County Agent Work

HOLTON, KANSAS,
July 20, 1928

J. H. Mercer
State House
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Mercer:

I have your letter in regard to the tattooing of hogs.

Some of our shippers have been using tattoo markers part of the time for the last two years. They did this with the understanding that the infection could be traced down to the individual farms. When they discovered that all of the shippers were not using the instruments they in turn did not keep up tattooing. Since the first of July the shippers at Mayetta, Larkin, Holton, Netawaka, Soldier and Circleville have commenced tattooing again. In addition to these instruments which are in the hands of shippers the State Bank of Whiting bought a set of instruments for their patrons. We also have one here at the Farm Bureau office. One or two truckers also have instruments so at the present time there is one or more sets of instruments in all of the towns with the exception of Hoyt and Delia.

I really feel that most of the people are fairly well sold on the idea of tattooing but some of them are not going to the trouble of doing it and will thus lose the ten cent premium.

I really believe that if your office can spend some time in these accredited counties investigating the poultry and the re-testing the cattle on the infested farms and check up the work in these counties they ought to be clean enough so that tattooing can be discontinued.

Yours truly,

N. F. Tagge
County Agent

HFT:B



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

Office, Ogg Building

Telephone 147

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

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

Extension Service
County Agent Work

July 19, 1928

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

I have your favor of July 18th, relative to the tattooing of hogs in the clean area counties. This county is probably a little differently situated than most of the clean area counties in the state. Since the majority of the hogs which go to the market go by trucks and not through shipping associations.

There are at present about ten tattooing outfits in the county. These are owned for the most part, by the truck drivers and in this way, serve a larger group of farmers than if the instrument is owned by a group of farmers than by a bank, etc.

In regard to the feeling of hog producers about the new requirement, tattooing. There is perversity of opinion, some of the producers are glad to use it, in that it will make identification of hogs positive and there will be much less trouble in checking up on diseases. However the majority I believe, feel that the packer is using this as another means of avoiding the payment of the 10¢ a hundred premium. And that it is just a matter of time until they cease to pay altogether. Some of the farmers go so far as to say that they want them tattooed so that the packer may bid 10¢ under and allow for the premium this way.

Undoubtedly there will be a large number of hog producers who will not go to the trouble of tattooing to secure this 10¢ premium.

I would like to know what the experience of the other agents over the state has been in regard to this requirement.

Very truly yours,

C.A. Jones
C.A. Jones,
County Agent.

CAJ*H



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

Office Day Saturday

Telephone 4068

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

State of Kansas

Kansas State Agricultural College
U. S. Department of Agriculture and
Pratt County Farm Bureau Co-operating

Extension Service
County Agent Work
Home Demonstration Work

PRATT, KANSAS

7 - 19 - 28

J. H. Mercer,
State Live Stock Commissioner,
Topeka, Ks.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Your letter concerning the requirement for premiums on hogs from T. B. clean counties received and will say that we have taken it up with quite a number of hog raisers and bankers and have met with no serious objections. Most of the banks are willing to cooperate and own tattooing irons and a few of the farmers are getting irons of their own and a private mark.

I find that this method is going to be somewhat inconvenient for the fellow who just has a few hogs to sell and if some modification of this ruling could be worked out I feel that it would be greatly appreciated.

The T. B. work has met with very good favor in this county and everyone seems well pleased with being in an accredited county.

Very truly,

C. H. Stinson
C. H. Stinson,
County Agent.

CHS:LA

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

OFFICE-COURT HOUSE

OFFICE PHONE 148

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

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

EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT WORK

LYONS, KANSAS

July 19, 1928

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

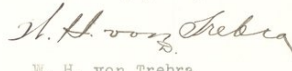
Dear Mr. Mercer:

I have your letter of the 18th regarding the tattooing of hogs in order to obtain the 10¢ per hundred premium. Two shippers in the county have ordered tattoo instruments; several others have been inquiring about the tattooing. Just at the present time, practically all marketable hogs have been shipped out, and there is nothing much left except the spring pig crop which of course is not ready for the market.

Just at present I do not have in mind any modifications of the packers order which might be used instead of the tattooing. However, if all counties were tested, it looks like hogs going into the big markets, from Kansas, could be run into separate pens and labeled "Kansas Hogs."

If we could get the whole state tested and declared a modified free area, and our hogs marketed as hogs from the T.B. free area, I believe it would give the state considerable advertising as a healthy place to live. Of course it would be unwise to do any advertising unless the percent of retentions were small.

Very truly yours,

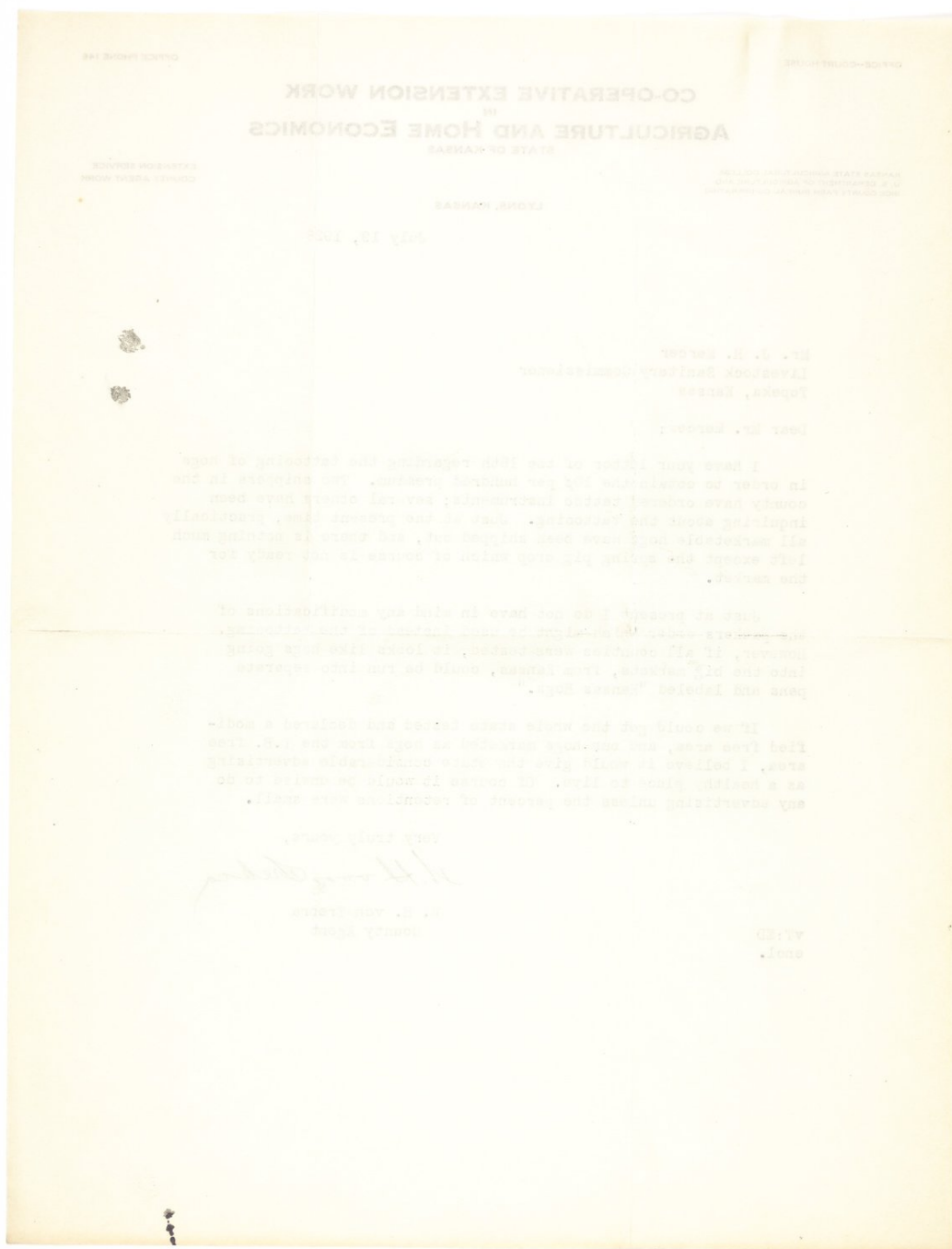


W. H. von Trebra
County Agent

vt:ED
encl.



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





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

Office in Court House

Telephone 137

Co-Operative Extension Work

—in—

Agriculture and Home Economics

State of Kansas

Kansas State Agricultural College
U. S. Department of Agriculture and
Coffey County Farm Bureau Co-Operating

Burlington, Kansas

Extension Service
County Agent Work

July 20, 1928

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Have your letter of July 19 in regard to tattooing hogs. All of the hog buyers and also all of the shipping association managers have purchased a tattooing instrument and are tattooing the hogs which go out of Coffey County. We are meeting with good cooperation with all the fellows along this line. The only trouble we are going to meet now is where an individual farmer ships a car load of hogs. It will be up to him to borrow one of the instruments from a shipping association or buy one, which I think he can do easily enough. However I imagine that a lot of individual farmers will neglect the tattooing. As far as what the producers think, most of the people in Coffey County are in favor or at least not antagonistic to the idea. Most of the people in this county are in favor of T. B. eradication. Only a few of the strongest Bolshevicks are still holding out. The truth of the matter is you hear very little adverse criticism against t. b. eradication.

Very truly yours,

E. A. Cleavinger
E. A. Cleavinger,
County Agent.

C:W



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

GEO. F. BIGHAM, PRESIDENT
F. B. LOBENSTEIN, VICE-PRESIDENT
MRS. GEO. H. JOHNSON, SECRETARY
S. J. WHITEHEAD, TREASURER



R. L. VON TREBA, COUNTY AGENT
MISS HELEN FRANCES NORTHUP
HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT
MRS. R. C. WILSON,
HOME AND COMMUNITY CHAIRMAN

WYANDOTTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PHONE DREXEL 1600
COURT HOUSE
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

July 20, 1928.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

I have your letter regarding the
tattooing of hogs located in clean area counties,
which has been required by the packers.

The Wyandotte County Farm Bureau
has purchased a tattoo marker and placed it in the
office of Dr. Croll and Hadley, Veterinarians, at
4th and State Ave., Kansas City, Kansas, where it is
convenient for all farmers who are trucking hogs to
the market. They can stop and have the tattooing done
any time of day.

I do not believe the hog producers in
Wyandotte County are kicking about this requirement.
We have arranged for this tattooing to be done for a
charge of 4¢ per head to cover the cost of the oper-
ation.

Since we have so many small producers,
some who only sell 12 to 15 hogs per year, we did not
think it quite fair that they should be required to buy
a tattoo marker at \$10.00.

I am not in favor of the price of these
markers. \$10.00 is really more than it is worth, I
really think it should be sold for from \$3.00 to \$5.00,
and then leave an enormous profit for the dealer.

Yours very truly,

R. L. von Trebra
R. L. von Trebra,
County Agent.

RLV/DLS.



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

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN

Agriculture and Home Economics

STATE OF KANSAS

KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND LEAVENWORTH COUNTY FARM BUREAU
CO-OPERATING

EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT WORK
HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK
TELEPHONE 3100

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

July 19, 1928

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

In reply to your letter of July 18, will state that I talked with Mr. Cuff several times relative to the tatooing of hogs and have made arrangements in this county to have the truck drivers handle this work as much as possible. At the present time we have 20 truck drivers in the county who have secured tatoo outfits to do this tatoo work and in that way secure the 10¢ premium for the hog growers of the county.

Of course we have had a few complaints from the tatooing of the hogs to the effect that the packer was making this regulation in order to keep from paying the 10¢ premium but as a whole, the farmers have entered into the spirit of this proposition in a very fine way and most of them realize that this will make it possible to get a direct check on the farms from which hogs that are retained, are shipped and in this way enable us to help clean tuberculosis out of the county. We feel that Leavenworth County and any other county within trucking distance of the market are under more or less of a handicap as far as the tatoo requirement is concerned, but at the same time we feel that it is a mighty fine thing and have been surprised at the splendid cooperation that we have secured through the truck drivers, as we feel that this is the most logical method of handling the proposition. In the counties farther away from market where all shipments are made by train, I would think it would be a very simple proposition to have a tatoo instrument at the shipping yards and it would require only a very few minutes to tatoo the hogs as they were brought in by the farmers.

With the cooperation that our people are showing I believe that Leavenworth County will continue to receive almost as much money through the 10¢ premium as they have in the past. Of course we will be able to tell about this much better after a few months operation. If I can be of any further service or if you have any recommendations to make, we will certainly be glad to receive same.

Very truly yours,

E. H. Leker
E. H. Leker, County Agent

EHL:G

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

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

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

EXTENSION SERVICE, COUNTY AGENT WORK
OFFICE CITY AUDITORIUM
TELEPHONE 1071

NEWTON, KANSAS

July 20, 1928

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:-

I have your letter of the 18th relative to the matter of tattooing hogs.


Thru this office we have held a tattooing demonstration in each township of the county for the purpose of acquainting farmers with the method of tattooing and also to acquaint them with the fact that it will be necessary for the hogs to be tattooed if they secure the premium.

Some of the truck drivers of the county have secured tattoo instruments for the use of their patrons. Due to the fact that practically all the hogs in this county are trucked to Wichita, I do not know of a better method than this which will enable the farmers to get their hogs tattooed.

I understand there are tattoo outfits which may be secured for around two to three dollars which it would probably be practical for individual ownership, especially with those who have larger number of hogs.

Many of the farmers of the county think this is simply another method which the packers are using to get out of paying the premium. Many of them think that the packers do not pay up within 10 cents of the price which they would receive if we were not an accredited county, and in that way take care of the 10 cent premium.

Yours truly



Ray L. Graves,
County Agent.

RLG/gh

P.S. I am enclosing herewith 4 application blanks for tuberculin test under the accredited herd plan.

RLG



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

July 7, 1928

Mr. L. F. Swift, President,
Swift & Company,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago a pamphlet was sent out from Chicago entitled "Tattooing Hogs." This pamphlet sets out that on and after July 1, 1928, it would be necessary to tattoo all hogs originating in tuberculosis free area accredited counties in order to secure the 10¢ a hundred premium. This pamphlet is signed by H. R. Smith, Live Stock Commissioner, Chicago, Ill. It is my understanding that Mr. Smith represents the National Live Stock Exchange. I am calling your attention to this matter for the reason that this change has created considerable commotion among the hog producers located in the free area counties in Kansas. You perhaps know that we have 35 counties in Kansas now on the accredited list. I fully understand, of course, that this 10¢ a hundred premium is a voluntary payment on the part of the packer and it is the packers' business as to whether or not he wants to continue to pay the 10¢ premium and also under what conditions he will continue to pay same.

However, I have not as yet seen any order from any packer calling for the tattooing or marking of hogs in any way from free area counties relative to the 10¢ a hundred premium. If the Live Stock Commissioners of the National Live Stock and local exchanges were the officers handling this proposition then it would make no difference to the state officials conducting the tuberculosis free area work, but since the state and government officials are conducting this work and are the only sources through which the farmer deals and to whom he looks for his information in connection with these matters, therefore, it seems to us that the packer should make his own rulings through his own agencies with respect to these matters.

I have not advised a single shipper that the packers are requiring the tattooing of hogs nor will I do so until the packers advise me that he requires same or advises me that Mr. Smith and other live stock commissioners stationed at the public markets is his agent and authorized to speak for him. The tattooing of all hogs originating in county tuberculosis free area territory is something that it is not going to be possible to do entirely. It may be that the local hog shipper can be persuaded and educated to comply with a requirement of this kind but the farmer who produces a few hogs a year and ships them in co-operation with his neighbor will in many instances not know anything about the requirement until he reaches the market, and of course if he fails to receive his premium he will be greatly disappointed and will blame the sanitary officials for same.

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

Swift -2-

Therefore, I want the packers to indicate to me just what they demand and if it is possible for the hog producers in Kansas to meet the packers requirement we will undertake to assist them in doing so. Otherwise, we will undertake to secure an outlet for these free area hogs on which the producers will receive a premium for his efforts in eradication of tuberculosis and other diseases on his farm. I am of the opinion that the bigness of this tuberculosis eradication campaign is only actually known by state and federal officials engaged in the work and the outside interference from any source is a handicap and retards the progress of our work.

It would have been much better in my judgment had the packers never offered a 10¢ a hundred premium if they are going to adopt a cumbersome policy of requirements that the farmer will not undertake to meet. The 10¢ a hundred premium voluntarily offered by the packer has been one of the good talking points with federal and state sanitary officials in securing the co-operation and interest of the farmers, and of course, any interference with the program will be more or less of a handicap in the progress of our work in the future.

The would-be assistance in these big undertakings such as the exchange live stock commissioners, turns out usually to be a handicap in constructive progress rather than a help. Of course, they can and have been of great help in certain lines but when they undertake to adopt policies for sanitary officials and farmers to follow they become obstructionists. Nothing should have interfered with the tuberculosis eradication program in the United States until all or most of the states had at least completed the county area work, then in order to get a closer check it might have been advisable to go into the question of eradication of avian tuberculosis and establish a check in some way in locating the origin of tuberculosis in cattle and hogs shipped to our public markets for immediate slaughter. But to undertake to do all of these things now will result in retarding the county area tuberculosis work. It makes the program too big. Therefore, so far as Kansas is concerned, we do not intend to permit any unnecessary interference.

I am sure that the packers are very much interested in the disease control work being carried on by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the sanitary departments of the various states. I want you to know that I personally appreciate your co-operation and I am giving you this outline of our views so that you will understand what difficulties sanitary officials have to contend with and respectfully request your careful consideration of these matters rather than to listen to the suggestions and opinions of others who do not actually come in contact with the work at hand. I am sending this letter to other packers who have been paying the 10¢ premium on hogs originating in county tuberculosis free area territory. Will be pleased to have you write me fully concerning the subject.

Thanking you for an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M



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

July 7, 1928

Mr. Edward Cudahy, President,
Cudahy & Co.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago a pamphlet was sent out from Chicago entitled "Tattooing Hogs." This pamphlet sets out that on and after July 1, 1928, it would be necessary to tattoo all hogs originating in tuberculosis free area accredited counties in order to secure the 10¢ a hundred premium. This pamphlet is signed by R. R. Smith, Live Stock Commissioner, Chicago, Illinois. It is my understanding that Mr. Smith represents the National Live Stock Exchange. I am calling your attention to this matter for the reason that this change has created considerable commotion among the hog producers located in the free area counties in Kansas. You perhaps know that we have 35 counties in Kansas now on the accredited list. I fully understand, of course, that this 10¢ a hundred premium is a voluntary payment on the part of the packer and it is the packers' business as to whether or not he wants to continue to pay the 10¢ premium and also under what conditions he will continue to pay same.

However, I have not as yet seen any order from any packer calling for the tattooing or marking of hogs in any way from free area counties relative to the 10¢ a hundred premium. If the Live Stock Commissioners of the National Live Stock and local exchanges were the officers handling this proposition then it would make no difference to the state officials conducting the tuberculosis free area work, but since the state and government officials are conducting this work and are the only sources through which the farmer deals and to whom he looks for his information in connection with these matters, therefore, it seems to us that the packer should make his own rulings through his own agencies with respect to these matters.

I have not advised a single shipper that the packers are requiring the tattooing of hogs nor will I do so until the packers advise me that he requires same or advises me that Mr. Smith and other live stock commissioners stationed at the public markets is his agent and authorized to speak for him. The tattooing of all hogs originating in county tuberculosis free area territory is something that it is not going to be possible to do entirely. It may be that the local hog shipper can be persuaded and educated to comply with a requirement of this kind but the farmer who produces a few hogs a year and ships them in co-operation with his neighbor will in many instances not know anything about the requirement until he reaches the market, and of course if he fails to receive his premium he will be greatly disappointed and will blame the sanitary officials for same.



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

Cudahy -2-

Therefore, I want the packers to indicate to me just what they demand and if it is possible for the hog producers in Kansas to meet the packers requirement we will undertake to assist them in doing so. Otherwise, we will undertake to secure an outlet for these free area hogs on which the producers will receive a premium for his efforts in eradication of tuberculosis and other diseases on his farm. I am of the opinion that the bigness of this tuberculosis eradication campaign is only actually known by state and federal officials engaged in the work and the outside interference from any source is a handicap and retards the progress of our work.

It would have been much better in my judgment had the packers never offered a 10¢ a hundred premium if they are going to adopt a cumbersome policy of requirements that the farmer will not undertake to meet. The 10¢ a hundred premium voluntarily offered by the packer has been one of the good talking points with federal and state sanitary officials in securing the co-operation and interest of the farmers, and of course, any interference with the program will be more or less of a handicap in the progress of our work in the future.

The would-be assistance in these big undertakings such as the exchange live stock commissioners, turns out usually to be a handicap in constructive progress rather than a help. Of course, they can and have been of great help in certain lines but when they undertake to adopt policies for sanitary officials and farmers to follow they become obstructionists. Nothing should have interfered with the tuberculosis eradication program in the United States until all or most of the states had at least completed the county area work, then in order to get a closer check it might have been advisable to go into the question of eradication of avian tuberculosis and establish a check in some way in locating the origin of tuberculosis in cattle and hogs shipped to our public markets for immediate slaughter. But to undertake to do all of these things now will result in retarding the county area tuberculosis work. It makes the program too big. Therefore, so far as Kansas is concerned, we do not intend to permit any unnecessary interference.

I am sure that the packers are very much interested in the disease control work being carried on by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the sanitary departments of the various states. I want you to know that I personally appreciate your co-operation and I am giving you this outline of our views so that you will understand what difficulties sanitary officials have to contend with and respectfully request your careful consideration of these matters rather than to listen to the suggestions and opinions of others who do not actually come in contact with the work at hand. I am sending this letter to other packers who have been paying the 10¢ premium on hogs originating in county tuberculosis free area territory. Will be pleased to have you write me fully concerning the subject.

Thanking you for an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



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

July 7, 1928

Mr. Edson White, President,
Armour & Co.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago a pamphlet was sent out from Chicago entitled "Tattooing Hogs." This pamphlet sets out that on and after July 1, 1928, it would be necessary to tattoo all hogs originating in tuberculosis free area accredited counties in order to secure the 10¢ a hundred premium. This pamphlet is signed by H. R. Smith, Live Stock Commissioner, Chicago, Illinois. It is my understanding that Mr. Smith represents the National Live Stock Exchange. I am calling your attention to this matter for the reason that this change has created considerable commotion among the hog producers located in the free area counties in Kansas. You perhaps know that we have 35 counties in Kansas now on the accredited list. I fully understand, of course, that this 10¢ a hundred premium is a voluntary payment on the part of the packer and it is the packers' business as to whether or not he wants to continue to pay the 10¢ premium and also under what conditions he will continue to pay same.

However, I have not as yet seen any order from any packer calling for the tattooing or marking of hogs in any way from free area counties relative to the 10¢ a hundred premium. If the Live Stock Commissioners of the National Live Stock and local exchanges were the officers handling this proposition then it would make no difference to the state officials conducting the tuberculosis free area work, but since the state and government officials are conducting this work and are the only sources through which the farmer deals and to whom he looks for his information in connection with these matters, therefore, it seems to us that the packer should make his own rulings through his own agencies with respect to these matters.

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

White -2-

Therefore, I want the packers to indicate to me just what they demand and if it is possible for the hog producers in Kansas to meet the packers requirement we will undertake to assist them in doing so. Otherwise, we will undertake to secure an outlet for these free area hogs on which the producers will receive a premium for his efforts in eradication of tuberculosis and other diseases on his farm. I am of the opinion that the bigness of this tuberculosis eradication campaign is only actually known by state and federal officials engaged in the work and the outside interference from any source is a handicap and retards the progress of our work.

It would have been much better in my judgment had the packers never offered a 10% a hundred premium if they are going to adopt a cumbersome policy of requirements that the farmer will not undertake to meet. The 10% a hundred premium voluntarily offered by the packer has been one of the good talking points with federal and state sanitary officials in securing the co-operation and interest of the farmers, and of course, any interference with the program will be more or less of a handicap in the progress of our work in the future.

The would-be assistance in these big undertakings such as the exchange live stock commissioners, turns out usually to be a handicap in constructive progress rather than a help. Of course, they can and have been of great help in certain lines but when they undertake to adopt policies for sanitary officials and farmers to follow they become obstructionists. Nothing should have interfered with the tuberculosis eradication program in the United States until all or most of the states had at least completed the county area work, then in order to get a closer check it might have been advisable to go into the question of eradication of avian tuberculosis and establish a check in some way in locating the origin of tuberculosis in cattle and hogs shipped to our public markets for immediate slaughter. But to undertake to do all of these things now will result in retarding the county area tuberculosis work. It makes the program too big. Therefore, so far as Kansas is concerned, we do not intend to permit any unnecessary interference.

I am sure that the packers are very much interested in the disease control work being carried on by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the sanitary departments of the various states. I want you to know that I personally appreciate your co-operation and I am giving you this outline of our views so that you will understand what difficulties sanitary officials have to contend with and respectfully request your careful consideration of these matters rather than to listen to the suggestions and opinions of others who do not actually come in contact with the work at hand. I am sending this letter to other packers who have been paying the 10% premium on hogs originating in county tuberculosis free area territory. Will be pleased to have you write me fully concerning the subject.

Thanking you for an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



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

July 7, 1928

Mr. Thomas E. Wilson, President,
Wilson & Company,
Union Stock Yards,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago a pamphlet was sent out from Chicago entitled "Tattooing Hogs." This pamphlet sets out that on and after July 1, 1928, it would be necessary to tattoo all hogs originating in tuberculosis free area accredited counties in order to secure the 10¢ a hundred premium. This pamphlet is signed by H. R. Smith, Live Stock Commissioner, Chicago, Illinois. It is my understanding that Mr. Smith represents the National Live Stock Exchange. I am calling your attention to this matter for the reason that this change has created considerable commotion among the hog producers located in the free area counties in Kansas. You perhaps know that we have 35 counties in Kansas now on the accredited list. I fully understand, of course, that this 10¢ a hundred premium is a voluntary payment on the part of the packer and it is the packers' business as to whether or not he wants to continue to pay the 10¢ premium and also under what conditions he will continue to pay same.

However, I have not as yet seen any order from any packer calling for the tattooing or marking of hogs in any way from free area counties relative to the 10¢ a hundred premium. If the Live Stock Commissioners of the National Live Stock and local exchanges were the officers handling this proposition then it would make no difference to the state officials conducting the tuberculosis free area work, but since the state and government officials are conducting this work and are the only sources through which the farmer deals and to whom he looks for his information in connection with these matters, therefore, it seems to us that the packer should make his own rulings through his own agencies with respect to these matters.

I have not advised a single shipper that the packers are requiring the tattooing of hogs nor will I do so until the packers advise me that he requires same or advises me that Mr. Smith and other live stock commissioners stationed at the public markets is his agent and authorized to speak for him. The tattooing of all hogs originating in county tuberculosis free area territory is something that it is not going to be possible to do entirely. It may be that the local hog shipper can be persuaded and educated to comply with a requirement of this kind but the farmer who produces a few hogs a year and ships them in co-operation with his neighbor will in many instances not know anything about the requirement until he reaches the market, and of course if he fails to receive his premium he will be greatly disappointed and will blame the sanitary officials for same.



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

Wilson 2-

Therefore, I want the packers to indicate to me just what they demand and if it is possible for the hog producers in Kansas to meet the packers requirement we will undertake to assist them in doing so. Otherwise, we will undertake to secure an outlet for these free area hogs on which the producers will receive a premium for his efforts in eradication of tuberculosis and other diseases on his farm. I am of the opinion that the bigness of this tuberculosis eradication campaign is only actually known by state and federal officials engaged in the work and the outside interference from any source is a handicap and retards the progress of our work.

It would have been much better in my judgment had the packers never offered a 10¢ a hundred premium if they are going to adopt a cumbersome policy of requirements that the farmer will not undertake to meet. The 10¢ a hundred premium voluntarily offered by the packer has been one of the good talking points with federal and state sanitary officials in securing the co-operation and interest of the farmers., and of course, any interference with the program will be more or less of a handicap in the progress of our work in the future.

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I am sure that the packers are very much interested in the disease control work being carried on by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the sanitary departments of the various states. I want you to know that I personally appreciate your co-operation and I am giving you this outline of our views so that you will understand what difficulties sanitary officials have to contend with and respectfully request your careful consideration of these matters rather than to listen to the suggestions and opinions of others who do not actually come in contact with the work at hand. I am sending this letter to other packers who have been paying the 10¢ premium on hogs originating in county tuberculosis free area territory. Will be pleased to have you write me fully concerning the subject.

Thanking you for an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

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

The Cudahy Packing Co.

111 W. MONROE ST.

CHICAGO

July 12th, 1928.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Your letter to Mr. Edward Cudahy has been referred to me in his absence and I will endeavor to outline to you our position on the whole thing and sincerely trust that it meets with your own ideas.

In the beginning, when we went into this proposition of paying premiums on Hogs, it was rather a simple matter to handle as the lots of accredited Hogs were limited and it was rather easy to follow the results on each lot. However, with the rapidly increasing number of accredited counties, not alone in Kansas, but in other parts of the corn belt, the proposition assumed such gigantic proportions that it was absolutely necessary to devise some method to follow up the results of the campaign, as without some new method being devised, all of the benefits of the premium, as far as information is concerned, would be lost.

The proposition was discussed at various meetings of the Sanitary Committee of the National Live Stock Exchange, on which committee the packers and the commission men were represented.

At some of our houses we will kill as high as five or six thousand Hogs per day and when we are running at all heavy it is absolutely impossible to segregate these lots from accredited counties and keep any track of them and it was finally decided that the only way in which this work could be followed up would be to have all the Hogs in these accredited areas tattooed as by following this method, if any infection developed we could then immediately locate the farm where the infection was present and take the necessary steps to have it removed.

The Sanitary Committee of the National Live Stock Exchange then delegated Mr. H. R. Smith, its commissioner, to promulgate this information in such a way that everyone interested would be informed. The notice was published in all of the Live Stock papers at the principal central markets, the county agents of all accredited counties were advised and were supplied with pamphlets for distribution among the producers and shippers, and where Hogs were received "direct" at any plants, those packers furnished pamphlets to the shippers who shipped directly to them. In fact, everything that could be thought of was done to broadcast the information.

We understand that some of the smaller packers have for some time been working on this tattoo system and it has worked out very satisfactorily for all concerned.



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

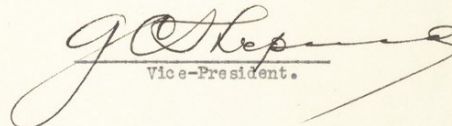
Page 2.

We would certainly be grateful to you for your assistance and co-operation in carrying out this program, as without some plan of this kind it will be impossible for the packers to identify the infected Hogs and therefore impossible to notify the proper authorities of the existence of infection in particular localities. We know that you have been enthusiastic yourself on this question of eradicating tuberculosis and as stated before, we sincerely hope that you will co-operate with us in carrying out our program.

Yours very truly,

THE CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY,

GCS:EB


Vice-President.

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

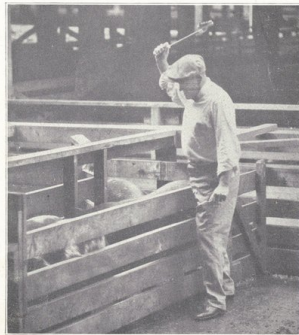
TATTOOING HOGS

from

**ACCREDITED
COUNTIES**

**{ AN AID TO
The Complete
Eradication of
Tuberculosis }**

On July 1, 1928, and thereafter, the premium of ten cents per hundred will be paid only on accredited hogs properly tattooed for identification and certified as such



**The Marker Pricks the Letters Into
Skin, But Does Not Bruise**

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

Tattooing Accredited Hogs

As an aid to the eradication of Tuberculosis in live stock, and as a recognition of the increased value of hogs found on post-mortem inspection to be practically free from Tuberculosis, many of the packing companies, during the past few years, have been paying voluntarily a premium of ten cents per hundred live weight, on hogs bred and fed in counties which have adopted the "area plan" by which all cattle have been tuberculin tested, the reactors slaughtered and the county has been officially designated by the Government and state as a "Modified Accredited Area."

AVIAN OR FOWL TUBERCULOSIS IN HOGS

While the removal of practically all of the tuberculous cattle in accredited counties has reduced to a low percentage the number of hog carcasses condemned as a result of bovine infection, a considerable number of these accredited hogs are found after slaughter to have localized lesions of Tuberculosis in the glands of the throat and intestinal tract. These are designated by the Government inspectors as "retained for Tuberculosis." In many of these retentions the heads are condemned, resulting in a material loss to the buyer. Recent investigations show conclusively that a large proportion of these lesions are caused by the Avian type of Tuberculosis commonly found in poultry. Chickens infected with this disease frequently have nodules, filled with tubercular bacilli, attached to the intestines. The germs are expelled in the droppings and are picked up by the hogs with which the chickens are allowed to associate on the farm.

TATTOOING FOR IDENTIFICATION Effective July 1, 1928

There are a large number of hogs now coming from accredited counties in the United States. The premium money paid during the year 1927 totaled \$659,230.95, and will exceed \$1,500,000 during 1928.

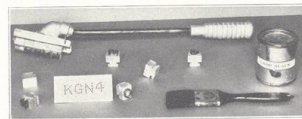
It is therefore no longer possible to kill each load separately in test lots, as heretofore, for the purpose of securing information as to freedom from Tuberculosis. Beginning July first, 1928, by action of the Committee in charge, all packing companies

will require that hogs from accredited counties, on which the premium of 10c per hundred is desired, must be properly tattooed before shipment so that these hogs can be killed in large droves and still be identified on the killing floor. The mark used must also be placed on the certificate opposite the name of the producer so that reference to the certificate will indicate the name and address of the producer.

WILL AID IN ERADICATION

Under the tattoo system of identification it will be possible to notify the producer of the hogs as to the results in the killing tests so that he may take steps to eliminate the disease from his poultry flock, which can be easily done by following instructions to be mailed to him. Chickens and hogs as well as cattle may be infected with Tuberculosis and yet show no outward evidences of the disease.

Tattooing is a simple, inexpensive process requiring very little time but it will give large results in removing a serious menace to the poultry industry as well as a heavy loss to the swine industry. The



Tattoo Instrument

accompanying illustration shows one of the approved tattoo markers with letters and numbers which produce a harmless, legible mark in the skin, observable after the hogs have gone through the scraping machine but not before.

CODE

The letters and numbers used in the marker are made of phonograph needles blunted at the points. The first letter represents the name of the state, the second letter the county in that state, and the third letter the shipping station or shipper in the county. One of these markers should be kept at each shipping station and the three letters can be left in the marker so long as that marker is used only at the one shipping station by the same shipper.

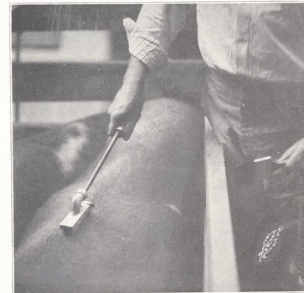
The fourth digit is a number and the first farmer who brings hogs to the shipping station should be given number one, the second number two, etc. A

large number of combinations can be had with two numbers. This will give a total of not to exceed five digits at any shipping point.

RECORDED PERMANENT BRAND DESIRABLE

Hogs may be tattooed at the farm several weeks before shipment, as the marks made with lamp black and oil are indelible in the skin. In many states plans have been made for inaugurating a system whereby each farm will have a permanent mark or brand. This is very desirable as a protection against stealing hogs, as well as a convenience in locating poultry flocks infected with tuberculosis by tracing hogs retained for this disease.

Under this system the first letter represents the state, the second letter the county in that state, the third letter or number the township in that county,



Tattoo Mark Just in Front of Shoulder Blade

the fourth letter or number the section in that township and the fifth letter the farm in that section. The location of the homestead in the section determines the letter which designates the particular farm.

If a farmer wishes a tattoo marker for his hogs only, this marker containing his five letters can be had for two dollars, whereas the markers made for the insertion of different combinations of letters cost five or six dollars each.

LAMP BLACK AND OIL USED

The substance used in making these marks is a common form of carbon, known as lamp black, mixed with linseed oil. The ordinary lubricating oil used in automobiles is entirely satisfactory. The two are mixed together in equal volume to form a thick

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paste and the material is put on the marker by dipping in a shallow box containing the paste or by using a paint brush.

The tattoo marker is held in one hand and with the handle box or brush in the other hand, the mixture of carbon and oil is spread over the digits after each hog has been slapped on the back of the neck just in front of the shoulder blade a little to one side of the backbone. A sharp stroke is required to penetrate the thick skin of the hog. This is scarcely felt because of the lack of nerves at the back of the neck. The hogs can be tattooed while on the truck or wagon before unloading or while in a small pen or on the scale or while passing through a gate partly opened. Where a large number of hogs are received a chute is sometimes provided at the shipping station. This should be about eighteen inches wide and thirty inches high.

After the hogs are slaughtered at the packing plant and the hair taken off by the scraping machines, the letters and numbers show clearly on the skin in the form of black dots outlining the letter or figure used, as shown by the accompanying photograph. No one wants Tuberculosis on his place. It is destructive to property and endangers the health of the family. Tattooing the hogs will determine whether or not it is present, so that steps can be taken promptly to eradicate the disease.

H. R. SMITH, Live Stock Commissioner, Room 4, Record Bldg., Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill.

KEY TO STATES FIRST LETTER

A—MICHIGAN	L—OKLAHOMA
B—INDIANA	M—MINNESOTA
D—OHIO	N—NEBRASKA
E—ILLINOIS	R—NORTH DAKOTA
I—IOWA	S—SOUTH DAKOTA
J—MISSOURI	T—MONTANA
K—KANSAS	W—WISCONSIN

For further information write the Live Stock Commissioner at your Market. They are as follows:
W. F. McKee, Live Stock Exchange Bldg., Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill.

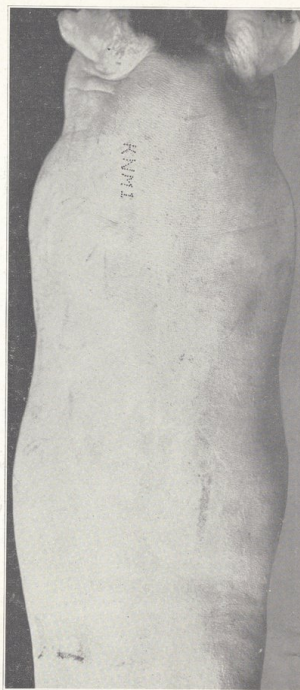
W. T. Spencer, Live Stock Ex. Bldg., Omaha, Neb.

R. L. Cuff, Live Stock Ex. Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

H. J. Boyts, Live Stock Ex. Bldg., Sioux City, Iowa.

W. A. Peck, Live Stock Exchange Bldg., South St. Paul, Minn.

A. J. Knilians, Janesville, Wis.





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



CHICAGO

July 12th, 1928.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. Mercer:

I have your letter of July 7th. I am sorry that you feel that you have not had sufficient notice with reference to the matter of requiring all hogs from accredited areas to be tattooed, providing the voluntary payment of 10¢ per hundred on the part of the Packers would be continued after July 1st.

This matter was under discussion for many months and the position of the Packers was clearly indicated to the Sanitary Committee of the National Live Stock Exchange, through which all of the activities tending toward the eradication of Tuberculosis have centred. Mr. Smith's pamphlet explained the plan adopted by the committee.

It is unfortunate that this information did not reach you in proper form for you to have notified the Shippers. The Packers' action on this matter was through the Committee, just the same as they would have acted on a matter handled through the National Live Stock and Meat Board, on which they have representation; that is, through the Chairman of that Board or the acting secretary, which in this case was Mr. Smith. The position was taken several months ago and this would have given ample time, had the proper notice been sent out, for the shippers to have properly equipped themselves to do the tattooing. The Packers and the Committee felt that in order to make the proper progress on the continuation of the work tending toward the eradication of Tuberculosis, that a means of identification is absolutely necessary, in



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

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order that the source of any infected animals could be traced so that proper sanitary means could be taken, looking toward the cleaning up of the premises and freeing it of both Bovine and Avian Tuberculosis; figuring that through this means only can the work already accomplished be maintained and further progress made.

I am sure we will have your full cooperation.

Yours very truly,

Thos. E. Wilson

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



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

Swift & Company
So. St. Joseph, Mo.



July 11, 1928.

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

Dear Sir:

REPORT ON FIRST WEEK'S KILLING OF TATTOOED HOGS

On July 6 we completed our first week of killing tattooed hogs from accredited counties, and you will note from the information given below that the tattooing that was done in the country was not handled very satisfactorily.

Many of the hogs bore no evidence of having been tattooed, others but a part of the tattooed mark, showing that the brander had been applied in a way that only part of the brand penetrated the skin, and, on others it is evident that the brander had been applied too light to make the tattooing legible:

<u>TATTOO MARK</u>	<u>NO. PURCHASED</u>	<u>NO. HOGS BEARING IDENTIFIABLE MARK</u>
KPA1	76	19
KGH1	18	14
KCU1	48	14
KCU2	10	4
KCU3	2	None
KCU4	5	None
KIM2	35	5
KIMO	40	3
KIM4	4	2
KEA1	66	19
KEA2	60	38
KEA3	20	11

We are quite sure that you appreciate that unless more care is used in the application of the brander, that we may be able to identify the tattooed hogs after slaughter, that the plan

FORM J. B.



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

Swift & Company
So. St. Joseph, Mo.



-2-

of tattooing hogs from accredited counties will not prove
a satisfactory method for the payment of accredited premiums.

Yours very truly,

SWIFT & COMPANY

W. L. Chalf
General Manager

MANAGER'S OFFICE
WSP:FJP

FORM J-6



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

ARMOUR AND COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICES: UNION STOCK YARDS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER

July 11, 1928

Mr. J. H. Mercer, Commissioner
Livestock Sanitary Commission
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Mercer.

Your letter 7th inst. addressed to Mr. F. Edson White, President, has been referred to me for answer.

Our understanding at a meeting of the Sanitary Committee at Chicago was that information regarding the change in policy necessitating identification of hogs from Accredited Areas, by means of tattoo marks, would be circulated thru producing sections, and at terminal markets, by Livestock Commissioners and County Agents. Of course, we are not directly in touch with the producer.

As you know, the large packers and a few of the small packers have voluntarily paid a premium of 10¢ per cwt. on hogs originating in Accredited Areas for a number of years, on the theory that the work of eradicating tuberculosis was making steady progress, and during this time it has been impossible for us to segregate Accredited Area hogs so as to determine definitely just what the improvement has been, and most important, we were not able to segregate the Accredited Area hogs so that individual owners in badly infected areas could be advised of conditions as indicated by our killing floor reports.

It was decided some time last fall that identification would be insisted upon Jan 1, 1928, and at a meeting some time later, in November, as I recall it, it was agreed that, because of the shortness of the time, and difficulty of producing sections to adapt themselves to changed conditions, to defer action on the identification until July 1, 1928.

This has been quite a costly proposition, and if we are to base our conclusions this year on the period already passed, then the cost to Armour & Co. would figure in excess of \$350,000. I am sure you will agree that it is not a business-like proposition to invest that sum of money and then not be in position to know definitely whether it is a wise expenditure.

We have had in single primary markets in excess of 150 lots of Accredited hogs in one day's kill, and I know you will understand that it is simply impossible to keep that number of lots separate with any hope of identifying badly infected lots.

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

Mr. J. H. M. #2

We feel that we are justified in taking the position that we are entitled to adopt a plan that will tend to give us accurate information, and our position is that effective July 1, 1928 premiums will be paid only on hogs that are properly identified by means of tattooing and accompanied by proper certificates.

Yours truly,

W. C. White

General Manager

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

SWIFT AND COMPANY
UNION STOCK YARDS
CHICAGO.

L.F. SWIFT
PRESIDENT

July 11, 1928.

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

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter July 7 regarding tattooing hogs:

Swift & Company found that it was impracticable, if not impossible, to keep separate the increasing number of loads of hogs from accredited counties so as to be able to trace back the lots where tuberculosis was found, informing the farmer, enabling him to clean up and correct the condition. Therefore Swift & Company finds it practicable to continue paying the 10¢ premium only when hogs are tattooed, but we are very glad to do this and hope that the country will adapt itself to the tattooing of hogs.

We notified all of our plants to discontinue paying the 10¢ premium unless the hogs were tattooed and assume they notified their connections. In addition to this, however, we were under the impression that the plan was pretty well advertised by the Live Stock Commissioners at:

Chicago,
Sioux City,
Omaha,
Kansas City,
St. Paul,
Janesville, Wis.,

as understand 100,000 pamphlets, like the attached, were distributed from these points. A further distribution, more or less general, was made to county agents and through trade journals and market newspapers. Perhaps it would have been better if Swift & Company had made an official announcement, but we thought sufficient information and publicity would be obtained through the channels mentioned.

C 3852