

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

### **Section 66, Pages 1951 - 1980**

This collection contains correspondence regarding indemnities for cattle killed by tuberculosis, concerns over the findings of veterinary inspection, discussion of an outbreak of rabies among Kansas dogs that affected cattle, complaints of veterinary treatments killing animals, and general discussion about livestock diseases. The correspondence is mostly between the Livestock Sanitary Commissioner and various livestock owners throughout Kansas.

Creator: Kansas. Livestock Sanitary Commission

Date: June 1926-September 1929

Callnumber: Livestock Sanitary Commissioner, Correspondence, 1926-1929

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



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

Form 1220-8

**CLASS OF SERVICE**

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its character is indicated by a symbol in the check or in the address.

# WESTERN UNION

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

**SYMBOLS**

DL	Day Letter
NTE	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
LCO	Deferred
CLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

**Received at**

KA440 CAK NL=STLOUIS MO 21

1223 AUG 21 PM 7 04

J H MERCER, SECRETARY=

KANSAS LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION TOPEKA KANS=

TELEGRAM TWENTIETH INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION DOCKET

THIRTEEN FIVE THIRTY FIVE PRESCRIBED INCREASE KANSASCITY TO

CHICAGO RATE FROM THIRTY EIGHT TO FORTY SIX CENTS AS

ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY CARRIERS SECURED AUTHORITY FROM

COMMISSION RESTORE UNTIL DECEMBER NINTH FORMER RATE THIRTY

EIGHT CENTS TO CHICAGO EFFECTIVE AUGUST THIRTEENTH MATTER

ESTABLISHING LOWER RATE REQUESTED WILL HAVE CONSIDERATION

AND YOU WILL BE ADVISED FURTHER=

L W BALDWIN.



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

CLASS OF SERVICE REQUIRED	SYMBOL	MARK X HERE
Preferred	Px	
Day	Dx	
Night	Nx	

### TELEGRAM

MSCo-12-27-100M 5#254 Form 914 Standard  
 Messages for persons on trains, (except  
 trainmen) must be enclosed in addressed  
 and sealed envelopes.

Time Filed \_\_\_\_\_ M

285-287 PX

CHGO 21 252P

J H MERCER SECRETARY KANS STATE LIVE STOCK BOARD CARE AGENT TOPEKA  
 YOUR WIRE TWENTIETH. DESIROUS HELPING SITUATION, KAW VALLEY RAILROADS  
 RESTORED EFFECTIVE AUGUST THIRTEENTH PREVIOUS LOW RATES ON POTATOES  
 TO CHICAGO AND OTHER NORTHERN MARKETS. THIS ACTION WILL BE SOME  
 ASSISTANCE TO GROWERS IN MARKETING PRESENT CROP. IN VIEW OVER-P-  
 RODUCTION EARLY POTATOES ALL MARKETS ARE GLUTTED AND A FURTHER CUT  
 FROM ONE PRODUCING SECTION WOULD NOT AFFORD ANY SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE  
 OF RELIEF AND COULD HARDLY BE JUSTIFIED


W B STOREY.

1928 AUG 21 PM 1 50



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

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L



### WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

**RECEIVED AT**      KN - HOTEL KANSAN, Tel. 4262.

22K AH CAK

CHICAGO. ILL 1052A AUG 21 1928

J H MERCER

SECY KANSAS **POTATO** GROWERS TOPEKA KANS

YOUR WIRE YESTERDAY TO MR GORMAN HAS BEEN REFERRED TO ME FOR HANDLING

WILL BE GLAD TO INVESTIGATE AND **ADVISE** YOU SOON AS POSSIBLE

A MACKENZIE

1115A

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

COPIES OF MESSAGES to J. H. Mercer, Topeka, Kansas.

TELEGRAM TWENTIETH INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION DOCKET THIRTEEN FIVE THIRTY FIVE PRESCRIBED INCREASE KANSAS CITY TO CHICAGO RATE FROM THIRTY EIGHT TO FORTY SIX CENTS AS ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY CARRIERS SECURED AUTHORITY FROM COMMISSION RESTORE UNTIL DECEMBER NINTH FORMER RATE THIRTY EIGHT CENTS TO CHICAGO EFFECTIVE AUGUST THIRTEENTH MATTER ESTABLISHING LOWER RATE REQUESTED WILL HAVE CONSIDERATION AND YOU WILL BE ADVISED FURTHER

-- L. W. Baldwin.

YOUR WIRE TWENTIETH DESIROUS HELPING SITUATION KAW VALLEY RAILROADS RESTORED EFFECTIVE AUGUST THIRTEENTH PREVIOUS LOW RATES ON POTATOES TO CHICAGO AND OTHER NORTHERN MARKETS THIS ACTION WILL BE SOME ASSISTANCE TO GROWERS IN MARKETING PRESENT CBOP IN VIEW OVER-PRODUCTION EARLY POTATOES ALL MARKETS ARE GLUTTED AND FURTHER CUT FROM ONE PRODUCING SECTION WOULD NOT AFFORD ANY SUBSTANTIAL MEASURE OF RELIEF AND COULD HARDLY BE JUSTIFIED.

-- W. B. Story.

YOUR WIRE YESTERDAY TO MR GORMAN HAS BEEN REFERRED TO ME FOR HANDLING WILL BE GLAD TO INVESTIGATE AND ADVISE YOU SOON AS POSSIBLE.

-- A. MacKenzie.

REFER MY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AUGUST TWENTY FIRST YOUR WIRE TO MR GORMAN AUGUST TWENTIETH CONCERNING POTATO RATES KAW VALLEY MY INVESTIGATION DOES NOT CONVINCE ME REDUCTION REQUESTED IS WARRANTED IN VIEW OF FACT THAT OLD RATES HAVE BEEN RESTORED EFFECTIVE AUGUST THIRTEENTH TO EXPIRE DECEMBER NINTH WILL THIS NOT TAKE CARE SITUATION COMPLAINED OF

-- A. MacKenzie.



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

COPIES OF MESSAGES to J. H. Mercer, Topeka, Kansas.

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-- W. B. Story.

YOUR WIRE YESTERDAY TO MR. COWMAN HAS BEEN REFERRED TO ME FOR HANDLING WILL BE GLAD TO INVESTIGATE AND ADVISE YOU SOON AS POSSIBLE.

-- A. MacKenzie.

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

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-- A. MacKenzie.

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

Form 2191

C.S.  
4-28-5000M

TELEGRAM		SYMBOL	X	CLASS OF SERVICE REQUIRED		Indicate by X in proper line the class of service required. Do not specify preferred service if other service will answer the purpose.
Time Filed _____ M		Px		Preferred	Immediate delivery	
		Dx		Day	Delivery during day	
		Nx		Night	Delivery by next morning	

51 GNRDX  
OMAHA 8-21 430PM

J H MERCER

SECTY KANSAS LIVE# STK ASSN TOPEKA

YOUR NIGHT LETTER TO PRESIDENT GRAY HAS BEEN  
RE REFERED TO ME AND WILL RECEIVE ATTENTION AND FURTHER ADVICE  
BE GIVEN YOU AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

F W ROBISON 813PM



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

Form 1204

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

**WESTERN UNION**  
**TELEGRAM**

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

The filing time as shown in the data line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

RECEIVED AT  
KN HOTEL KANSAN, Tel. 4262.

31K AH CAK

CHICAGO ILL 1136A AUG 23 1928

J H MERCER

SECY KANSAS POTATO GROWERS TOPEKA KANS

REFER MY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AUGUST TWENTY FIRST YOUR WIRE TO MR GORMAN  
AUGUST TWENTIETH CONCERNING POTATO RATES KAW VALLEY MY INVESTIGATION  
DOES NOT CONVINCE ME REDUCTION REQUESTED IS WARRANTED IN VIEW OF FACT  
THAT OLD RATES HAVE BEEN RESTORED EFFECTIVE AUGUST THIRTEENTH TO EXPIRE  
DECEMBER NINTH WILL THIS NOT TAKE CARE SITUATION COMPLAINED OF

A MACKENZIE

1158A

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

August 22, 1928.

Mr. J. E. Gorman, President,  
Rock Island Railroad Co.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Gorman:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of Mr. MacKenzie's reply to our message of August 20 relative to Kaw Valley potato industry, and wish to thank you for the prompt response.

We are in receipt of a message from Mr. Baldwin, president of the Missouri Pacific; Mr. Story, president of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and from Mr. Gray, president of the Union Pacific. I am enclosing copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Story relative to this matter.

Trusting that the railroad companies will, after an investigation of the situation, declare an emergency rate which will be of inestimable benefit at this time.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM:H

Secretary.



KANSAS POTATO INDUSTRY

WHEREAS: Since prices of potatoes are far below cost of production and the Kansas potato crop is now ready to be marketed and because of high marketing costs, the recent rate increase being a contributing factor, potato growers are unable to pay costs of marketing their crop

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring, that this legislature convened in special session does hereby appeal to the railroads, the United States Interstate Commerce Commission and the Kansas Public Service Commission for relief in providing reduced rates on potatoes as an emergency action to save potato growers from financial ruin,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forthwith sent to all railroads operating in Kansas, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Governor of Kansas, and the Public Service Commission of Kansas.



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

Following the meeting in my office on July 20th of farm organization leaders, when the serious situation of the Kaw Valley potato growers was considered, I made an investigation of the freight rates on potatoes. I find to my amazement that the Kansas potato growers are being grossly discriminated against. In my opinion there is no other important potato section in the United States that is being treated so unfairly in respect to transportation charges. Chicago and St. Louis are the two most important markets for the Kansas potato crop and today these markets are practically closed to Kansas potatoes because of present excessive freight charges. Let me cite specific instances showing preferential rates which Minnesota and Wisconsin potato interests enjoy compared to the Kansas potato industry.

The rate from Princeton Minnesota to Chicago, distance 529 miles, is 26¢ while from Topeka to Chicago, distance 550 miles, the rate is 46¢. From Princeton, Minnesota, to St. Louis, distance 642 miles, the rate is 30¢ while from Topeka to St. Louis, distance only 349 miles, the rate is 37¢. Later in the season when northern

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

potatoes are shipped into Kansas the railroads will haul potatoes from the Wapaca territory in Wisconsin to Wichita, Kansas, a distance of 829 miles, for 50¢ per cwt.

There are many other instances which will show the great transportation handicap under which Kansas potato growers are compelled to operate.

Kansas potato growers labored unsuccessfully for months in an effort to defeat the rate increase which became effective on July 14th. They plead with the public service bodies, both state and federal, for help but could not interest them until the resolution above referred to, which I assisted Mr. Neiswender to prepare, was brought to the attention of the public. This resolution was the result of a sincere effort on our part to assist the Kansas potato growers and I am confident that with the aid of men who have a knowledge of and are in sympathy with Kansas farmers, the potato industry of this state can be established upon an equality basis with Minnesota, Wisconsin and other states.



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

Aug. 22, 1928.

Mr. W. B. Story, President,  
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Co.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Story:

Your reply to our message relative to emergency rate on Kaw Valley potatoes, has been received, and wish to thank you for your prompt response.

I assume that you have a special interest and general knowledge of the potato situation in the Kaw Valley district where an estimated production of 1,500,000 bushels has been grown this year. The great bulk of this crop is ready for market but unfortunately there is a very limited outlet. Chicago and St. Louis have been the important markets for Kansas potatoes in the past but this year these markets are virtually closed because of high marketing costs of which the freight rate is most important.

The following from your message, "Kaw Valley railroads restored effective August 13 previous low rates on potatoes to Chicago and other northern markets. This action will be of some assistance to growers". I agree that the eight cents reduction in this Chicago rate is of some slight assistance but I cannot agree that this rate of 33 cents is low, as compared to prevailing rates applying to other competitive potato growing districts. For instance, the present rate from Princeton, Minn., an important potato growing center, to Chicago, distance 529 miles, is 28 cents, while from Topeka to Chicago, distance 530 miles, the rate is 38 cents; from Princeton to St. Louis, distance 642 miles, the rate is 30 cents, while from Topeka to St. Louis, distance only 349 miles, the rate is 37 cents. Later in the season when northern potatoes are shipped into Kansas, the railroads haul potatoes from the Wapaca, Wisconsin, territory to Wichita, Kansas, distance 829 miles, for 50 cents per hundred. There are many other instances which will show the great handicap under which Kansas potato growers are compelled to operate.





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

Mr. W. B. Story - 2.

It is not my purpose to argue the justice of existing rates but I do contend that an important industry in the Kaw Valley district which your great and strong railroad serves is now in distress and that this stricken industry can be greatly relieved and encouraged if you will come forward and recommend that an emergency rate of twenty cents be established for sixty days, until this perishable product can be moved.

I am sure such action would not only be magnanimous on your part, but it would eventually prove profitable to your company. The Kaw Valley potato industry is well established and has an important source of revenue to the carriers in the past, for it has long been the practice to ship practically the entire crop to the city markets for early consumption.

Since a concession such as we have recommended will mean so much to the Kansas potato growers and can mean so little to the carriers, I trust that you will give the matter your personal consideration to the end that further assistance may be extended to the Kansas potato industry.

Very truly yours,

JHB:H

Secretary.

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

Aug. 22, 1928.

Mr. C. R. Gray, President,  
Union Pacific Railroad Co.,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Gray:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your reply to our message of August 20 relative to Kaw Valley potato industry, and wish to thank you for your prompt response.

We are in receipt of a message from Mr. Story, president of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Mr. J. E. German, president of the Rock Island and from Mr. L. W. Baldwin, president of the Missouri Pacific. I am enclosing copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Story relative to this matter.

Trusting that the railroad companies will, after an investigation of the situation, declare an emergency rate which will be of inestimable benefit at this time.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM:H

Secretary.



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

Aug. 21, 1936.

Mr. Jess Honey,  
114 Jackson St.,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Honey:

In line with our telephone conversation today I am mailing copy of the telegram which was sent to the presidents of the four principal railroad companies which serve the Kaw Valley potato district. We shall be glad to advise you further of results and wish to assure you that if the Kansas Livestock Association can assist in securing an adjustment of freight rates for the potato industry in the Kaw Valley, we shall be only too glad to do so.

Trusting that the railroad companies will realize the importance of establishing an emergency rate so that this crop of Kaw Valley potatoes will be provided with an outlet, I am

Very truly yours,

Secretary.





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

Aug. 23, 1928.

Mr. W. B. Story, President,  
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Co.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Story:

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The following from your message, "Kaw Valley railroads restored effective August 13 previous low rates on potatoes to Chicago and other northern markets". This action will be of some assistance to growers. I agree that the eight cents reduction in this Chicago rate is of some slight assistance but I cannot agree that this rate of 38 cents is low, as compared to prevailing rates applying to other competitive potato growing districts. For instance, the present rate from Princeton, Minn., an important potato growing center, to Chicago, distance of 529 miles is 26 cents, while from Topeka to Chicago, distance 550 miles, the rate is 33 cents; from Princeton to St. Louis, distance 642 miles, the rate is 30 cents while from Topeka to St. Louis, distance only 349 miles, the rate is 37 cents. Later in the season when northern potatoes are shipped into Kansas, the railroads haul potatoes from the Wapaca, Wisconsin, territory to Wichita, Kansas, distance 829 miles



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

Mr. W. B. Story - 2.

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It is not my purpose to argue the justice of existing rates but I do contend that an important industry in the Kaw Valley district which your great and strong railroad serves is now in distress and that this stricken industry can be greatly relieved and encouraged if you will come forward and recommend that an emergency rate of twenty cents be established for sixty days, until this quite perishable product can be moved.

I am sure such action would not only be magnanimous on your part but it would eventually prove profitable to your company. The Kaw Valley potato industry is well established and has been an important source of revenue to the carriers in the past, for it has been the practice to ship practically the entire crop to the city markets for early consumption.

Since a concession such as we have recommended will mean so much to the Kansas potato growers and can mean so little to the carriers, I trust that you will give the matter your personal consideration to the end that further assistance may be extended to the Kansas potato industry.

Very truly yours,

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Secretary.



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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring, that this legislature convened in special session does hereby appeal to the railroads, the United States Interstate Commerce Commission and the Kansas Public Service Commission for relief in providing reduced rates on potatoes as an emergency action to save potato growers from financial ruin,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forthwith sent to all railroads operating in Kansas, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Governor of Kansas, and the Public Service Commission of Kansas.



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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"CHIEF OF BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,"  
AND REFER TO

Fyi-274

August 23, 1928

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

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 17 in reference to the experimental work it is proposed to undertake in an attempt to reduce losses from hemorrhagic septicemia. Your letter of the same date addressed to the Chief of the Bureau, in which you discuss the conference held at Kansas City on July 9 and some phases of the proposed work, has also been received. As Dr. Mohler is absent from the city I am replying to both these letters herein.

I discussed this whole subject with Dr. Mohler following my return from the western trip. He then outlined what the Bureau would be in a position to do in furthering this undertaking and expressed some views in regard to procedure as will be stated in this letter.

While it is doubtful if it will be possible for the Bureau to furnish employees who could devote all their time to the proposed work at the three markets involved unless arrangements could be made for the payment of their salaries for the time so assigned, we shall be glad to cooperate with the various interested agencies to the extent that available funds and personnel will permit. So far as personnel is concerned, it appears that it will be satisfactory to have deputy veterinarians of Kansas or Missouri, or both, or some other designated veterinarians, furnish the necessary professional service. In that event we would be glad to have competent employees cooperate with the veterinarians selected and closely observe the work.

In reply to your question concerning bacterins and aggressin, you are advised that the Bureau will be willing to undertake to furnish these products. There are none now on hand but it is believed that within about a month after definite decision is reached our laboratories will be able to produce them in sufficient quantities for the proposed work. In this connection it is necessary to advise you that Bureau funds for laboratory work are not sufficient to take care of this additional project and it would, therefore, devolve upon the cooperating agencies to provide funds to defray this expense.

In regard to the organization of the project, Dr. Mohler feels that it would perhaps best be along the same lines as a similar experi-

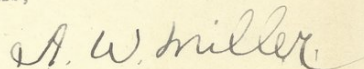
## Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

-2-

ment conducted in agreement with the Chicago exchanges in 1923 and 1924. The Traders Live Stock Exchange undertook to act as agent for the co-operating agencies and as such entered into a written agreement with this Bureau, a copy of which is inclosed. To take care of the financial requirements the cooperating agencies subscribed \$3,500. The Traders Exchange then collected ten cents per head for vaccinating outbound stocker and feeder cattle and these collections were deposited to the vaccination fund, thus making it a revolving fund. From that fund the Traders Exchange remitted necessary sums to the Disbursing Officer of this Department to cover the Bureau's expense in connection with the project.

For the purpose of taking some definite action it may be well to have another meeting as you suggest. If such a meeting is called, the Bureau feels that it should be for as early a date as possible as the season of greatest movement of stocker and feeder cattle is close at hand. The Bureau will try to have a representative from this office present at that meeting and if that is not found to be possible, a competent employee in the field will be instructed to attend. We shall be glad to hear from you further regarding this.

Very truly yours,

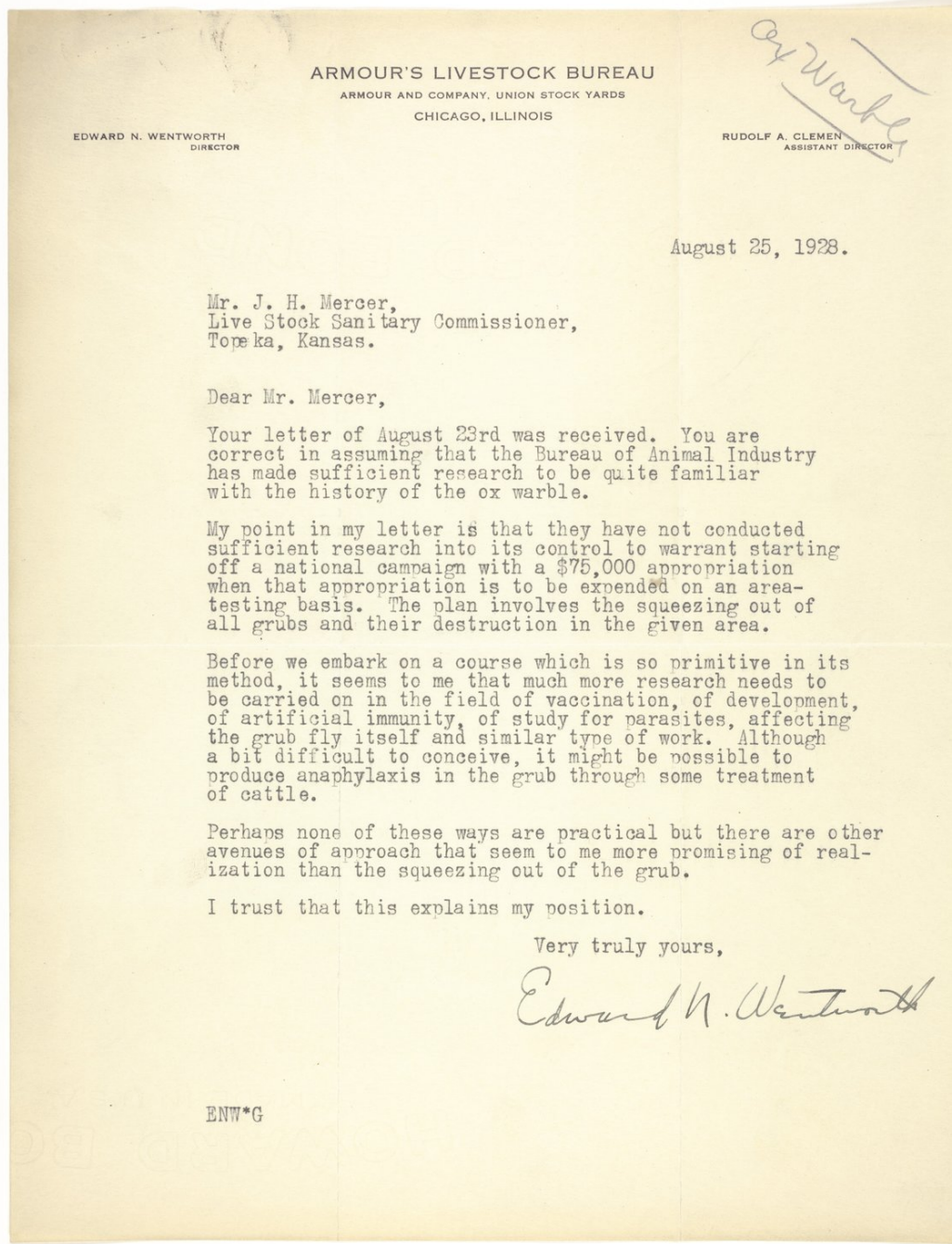


A. W. Miller,  
Acting Chief of Bureau.

(Inclosure 95449)



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



ARMOUR'S LIVESTOCK BUREAU

ARMOUR AND COMPANY, UNION STOCK YARDS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

EDWARD N. WENTWORTH  
DIRECTOR

RUDOLF A. CLEMEN  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

August 25, 1928.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer,

Your letter of August 23rd was received. You are correct in assuming that the Bureau of Animal Industry has made sufficient research to be quite familiar with the history of the ox warble.

My point in my letter is that they have not conducted sufficient research into its control to warrant starting off a national campaign with a \$75,000 appropriation when that appropriation is to be expended on an area-testing basis. The plan involves the squeezing out of all grubs and their destruction in the given area.

Before we embark on a course which is so primitive in its method, it seems to me that much more research needs to be carried on in the field of vaccination, of development, of artificial immunity, of study for parasites, affecting the grub fly itself and similar type of work. Although a bit difficult to conceive, it might be possible to produce anaphylaxis in the grub through some treatment of cattle.

Perhaps none of these ways are practical but there are other avenues of approach that seem to me more promising of realization than the squeezing out of the grub.

I trust that this explains my position.

Very truly yours,

Edward N. Wentworth

ENW\*G



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

August 23, 1928

Mr. Edward N. Wentworth,  
Armour's Livestock Bureau,  
Union Stock Yards,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Received your letters with respect to the area testing work for cattle grub. I did not answer your July 19th letter for the reason that I intended to try and study a little about the cattle grub, but I have not taken the time to do so.

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter from Dr. Marion Imes of the Zoological Division of the B.A.I., that explains itself. In connection with the letter in question I advised Dr. Imes that I would establish a quarantine on one or more counties in Kansas in order that he might go on with his experiment, providing they selected Kansas as one of the states in which to conduct the experiment. It seems to me that your position is well taken in connection with the work in question. There can be no question but what a complete research investigation should be made before any eradication methods are undertaken. It was my thought, however, when Dr. Imes first presented this proposition to me that the Bureau had full knowledge of the life habits of the cattle grub fly, but if they have not then they should make a very careful research in order that they might be able to know how to exterminate the fly. I have not seen any reports of what the department intended to do. It is my opinion that unless the department has made a careful research and have knowledge of what to do to exterminate this grub pest then it would be throwing money away to experiment on any "area testing" method. If you have knowledge that they have not made such a research, I wish you would advise me and I will be glad to take the matter up with the secretary of Agriculture with a view of having the project started in a correct way.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M

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

ARMOUR'S LIVESTOCK BUREAU

ARMOUR AND COMPANY, UNION STOCK YARDS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

EDWARD N. WENTWORTH  
DIRECTOR

RUDOLF A. CLEMEN  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

August 16, 1928.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer,

Recently I wrote you concerning the area-testing work for cattle grub. It has been interpreted in some quarters that my attempt was to block the area-testing work. Such was not my intention at all. I simply wished to point out the inadequacy of attempting area-testing work before more complete research in the field was accomplished and consequently I felt that the small sum appropriated was not adequate to start work with.

I find on looking over my letter that I could have given the impression that I was opposed to starting the area-testing at once, but this was not my intention at all. What we need is more knowledge of the cattle grub, more fundamental research into methods of control and then adequate funds for the administration of control methods.

Very truly yours,

*Edward N. Wentworth*

ENW\*G

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

### ARMOUR'S LIVESTOCK BUREAU

ARMOUR AND COMPANY, UNION STOCK YARDS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

EDWARD N. WENTWORTH  
DIRECTOR

RUDOLF A. CLEMEN  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

July 19, 1928.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

I am mailing you a reprint of an editorial in the July 7 issue of "The National Provisioner", which deals with the attempt to control the cattle grub.

The government has proposed to put an area-testing method into effect. It is the belief of the Committee from the Institute of American Meat Packers that they have not done sufficient research work yet to warrant the area method.

I am wondering if you would care to say anything about this in your paper? It happens that one of the great problems in the area-testing for the eradication of tuberculosis was the fact that the government got into the area-test method before they knew anything about avian tuberculosis. As a result, we find tuberculosis in many hogs which come to market from tubercular-free counties. Had they conducted sufficient research in advance, they might have spared the packers and breeders both the cost and the setback, avian tuberculosis has given the movement.

Very truly yours,

ENW:NR

*Edward N. Wentworth*



*Reprinted from the July 7, issue of THE NATIONAL PROVISIONER.*

### Overcoming a Hide Loss

It is estimated that millions of dollars are lost annually to the livestock and meat industry as a result of the ravages of the cattle grub.

This pest bores through the hides of cattle in its final stage as a grub, doing much damage. The value of the hide suffers serious depreciation as a result of the presence of this parasite.

Heavy losses are also reported by the dairy industry, as the annoyance suffered by cattle due to the activity of the parasite results in decreased efficiency in milk production. At certain seasons of the year this effect is quite marked.

From the standpoint of the packing industry the loss is greatest in damaged hides. Hides containing more than a minimum number of grub holes are placed in a lower grade, regardless of the quality of the hide, the care in the take-off, or correctness of pattern.

So important has this loss been to the packing industry that it has been a subject of major attention of the Institute of American Meat Packers, whose hide committee, under the direction of E. J. Madden, has done outstanding work in directing the attention of the livestock, meat and tanning industries to the need for control or eradication measures.

At the earnest solicitation of the livestock and meat industry, and in view of the fact that every state in the Union is infected, the last Congress made an appropriation of \$75,000 to the U. S. Department of Agriculture to be used in finding means of control.

The present plan is to use \$50,000 of the appropriation in what is known as "area control." The opinion is general in the livestock and meat industry that such a method of control would be ineffective, would require considerable funds over a long period of years, and it is doubtful if it would ever bring about the results sought.

When it is realized that the measures to be taken in such control work would necessitate the squeezing of the grubs

out of the back of every head of cattle in a given area, the cost of such measures can soon be calculated. When it is further realized that the adult fly in adjoining areas could readily be carried by the wind into the area under control, and there undo all of the good that had been done by the laborious methods referred to, the fallacy of such a plan would appear to be only too evident.

For a long time entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have been studying the pest, and life histories of the two varieties have been worked out. It had been the hope of the livestock and meat industry that the bulk of the appropriation might be used to further the search for a parasite that would prey upon the grub or the fly, or both, and thus eliminate it, as has been done with so many insect pests that gave promise of becoming great economic menaces.

There are two areas in the United States where the cattle grub does not exist. One is in Florida and the other in the Red River Valley. If cattle infested with the grub are taken into these areas they are soon freed of the pest.

Whether this freedom is due to the presence of a parasite or just what the condition is is unknown. But it would seem that federal moneys could very well be spent in finding out the reason why cattle in these areas are not infested, and how this immunity can be extended throughout the country.

There is no reason why a minor portion of the appropriation should not be used for experiment with the area method, or any other method believed of possible value. But it is hoped that reconsideration on the part of officials of the Department of Agriculture will allot the bulk of these funds to strictly research work, through which it is believed the greatest good can be accomplished.

It is work of a strictly research character that is needed, not experiment or survey work.

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

May 17, 1928

Dr. Marion Imes,  
23 Federal Bldg.,  
Kansas City, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of May 1st,  
I will be in Kansas City tomorrow at our office,  
805 Live Stock Exchange Building.

If you will drop in the office anytime  
afternoon I will be glad to talk with you with  
respect to the experiment and field test on  
cattle grubs.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,  
LOCAL OFFICE.

Kansas City, Kansas.  
May 1, 1928.

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:-

The Agricultural Appropriation Bill now pending, carries an item of \$50,000 for experiments and field tests on cattle grubs (ox warbles) and anticipating that the appropriation will be made, the Bureau is making preliminary arrangements for the work. Two or more areas may be selected for the field tests proper. One somewhere in the arid country surrounded by natural barriers, and one in the middle west where diversified farming is practiced. The latter area will of course not be isolated or surrounded by barriers against the warble fly.

All grubs will be removed from all cattle in such areas and also from any infested horses. The idea is to completely exterminate the larvae so there will be no adult warble flies produced in the two areas. Careful records will be kept and results in one area checked against those of the other and also against conditions obtaining in adjoining unworked areas.

The travel habits of warble flies are unknown and therefore the area in the farming country should be as large as can be worked with available means. Possibly the area should be as large or even larger than as average county, but county lines need not necessarily be the borders.

The time of normal emergence of the grub varies not only with climatic conditions but with the species of fly. There are two species of heel flies and one begins depositing eggs on cattle about a month earlier than the other one. Likewise both species begin depositing eggs earlier in a warm country than in colder climates.

The problems arising in conducting tests in any given area would be simplified if only native cattle were handled, but since that is not to be expected, some simple form of recording accurately all cattle coming into the area would be necessary during the experiment. Possibly this could be best accomplished by a permit system which need not in any way hamper normal movement into the area. We would not be interested in movements from the area at any time, but possibly those within the area should be recorded during the time of actual removal of grubs.





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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,  
LOCAL OFFICE.

(2)

The annual losses from cattle grubs in the United States are variously estimated at from fifty to one hundred million dollars. Whatever they may be they are very large and probably come out of the pockets of the producer. It might, however, be somewhat difficult to show a small producer how he would cash in on any immediate results.

To be successful as an experiment or possibly as a demonstration it would be necessary to make a 100% "kill" of all grubs in the area. It is thought that this can be done unless one or more producers refused to allow the grubs removed from his cattle. There are usually a few persons in almost all sections who oppose any proposition on general principles.

Although this letter is somewhat long, I have given only a brief outline sufficient, I hope, to impart a general idea of the proposition. In case an area in Kansas is found to be suitable for the work, are you interested sufficiently to extend your support and cooperation by inaugurating a permit system and exercising your persuasive or possibly legal powers for the success of the work? The ordinary and usual expenses of the work can be paid by the Bureau.

If it is finally decided with your consent and approval to conduct the work in Kansas, we can go more fully into details.

Very cordially yours,

*Marion Imes*

Veterinarian,  
Zoological Division.

Dr. Marion Imes,  
23 Federal Bldg.,  
Kansas City, Kans.

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

GENERAL OFFICES  
58 E. WASHINGTON ST.  
CHICAGO, ILL.



LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT  
MUNSEY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TELEPHONE MAIN 3342

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 11, 1928

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

In Mr. Gray's absence from the city, permit me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 5th to him. I am sure Mr. Gray will be glad to have your comments concerning the cattle grub eradication project and I will bring your letter to his attention promptly upon his return.

In accordance with your request, I take pleasure in enclosing a copy of the Appropriation Act for the Department of Agriculture containing the \$75,000 item for the cattle grub eradication. You will find this divided into two portions, \$50,000 for field work in eradication to be administered by the Bureau of Animal Industry and \$25,000 for further research work to be administered by the Bureau of Entomology.

Very sincerely,

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,

W. R. OGG,  
Assistant to the Director,  
Legislative Department.

WRO:M

Enclosure