

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

Section 75, Pages 2221 - 2250

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

Creator: Kansas. Livestock Sanitary Commission

Date: June 1926-September 1929

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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

Oct. 19, 1928

Mr. John Cottrell,
Enterprise, Kansas.

Strong
Dear Sir:

A report from the federal government indicates that the National Producers Feeder Pool shipped you 64 head of cattle from Norwich, Kansas, on or about the 13th of this month. These cattle were out of a herd of 920 cattle purchased from Kincaid Bros at Norwich, Kansas. A part of these cattle were unloaded for feed and rest on October 14th and were found to be infected with cattle scab. According to these records your cattle may be infected with mange - at least they have been exposed to mange.

Therefore, it will be necessary for an inspection to be made of your herd by a representative of the department for the purpose of determining as to just how the cattle should be handled and treated. Please advise me by return mail where the 64 head of cattle are now located and when it will be convenient for you to have an inspection made. Thanking you in advance for an early reply and in the meantime do not dispose of them and keep them separated from other cattle if possible.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

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

Oct. 19, 1928

Nov 16

Mr. James Horleak,
Enterprise, Kansas.

Drum

Dear Sir:

A report from the federal government indicates that the National Producers Feeder Pool shipped you 32 head of cattle from Norwich, Kansas on or about the 13th of this month. These cattle were out of a herd of 920 cattle purchased from Kincaid Bros. at Norwich, Kansas. A part of these cattle were unloaded for feed and rest on October 14th and were found to be infected with cattle scab. According to these records your cattle may be infected with mange - at least they have been exposed to mange.

Therefore, it will be necessary for an inspection to be made of your herd by a representative of the department for the purpose of determining as to just how the cattle should be handled and treated. Please advise me by return mail where the 32 head of cattle are now located and when it will be convenient for you to have an inspection made. Thanking you in advance for an early reply and in the meantime do not dispose of them and keep them separated from other cattle if possible.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



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

Field Inspector Notified
CORRECTED REPORT.
F. I. Form 48 B.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

Report of Cattle Inspected for { Scabies
Texas Fever
Ticks

Where inspected: Kansas City Stock Yards

Date: October 14, 1928, 19

Mite demonstrated.

No. INFECTED: 18

Condition: Slight

No. EXPOSED: _____

No. FREE: _____

Inspection made by C. L. Hamblen

For feeding (?) breeding (?) slaughter (?)

How many cars cleaned and disinfected? 28

Owner: National Producers Feeder Pool

Owner's address: Chicago, Ill.

Station loaded at: Norwich, Kansas.

Date and hour loaded: 10/13/28 - 5 PM

Railroad shipped over: A.T. & S.F. Ry.

Car Nos. and initials: See on back.

Consignee: Various. See on back.

Address: " " "

Destination: " " "

No. certificate (if issued): (Over)

Sign: J. Dickson.

USE THIS BLANK FOR REPORTING INSPECTIONS. REPORT ALL FINDINGS ON F. I. FORM 48 A.

8-3478

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

Shipment consisted of 920 steers,
purchased from Kincaid Bros., Norwich,
Kans., Mr. Roy Kincaid's address
is 307 Yale Ave., Wichita, Kansas.

Understand that these were all of the
cattle on the Kincaid premises at
Norwich with the exception of one dairy
cow.

All held for dipping.

Date: October 14, 1928

No. infected: 18

Condition: Slight

No. exposed:

No. free:

Inspection made by: G. H. Hambley

For feeding (?) feeding (?) slaughter (?)

How many cars cleaned and disinfected: 28

Owner: National Producers Feeder Pool

Owner's address: Chicago, Ill.

Station located at: Norwich, Kansas

Date and hour loaded: 10/12/28 - 3 PM

Feeder shipped car: A.T. & S.F. Ry.

On No. and initials: See on back

Comments: See on back

Address:

Destination:

No. certificates (if issued): (Over)

Signature: J. Dickson

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
LOCAL OFFICE

800 Live Stock Exchange,
Kansas City, Missouri,
October 18, 1928.

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

Dear Sir:

There is inclosed herewith corrected report covering 920 cattle found to be infected with scabies at the Kansas City Stock Yards on October 14, 1928, which were destined to various points in other states. These cattle were purchased by the National Producers Feeder Pool, 608 Dearborn St. Chicago, Ill., from Kincaid Bros., Norwich, Kansas. Understand one of the Kincaid Brothers is Mr. Roy Kincaid, 307 Yale Ave., Wichita, Kansas.

In addition to the above, you are advised that at the same time these cattle were loaded there were 64 head shipped from Norwich to Mr. John Cottrell, Enterprise, Kansas, in AT&SF cars 51441 and 59978. Also 32 head to Mr. James Horleak, Enterprise, Kansas, in car AT&SF 50779. As these animals did not come through the Kansas City Stock Yards no inspection was made of them.

Very respectfully,

B. J. Gooch
Acting Inspector in Charge.

CC to Dr. N. L. Townsend.

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

Nov. 7, 1928

Mr. Don C. Williams,
805 Live Stock Exchange,
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Answering your letter of the 2nd instant.

With respect to the movement of cattle consigned to J. O. Southard - Mr. Southard lives here in Topeka and conducts a weekly sale of live stock at the fair-grounds. These sales as I understand it have been fairly successful and largely satisfactory to the farmers who have been buying the stock. I know Mr. Southard, of course, very well, and feel sure that he would not make any statement at his sale that he could not support. I am quite confident, however, that he would want all cattle that might be used for dairy purposes especially tested before sale. I will try and see him in a few days and get his slant on how he would like to handle cattle off the yards. We want to accommodate him in every way we can, especially since I think he wants to keep within the rules, and also he is a good friend and patron of the Kansas Live Stock Association and its paper - the Stockman in which he does quite a little advertising.

I might add that anytime he wants to have cattle injected at the market and forwarded on here for the 72-hour reading, let him out accordingly and we will try to make the reading here without any extra expense to him. I will likely see him in a few days and will write you further if necessary.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.

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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Kansas City, Mo.
Nov, 2nd, 1928.

J. H. Mercer,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Late yesterday evening, Robinson-Hoover Commission Co., offered for shipment a load of cattle consisting of 24 stock calves and 15 cows consigned to J. O. Southard, Fair Grounds, Topeka. At the time it was presumed the cows were tested, or would be before they are sold. I secured the numbers of seven of them today and gave the certificates to the commission firm to be forwarded to Mr. Southard. I later learned the other eight were not all tested. I understand he sells all cow stuff tested, and will likely put these through the test.

The commission firm told me that Mr. Southard will likely buy one or two loads here each week. Would you advise that we make sure these cows of dairy or breeding type are injected before leaving the yards, or would it be alright to let him take them out there for injection before the sale? Sometimes it is hard to get the stuff injected when the car order comes in as late as it did last evening. However we try to get the test started on classes subject to test, even if the shipment is delayed one day in going out.

W-

Very truly yours,

Don C. Williams



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

WM. GREGORY ELEVATOR

FEED AND SEEDS OF ALL KINDS

BUY HAY, GRAIN AND STOCK

Osage City, Mo. 12 1928
LYNDON, KANSAS.

Mrs J. H. Mercer,
Topeka, Mo.

Dear Sir;

Answering yours
of Nov. 2, Will say that I have
heard nothing from Vena Williams
of West Plains, Mo.

In regard to the claim that I sent
Mr Williams I asked actual cost
on 140 hogs which amounted to
\$7.40 per head or \$1,044.⁴⁰ and the
freight which was \$84.¹⁵ on the car.

Yours truly

Wm Gregory

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

Nov. 10, 1928

Mr. Wm Gregory,
Osage City, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing you correspondence that explains itself.

I hardly know what to suggest further in this case. If Williams writes you in all probability it will be along the line that he has written me. I feel quite sure that you have no chance to collect anything off of Williams by law. However, since it involves legal questions, it might be all right for you to discuss the matter with an attorney. My advice is to not spend much money in connection with this case for the reason that I feel confident that you would be sending good money after bad. If Williams writes you might send me his letter so I can see what he has to say.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M



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

WM. GREGORY ELEVATOR

FEED AND SEEDS OF ALL KINDS

BUY HAY, GRAIN AND STOCK

Osage City *Nov. 8th* 192*8*
OSAGE CITY, KANSAS.

Mr J. H. Mercer
Topeka, Ko.

Dear Sir:-

Received yours of the 7th
in regard to the hogs, that
Mr. Christenson examined for us
Saturday and advised us to have
them vaccinated with mixed
infection bacterin, which we did
Monday the 5th And we have lost
just one since.
The rest are getting along fine.
I want to thank you for the help
and advice your department
have given us.

Yours truly
Wm Gregory.



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

VERNE WILLIAMS

E. A. GILLETTE

RUSSELL LEONARD

WILLIAMS, GILLETTE & LEONARD

IMMIGRANT AGENTS

WEST PLAINS, MISSOURI

November 8, 1928.

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

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of November 2nd has been received and very carefully noted. In reply to same, I wish to advise that some time in September we did sell Mr. W. M. Gregory of Osage City, Kansas a car of stock hogs. These hogs were shipped on a permit in the regular way.

We bought these hogs right here in the country which was thoroughly understood by Mr. Gregory. There had been no disease of any kind in this section nor have we ever heard of any since. At the time these hogs were loaded, they appeared to be in the very best of condition and there were no signs of any disease or sickness among them then. All of this we can safely prove. I will further state that this load of hogs was cut out and that we had some other hogs left from this herd which we held for several days and no signs of disease ever showed up in these hogs. These ~~xxx~~ were later sold to another party and we have had no complaint from this party.

Of course, I am at a loss to understand the cause of Mr. Gregory's loss, but I do not feel that we are in any way responsible under the circumstances. The fact can easily be established that there has been no cholera in this section of the country and all the hogs that we have shipped have been purchased right here in West Plains from the farmers. We are holding hogs all the time and our losses are comparatively small and our deputy state veterinarian will bear me out in all of these assertions.

I do not believe that these hogs had cholera. However, that of course is a matter of opinion. But on the other hand, if they did have cholera, it undoubtedly would have to have been contracted either from germs in the railroad car which was cleaned and ~~disinfected~~ disinfected at the time of loading, or else they picked it up in ~~it~~ transit. There is nothing at all to indicate that these hogs were cholera infected at the time of loading and we have all the proof needed to show that they were free from disease when loaded here.

With very best wishes, I beg to remain

Yours very truly,

MISSOURI LIVESTOCK CO.

By *Verne Williams*

VW/PS.

The Missouri Ozarks, Home of the Dairy Cow and Hen, Where the Best Fruit Grows

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

Nov. 7, 1928

Mr. Wm Gregory,
Osage City, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I just read Dr. Christenson's report of his investigation of another outbreak of disease in your herd of hogs. I also talked with him concerning the trouble. I think he advised you correctly when he recommended that you ship all merchantable fed hogs to the market and dispose of them. I note that he suggested that you treat the hogs with mixed infection bacterin. This will do no harm. However, it may not do any good.

If you have quite a number of hogs that do not show sickness I would treat them with hog cholera serum alone, not using any virus, giving them a good heavy dose. I have asked Dr. Jungerman to advise me just as soon as he has any vaccine ready for use and as soon as I hear from him I will get in phone touch with you so we can decide whether or not he had best treat your herd again.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M

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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Topeka Kansas
11-5-28

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

On Nov 3rd Mr Wm Sugary of Dodge City called the office, stating that his hogs were sick and asked that I come to Dodge City and make an investigation.

Mr Sugary had lost three hogs since Friday and there are about twenty sick, four of these will not live very long.

I autopsied a sheet that had died about an hour before I arrived. Lesions of mixed infection and enteritis were present.

Mr Sugary has some fat caws that are ready for market. I advised him to ship them at once.

Mr Sugary asked me to call Dr Jungeman for him, this I did and was advised by Dr Jungeman that he was completely out of his vaccine and it would be a week or 10 days before he would have it to use. Later I called Mr Sugary and advised the use of a mixed Infection Bacterin on these hogs.



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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

These hogs are in the lot where Mr Gregory
burned some dead hogs about four or five
weeks ago. He was advised at that time
that it was a very bad thing for him to do
and that he should treat these hogs when
he had the 78 sick hogs treated by Dr Jungeman.
It is my opinion that Mr Gregory will have
a heavy loss due mostly to carelessness.

Very Truly
R. B. Christensen

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

Nov. 2, 1928

Mr. Wm Gregory,
Osage City, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of the 29th ult.

You failed to send me a copy of your claim for losses you had forwarded to Mr. Williams. I have written him this date with respect to the shipment of your hogs and am enclosing copy of the letter. Should you not hear from him within the next week or 10 days let me know.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M



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

Nov. 2, 1928

Mr. Vene Williams,
Williams, Gillette & Leonard,
West Plains, Mo.

Dear Sir:

According to the records on or about the 12th of September you sold to Wm Gregory, Osage City, Kansas, a car of stock hogs of about 200 head. Several hogs were dead in the car on arrival at Osage City. Hogs died daily and on the 5th day after the hogs were unloaded Dr. Kraus of Osage City was called and diagnosed the disease as hog cholera and vaccinated the remainder of the herd with hog cholera serum and virus. Hogs continued to die at the rate of 5 to 10 a day. On September 22nd Dr. Jungerman administered treatment to the herd of hogs, vaccinating at that time 78 head. Mr. Gregory advises that he lost 132 head out of the 200 and 4 of the 68 yet living are of no value.

Mr. Gregory advises that you guaranteed the health condition of these hogs when the purchase was made. If the records in this case are correct there can be no question but what this load of hogs were diseased at the time of sale or exposed to extreme hog cholera conditions a few days before they were loaded. It is Mr. Gregory's contention that you should reimburse him for his loss. He was in the office a few days ago and I suggested to him that he take the matter up with you. I have a letter from him under date of October 29th advising that he had written you and sent you a statement of his loss and that he had written you the second time but had received no reply to either of his letters.

According to the records in this office, you and your firm have been sending out a number of stock hogs destination Kansas points and permits have been issued from this office for the purpose. We have issued these permits to you presuming of course that you would not ask for a permit to ship hogs that were diseased or that had been exposed to a contagious or infectious disease. Will you please advise us and give us a history of the load of stock hogs in question and as to what you know about the origin of these hogs and whether or not cholera has been prevalent in and around West Plains during the past 6 months to a year. We will expect an early reply to this letter and also will expect you to write Mr. Gregory at Osage City in answer to his letter.

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



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

WM. GREGORY ELEVATOR

FEED AND SEEDS OF ALL KINDS

BUY HAY, GRAIN AND STOCK

Osage City, Oct. 29 1928
LYNDON, KANSAS.

Mr J. H. Mercer,
Topeka, Mo

Dear Sir;

I wrote Mr Vene Williams
of West Plains, Mo. the second letter
the 20th of Oct. I have heard nothing
from either of the letters.

They don't intend to pay any
attention to me,

I am in hopes you will do
something in regard to this
deal.

Yours truly
Wm Gregory

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



STATE OF MISSOURI
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
JEFFERSON CITY

October 23, 1928.

Honorable Joe H. Mercer,
Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

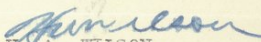
Your letter of October 5 has just been read
upon my return from a two weeks vacation.

I do not know that I can add anything to what
Doctor Ward stated to you in his letter of October 8,
as he had the situation lined up in good shape and gave
you the best information available.

I might add that you could write to Mr. J. H.
Harlan, who is connected with one of the banks mentioned
in Doctor Ward's letter, but at the present time I do not
remember which. He is a very influential man in that part
of the country, and would give you the best of information.

It might also be well to write to Mr. Arch Hollenbeck,
the postmaster, as he too might give you a little information.

Yours sincerely,


H. A. WILSON,
State Veterinarian.

HAW-s

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

T. E. WILKE, D. V. S.
DEPUTY STATE VETERINARIAN
WEST PLAINS, MO.

October 16, 1928.

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

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of October 11th concerning the standing of Williams, Gellotte & Leonard, you are advised that I consider these men as reliable as any trader in West Plains. They have been here for years and handle most of the stock hogs shipped out of West Plains.

In regard to the load of stock hogs mentioned in your letter, it appears to me that Mr. Gregory waited too long before he vaccinated. You understand that the infection of hog cholera most always exist in pens where stock hogs are handled in large numbers. Stock hogs that are shipped home for vaccination should always be vaccinated immediately upon arrival. It usually takes about a week to buy up a load of stock hogs. Consider that it takes five or six days to ship and get things ready to vaccinate at destination. Some of the hogs have already become infected and the results are unsatisfactory.

I believe if you would urge the feeder to vaccinate before shipping or immediately after the hogs arrive at destination, these losses would be reduced considerably. Shipments within the state of Missouri are all vaccinated before shipping and we have experienced very little trouble from cholera.

Very truly yours,

T. E. Wilke



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

Oct. 11, 1928

Dr. T. E. Wilke,
West Plains, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago the firm of Williams, Gillette & Leonard, Immigration Agents, West Plains, Mo., sold to W.M.Gregory of Osage City, Kansas, a car load of hogs. The contract was made over the long distance telephone. The hogs were guaranteed to be healthy. The hogs were shipped to Mr. Gregory on or about the 8th of September. The records show that there were five head of dead hogs in the car on arrival at destination and hogs continued to die. Five days after arrival the local veterinarian was called by Mr. Gregory and pronounced the trouble hog cholera. The hogs were vaccinated but this failed to stop the death losses. Mr. Gregory was in the office Saturday and advised that he had lost 132 head out of the 200 head. According to the records in this case these hogs evidently were sick before they were loaded.

Will you please advise me as to the standing of the firm of Williams, Gillette & Leonard as per fair dealing and financial responsibility. Dr. E. B. Ward, Assistant State Veterinarian, advised me under date of October 8th that you could furnish me with such information.

Thanking you in advance for this favor, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M

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



STATE OF MISSOURI
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
JEFFERSON CITY

Oct. 8, 1928.

Honorable J. H. Mercer,
Live Stock Commissioner,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear sir:

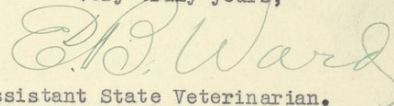
Your letter of October 5 came this morning, in the absence of Doctor Wilson who is away on his vacation and will not return until about the 15th.

I have made a little inquiry around the Capitol this morning about the firm Williams, Gillette, & Leonard, Immigration Agents, West Plains, Missouri. About all I could find out is that there is such a firm there in the Real Estate Business, and that they have no connection with the state, officially. The state has no immigration agents.

There are three banks in West Plains as follows: (The Farmers Savings Bank, The West Plains Bank, and Union State.)

I am personally acquainted with Doctor T. E. Wilke of West Plains, and I feel sure you could get what information you desire from him. He is a pretty live wire, and transacts a good deal of business aside from his veterinary practice. I feel that he would be glad to give you any information he could.

Very truly yours,



Assistant State Veterinarian.

EBW:PS.

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

Oct. 5, 1928

Dr. H. A. Wilson,
State Veterinarian,
Jefferson City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

Do you happen to know anything about the firm of Williams, Gillette & Leonard, Immigrant Agents, West Plains, Missouri. If you do not happen to know these people will you please give me the name of a bank at West Plains that I could write to for the information.

Thanking you in advance for this favor, I am

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

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

Topeka, Kansas
Sept 25th 1928

At the request of Mr. Gregory of
Osage city I made an investigation Sept 18th
of a condition affecting his hogs.

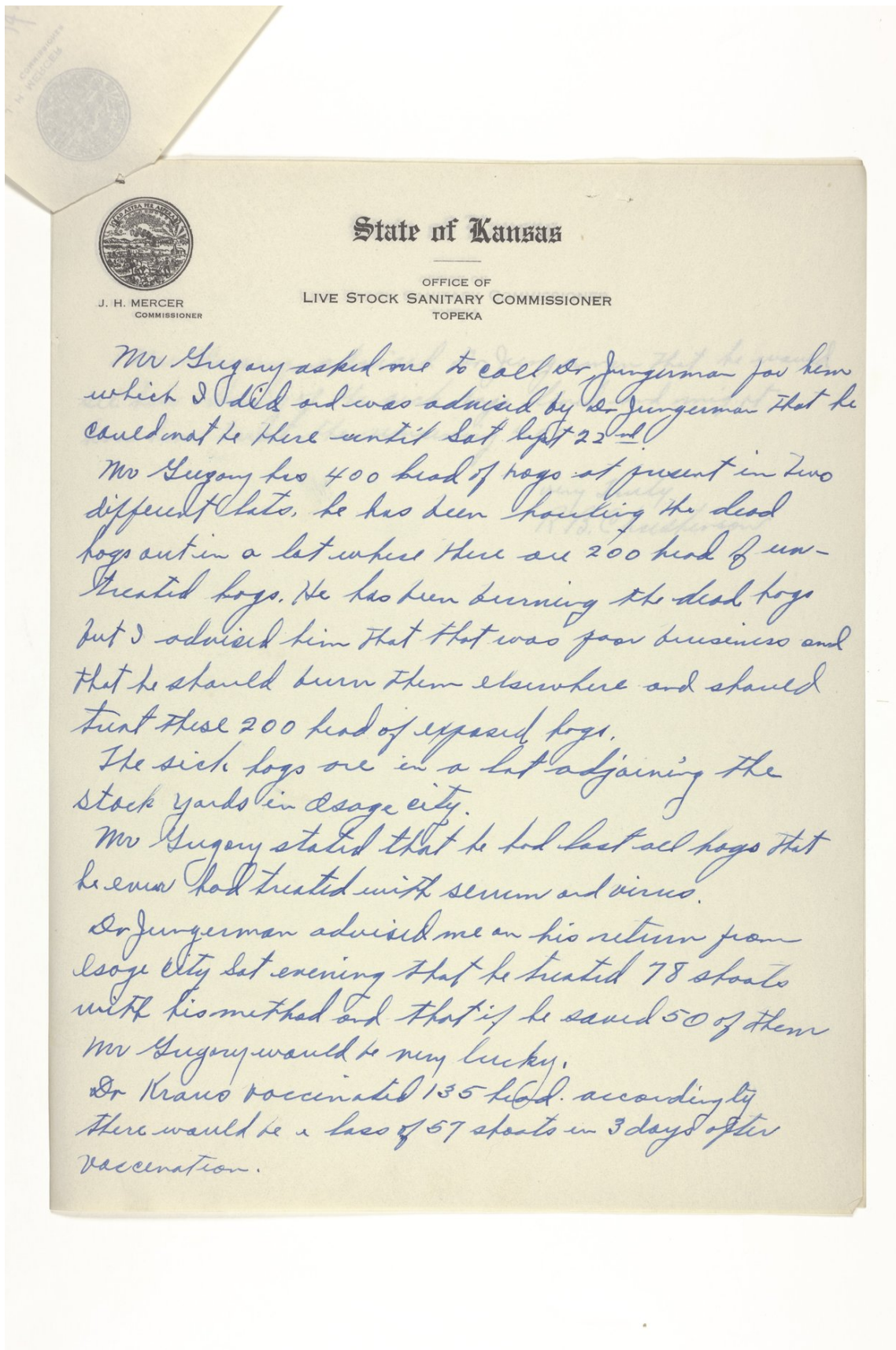
Mr. Gregory stated that Sept 12th he purchased
200 hogs from Gene Williams of West Plains mo.
There were 5 dead in the car and at present has
lost 75. Sept 18th Dr. Kraus of Osage city was
called and diagnosed the condition hog cholera
and vaccinated the remainder of the hogs with
anti hog cholera serum and virus.

I killed and autopsied one stoat and found
lesions of mixed infection and necrotic enteritis.
I talked with Dr. Kraus and he and Dr. Smith his
assistant, they killed and autopsied two stoats and
autopsied one that had been dead for some time.

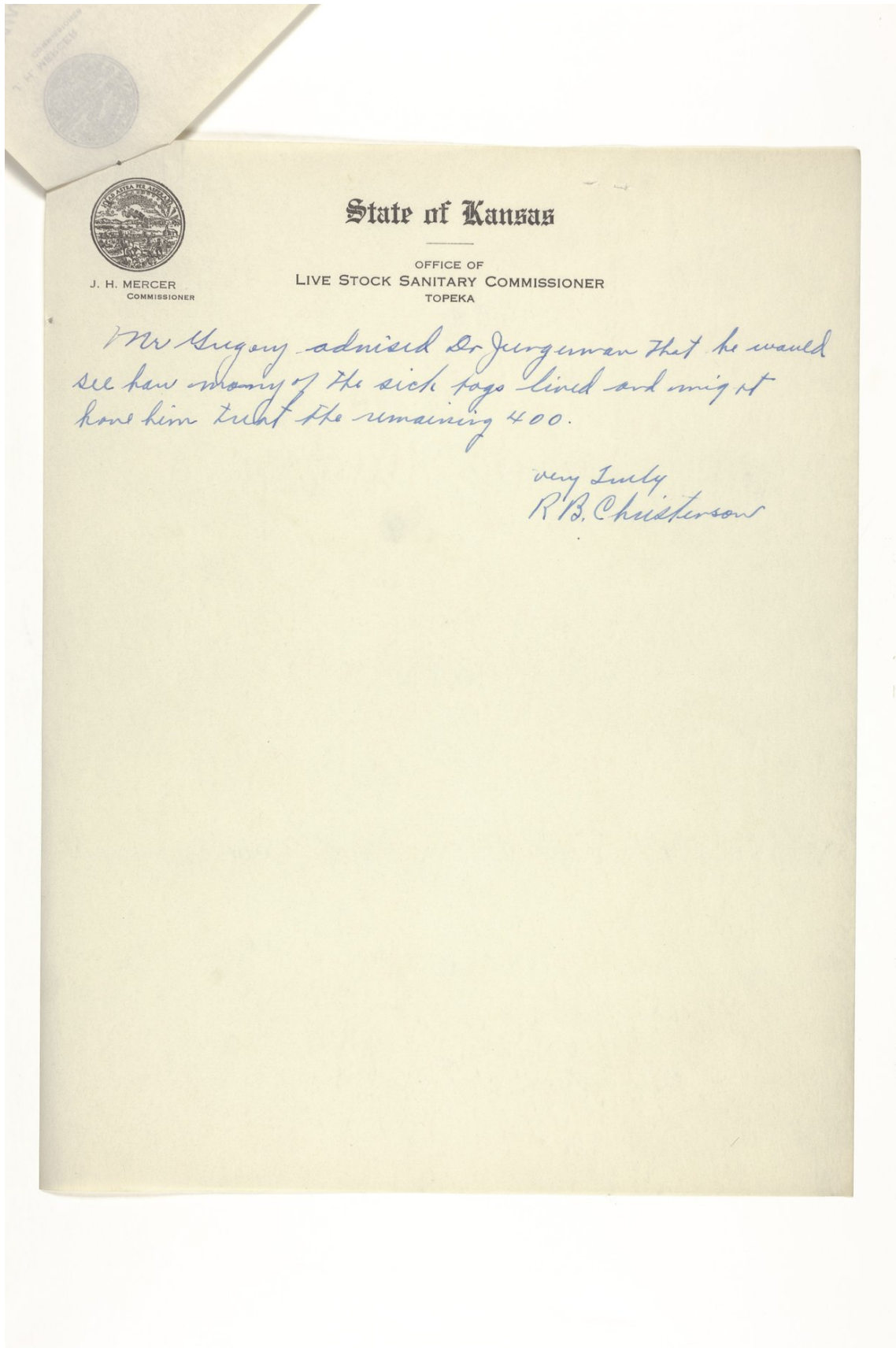
Dr. Kraus stated that he still thought it was
hog cholera and that time would tell.

I advised Mr. Gregory that my opinion was that they
would all die if they were not given some other
treatment.

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

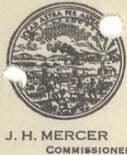


Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929





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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

Livestock Exchange Building,
Wichita, Kansas,
November 8, 1928.

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

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of November 7th in regard to the proposed experimental project in the study of shipping diseases in cattle.

I have read your communication to Dr. Mohler carefully, and it seems that your program is practical and should be the means of arriving at definite conclusions with respect to these problems.

It would seem that in following your plan, in order to properly interpret the merits of any given vaccine as a preventive or cure, the relative susceptibility and percentage of losses occurring in vaccinated and unvaccinated cattle, it would be necessary to have information as to origin, date of original shipment, and length of time held at public market before moving, giving the approximate length of time of exposure to infection, and I think an important matter of information would be exposure to inclement weather. This class of information to be of any account and reasonably accurate, is somewhat difficult to obtain at a public market, unless considerable time is devoted to this purpose. It might be that if the Bureau sees fit to cooperate with this work, that they would detail a man for this purpose.

You are more or less familiar with my views as to the major contributing causes of losses in shipper cattle, and I don't believe that any experimental project would be complete unless it included some plan of cooperation from the traders and commission men, whereby certain shipments of cattle could be handled while passing through the marketing center, in a manner that as nearly as possible approximate normal feeding and handling conditions on the farm or ranch. That is to say if certain shipments of cattle could be permitted to pass through a market without having water withheld and permitting excessive fills, cattle to be protected from inclement weather and not allowed to become stale or kept around a public stock yards for a long period of time.

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



J. H. MERCER
COMMISSIONER

State of Kansas

OFFICE OF
LIVE STOCK SANITARY COMMISSIONER
TOPEKA

J. H. Mercer 2.

I have taken the position for several years that the method of handling in the marketing process had more to do with these losses than any other factor, by lowering resistance to a point where cattle are readily susceptible to almost any diseased condition. I do not feel that there is now, or ever will be a vaccine that will correct the abuses attendant with the present system of marketing livestock, and I predict that ultimately as a result of experimental investigation these facts will become generally accepted as paramount and vital in the control of this destructive disease.

I note that you propose starting this project about November 15th, and I take it that we will receive report blanks and more detailed instructions with respect to carrying out this work here at Wichita.

Yours truly,

H. F. Dotson

HFD:EL

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

Nov. 9, 1928

Dr. A. H. Pruitt,
901 West 29th St.,
Wichita, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Answering yours of the 1st instant.

Since the courts have decided that poultry is classed as domestic animals, thereby placing the investigation of poultry diseases under the jurisdiction of this department, I do not consider that we need any legislation on the question, as the sanitary law of the department seems to be sufficiently broad in its scope to cover all the live stock sanitary problems that might arise.

I will be in Wichita on the 13th and 14th at the Lassen hotel. If you have time you might drop around and I will talk this over further with you.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM/M

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

DR. A. H. PRUITT
MANUFACTURER OF
POULTRY AND STOCK PREPARATIONS
901 WEST 29TH STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS

11/1-28

Hon. J. H. Mercer
State Live Stock
Sanitary Commissioner
Topeka Kans.
Dear Sir,

Since talking to you I have gave a good deal of thought and study of the future of the Chick and poultry proposition. Well in fact for many years that is all I have done. But this future is what I want to call your attention to.

I also notice a good many theories and Ideas. When the Representatives meet again you will see or have the opportunity to see and hear many laws suggested. And some to pass.

Some will be presented in good faith and have good foundation and some will be very radical from a buisness stand point and for the state and poultly raising industry as a whole.

Here is the point that I want to get at ~~and~~ and it is this. HOW WILL IT BE INFORCED AND WHEN.

If some of these fellows have their way of it. They will manopolize the buisness and severly damage the buisness and small producer. And get vin the hands of organazation before the small fellow can learn of it.

The average and the farmer and small producer is what makes the Poultry buisness in this state. Not the large ones.

I have in mind at this time where theory and ideas that no one can deny was tried on a large scale by more than one that was a complete failure. The proof is to be seen at this time.

The idea if they have a good idea and want to make a law of same it takes study of same and more than one or two years of some pet idea. Or it will loose money for the farmer and state as a whole.

These laws with all probability sound good and mean well. But we need an experienced man that knows how to handle the law and how to apply same.

And all I have to say about it is. There is no one who knows how to apply such a law only the State Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner. Who I know my self from observation does know how.

It will come to you sooner or later so you just as well get in the game now.



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DR. A. H. PRUITT
MANUFACTURER OF
POULTRY AND STOCK PREPARATIONS
901 WEST 29TH STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS

Mr. Mercer No 2

11/1 -28

For if some others try to handle it all they will do is just favor a few as I look at it. And get it all balled up.

Then it will be up to you to take it and make harmony among the troubled poultryman and Farmers.

So I say again get in on the ground floor when it starts and see that it does not get into monopoly and trust.

Respectfully Yours.

AHP.WT