

#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

Section 43, Pages 1261 - 1290

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: January 1930-1939

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# KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

Henry F. Herrman attorney and counselor at law bascall bulloing Bays, Ransas

Nov. 8th, 1930.

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

Dear Sir:

In Re: J. M. Henrickson.

I am getting into Mr. Henrickson case against King and Bisenious, the persons who sold him the cholora virus from which his hogs died, and I am wondering wether- Whether either Harry King, or Bisenious are registered pharmacists. Could you give me that information or get it for me.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Thury Harman

Change

Change

Glabrondo, Kay,



#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

July 6, 1931.

Mr. Orville Cantrell, Harveyville, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Cantrell:

Following up our letter of Friday, we decided today that Mr. Gray will go south to Elk and Chautauqua Counties tomorrow. I just talked with Mrs. Cantrell and told her that Mr. Gray will be along and pick you up tomorrow morning.

Of course, state work will be new to you. This project that we are working on is an experimental project. The appropriation was made for this department to experiment in the eradication of flies and other cattle pests and provides only for the buying of supplies and paying expenses of representatives of the Live Stock Commissioner's department. I will pay your salary of \$150.00 per month out of the department's funds and your expenses out of the fly experiment fund. Mr. Gray will explain to you the manner and method of keeping your expense account. I might add in this connection that it is very essential that you be very careful for the reason that the Auditor requires that all expense accounts be carefully complied and receipts covering all expenses must be furnished.

Mr. Gray will also explain the nature of the work we are doing. It will not be heavy work but it will require activity for a while until we get all of our paraphernalia set up on the different farms on which we are conducting this experiment. Mr. Gray has been with the department for several years and knows very well the policy that we follow here with respect to the services of our representatives and I have instructed him to go over this with you and advise you in detail concerning all matters connected with our work.

As I told you here in the office, I am going to give you a month's work and it may be that we will need you longer if nothing better shows up. I am enclosing you copy of a letter that was sent to all of our regular employees on May 5th of this year. I usually give our help a letter outlining any changes in policies every year so I am enclosing it for your information.

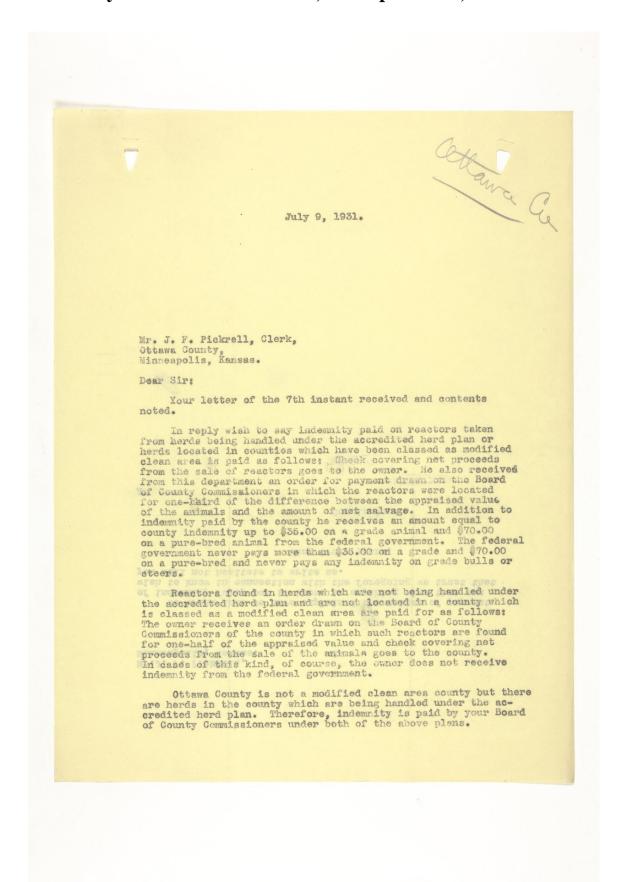
Trusting that you will like the work and that everything will go along nicely,

Very truly yours,

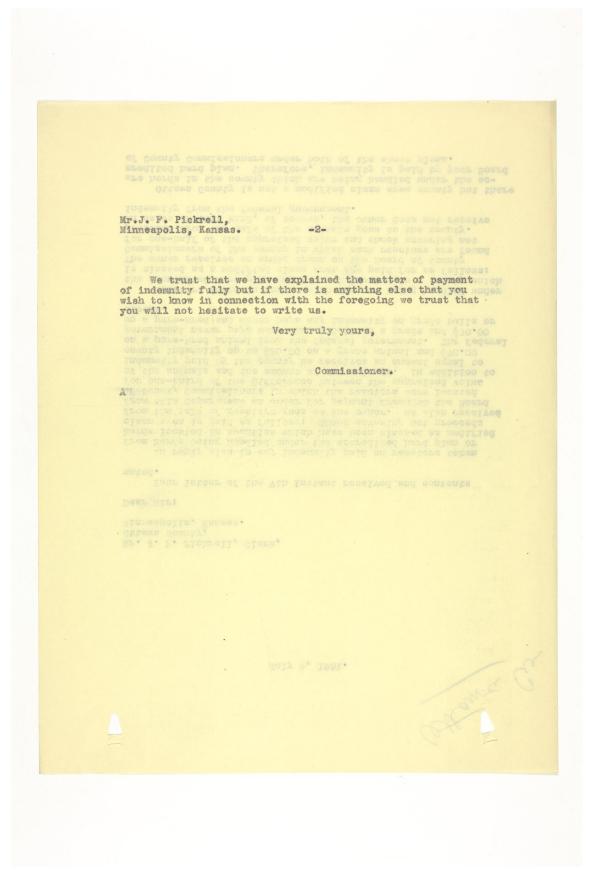
Commissioner.

JHM.A

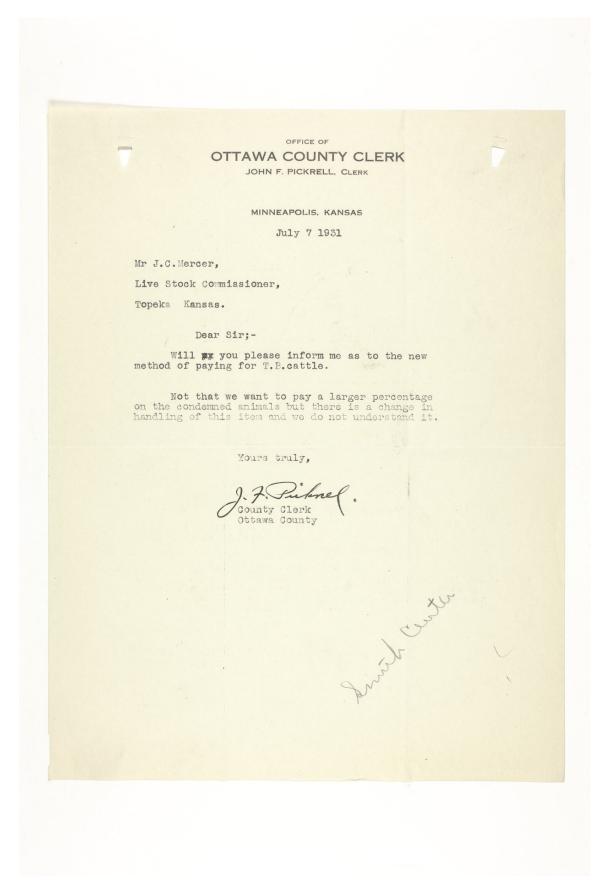




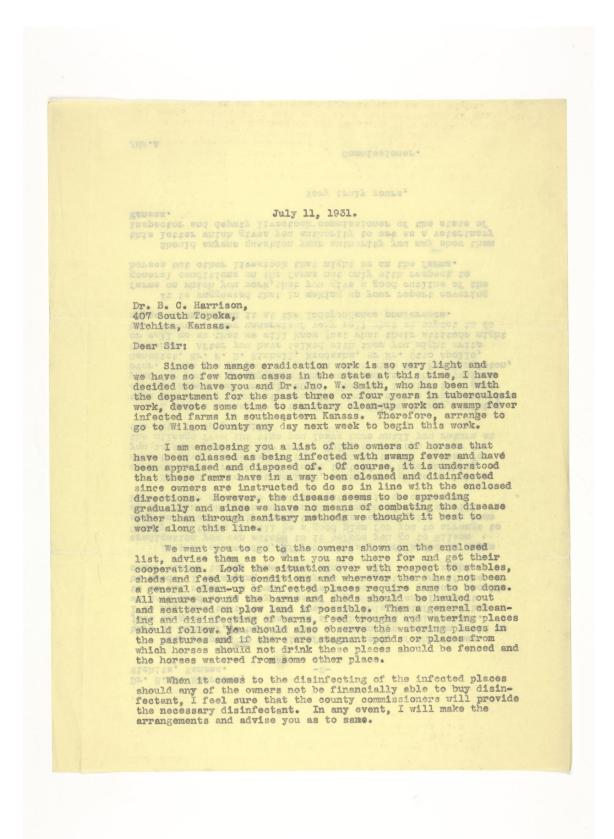














#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

Dr. B. C. Harrison,
Wichita, Kansas.

-2
With respect to the disinfectant used, if the farmer

With respect to the disinfectant used, if the farmer buys it himself, I believe that a common lye solution would be just as good in these cases as a high-priced disinfectant. I do not know that you have ever used this disinfectant but we have used it in many cases of hog cholera and found it to be all right. A pound of lye to about five gallons should be used. I am making this only as a suggestion and if the owner wishes to buy some other kind it will be all right.

In this connection, if you have any work ahead in mange eradication you can attend to it before you go to Wilson County. I think it will be a good plan for you to arrange to stay in Wilson County about two weeks before going back home as by trying the plan out for this length of time we will know whether or not we want to continue it or otherwise.

You had better let me know, either by 'phone or letter, as soon as you reach Fredonia so that if we have anything more to give you we can do so. I think it will be best for you to take your own car and by doing so you can charge for the mileage from the time you leave home until you return at the rate of 6¢ per mile.

I have a letter from the Clerk of Wilson County advising that the county commissioners will confer with a representative of this department on July 20th. However, I think it a good plan for you to go any time next week and lock the situation over. When you go you can get in touch with Mrs. Rex Singleton, Benedict, Mrs. F. B. Kimball, Neodesha, or Mrs. Otto Apollo, Fredonia. After you have talked with them you might write or call me so that we will know just what their attitude might be. However, they understand very well what we expect to do since we explained it at the Independence ponference.

It is suggested that in making up your report covering farms on which you work, that you give a good cutline of the general conditions on the farms not only with respect to horses but other livestock that might be on the farms.

Should anyone question your authority you may show them this letter which gives you authority to act as a veterinary inspector and deputy livestock commissioner of the state of Kansas.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHM.A



#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

July 14, 1931.

Dr. W. R. Barnard, Belleville, Kansas.

Dear Doctor:

I have yours of the 11th and thank you very much for same. It would appear from your letter that no veterinarian had been called to make an examination of the sick hogs. I understood from my telephone conversation with the County Agent that the local veterinarians were not positive in their diagnosis and wanted some outside help. In any event, I appreciate your looking after the matter. I am writing the County Agent instructing him to have the owners of the hogs follow out your recommendations with respect to the handling of their hogs.

You can make up your woucher covering this trip at your convenience and send it to us. In this connection, if you have any charges against this department for services rendered prior to July 1, 1951, that have not been paid we will appreciate it if you will send them in at once since we have to file vouchers with the State Auditor this month covering all expenses incurred during the fiscal year which ended June 30th.

I note your reference to the two inch rain in your locality. With one or two exceptions we have had plenty of rain recently to bring the corn and other row crops along in find shape and I have not noticed that there has been any great amount of damage done to any crop by storms. The only unsatisfactory thing now is the price of all agricultural products. There certainly will be a change some of these days. If not, God only knows what is going to happen to the state and nation politically. While government cannot correct the situation in every particular, yet it can help and unless a change comes we had better prepare to live under Brinkley or someone like him. This paragraph, of course, is just on the side and doesn't mean anything other than my observation of the situation at present.

Thanking you again for your cooperation and promptness in looking after this matter,  ${\bf I}$  am

Very truly yours,

JHM.A

Commissioner.



#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

WIRT R. BARNARD, D. V. S

July 11th, 1931.

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

My Dear Mr Mercer:

Just beat a two inch rain in from Smith County by about 30 minutes. We had quite a little hail, do not know yet how extensive, but the wind was next to a cyclone and I wouldn't be surprised to hear of considerable damage by morning.

I arrive in omith Center in time for breakfast this morning and got back there in time for a late dinner. I visited the farm of Hofer Bros, eight miles southwest of Athol where he has about 185 head of spring pigs and all looking good except eight or ten, the trouble is just starting and I do not consider that it will get under much headway. The trouble has all the appearance of enteritis of some form, in my opinion the necrotic type as it appears slow. From there I visited the farm of a Mr Detrich, who two or three years ago had considerable trouble with enteritis and who now has three or four bony looking ones running around with knots on their legs showing a previous deficency condition. From the farm of Mr etrich we drove back within four miles of Smith Center and about eight miles north to a farm with about 200 head of spring shoats. The condition of this herd was generally good but had about 20 head poor specimens. The owner here did not know we were coming and the family present didn't seem interested enough to come out and look the hogs over with us.

A great deal of these conditions are due to a lack of enterprise on the part of the owners, Gilts pigs are more susceptable to this condition from my observation. Turthermore on other crops, the owner prepares the field ahead of time for the crops he expects to produce, the fertilization and care of the field and proper selection of seed in 90 percent of cases rewards him well. The same thing is just es as essential in preparing for a pig crop. The sows must be wuilt up from the time they wean their pigs, for another crop if you expect them to be thrifty. DIET, in my mind is the secret of success and the one first preventative to apply against these conditions, secondly sanitation.

The County agent out there and the Purina Representative were the ones instrumental in getting, they said, a state Man on the job to tell the people the most reliable and effectual method of combatting the condition. They said they were filled up on agents and radios and it was getting the right facts from the right scource in time, not the present seriousness of the condition. I got 'em told.



#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

July 20, 1931.

Dr. B. C. Harrison, c/o Loether Hotel, Fredonia, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 19th with inspection reports covering the Mrs. Stevens band of sheep.

I note that you have visited several swamp fever infected farms in Wilson County. You do not state, however,
whether you have had any of these farms cleaned and disinfected. In this connection I think it very necessary that
there be a cleaning and disinfecting of all these farms
on which swamp fever horses were found. There seems to
be quite a number of these farms that have been reported
as cleaned and disinfected on which new cases of swamp fever
have developed. Hence the reason that we thought it necessary
that someone be sent to supervise the actual disinfecting.
More than likely you should have some sort of a disinfecting
spray pump. I presume there are very few of the farmers
who have such a thing. Make inquiry and see if you can buy
what you need there at Fredonia. If you cannot, let me know
what kind of a spray pump that will be best for this work and
I will get you one and send it to you.

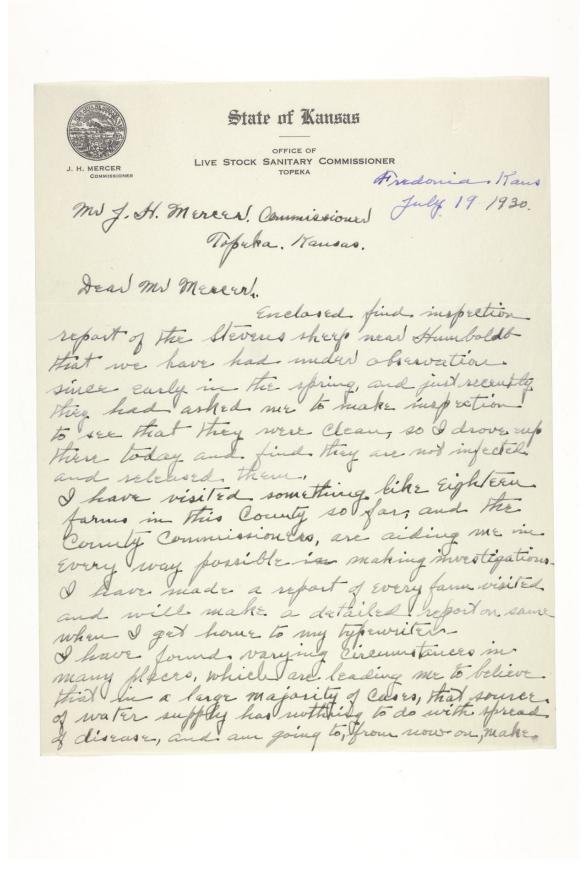
Do you find any opposition among the farmers as to the cleaning up and disinfecting of their places? I will be glad to have you write me of the outcome of the meeting today with the County Commissioners.

Very truly yours,

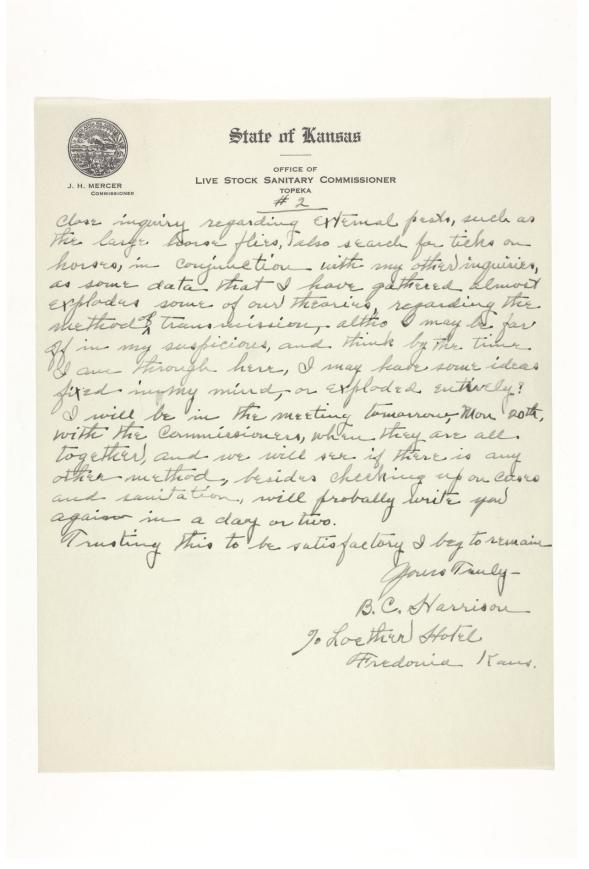
Commissioner.

JHM . A

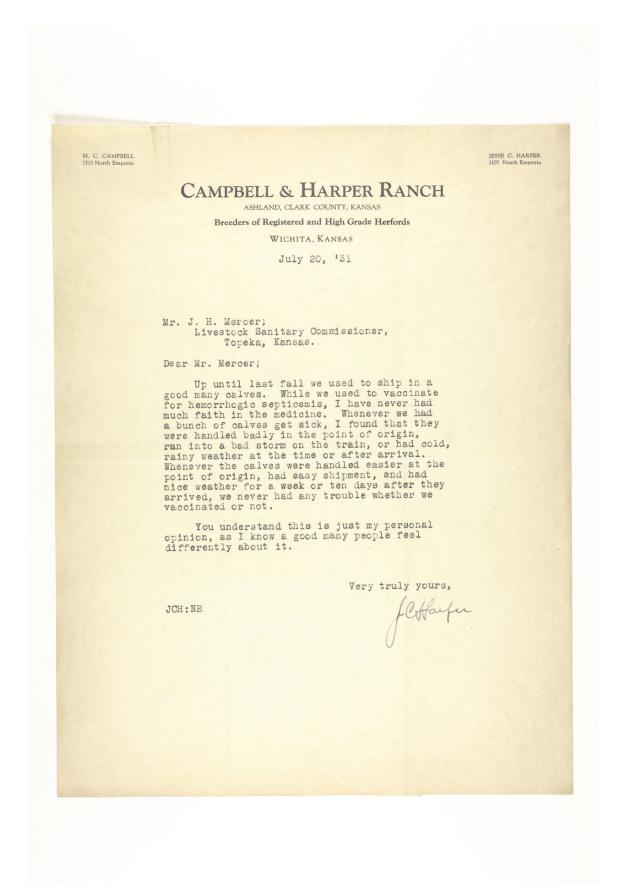














#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

THE TOD RANCH

WM. J. TOD & SON

JAMES TOD, MANAGING PARTNER
MAPLE HILL, ::: KANSAS

THE TRANCH FOLSOM, NEW MEXICO

July 13, 1931.

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

My dear Joe:

I have your letter of July 10th about the hemorrhagic septicemia experiment.

Death losses among our smaller neighbors were pretty heavy two years ago when there was little or no vaccinating done. Last fall practically everyone vaccinated in some form or another with not entirely satisfactory results. The vaccinating of cattle which came from the public yards usually took place just prior to their shipment back to the country. This vaccination was usually just for hemorrhagic septicemia. I have not the figures on these bunches, but understand there were some losses from shipping fever, pneumonia, colds, and other causes.

The Adams Cattle Company vaccinated their calves, which they branded at the XI for pneumonia last year. As you will remember in 1929 they had extremely heavy death losses as well as over 500 cases which recovered, more or less. Their pneumonia experiment last fall stopped the pneumonia but they still had too large death losses from other causes.

In 1928, we received 835 calves and had a death loss of 54 head from various causes, all with symptoms of colds. In 1929, we shipped up 943 calves which received a double injection consisting of 4 c.c. of bovine mixed infection bacterin. Of these calves, 4 were sick during the winter and one died. In 1930, we shipped 939 calves which were vaccinated the same way at wearing time. Of these, 3 were sick, of which one died.

The heifer calves which we weaned and kept at Folsom for replacements are now practically free from disease, our death loss for the last two years being zero. Previous to vaccination, we had well over 50% which were sick and a death loss of from 1%-3%.

Trusting this is the information you desire, I remain, with kindest personal regards,

JT/RAT

Yours very truly,



#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

#### THE J. P. CAMPBELL RANCH ACRES (CLARK COUNTY) KANSAS

J. P. CAMPBELL

July, 12,1931

Mr. J.H. Mercer, Topeka, Kans.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Replying to your inquery of July 10 in regard to my observations in vaccination for hemorrhadic septicemia over a period of several years, will say that I have had a greatdeal of experience, and many veried circumstances.

As a rule I probably have had better success in vaccinating calves than many others that I have known of, as you know from some of our former conservations in regard to it.

I am free to say this, that in no case where I have vaccinated for hemorrhagic, 24 to 48 hours before loading calves on the cars for shipment to my ranch, or else where, have I had any outbreak of the desease whatever. While in other shipments at the same time and under the same circumstances, I have had very serious trouble. I have had almost equally as much success where I have maccinated the calves immediately after unloading them here at my ranch, if the shipment was not of too long a duration.

I did not move any calves in 1930, but in 1929 I moved in some 4500 head. The most of which I vaccinated as soon as they were unloaded off the cars, and IMXNN MARKXXXX had no loss whatever when so treated.

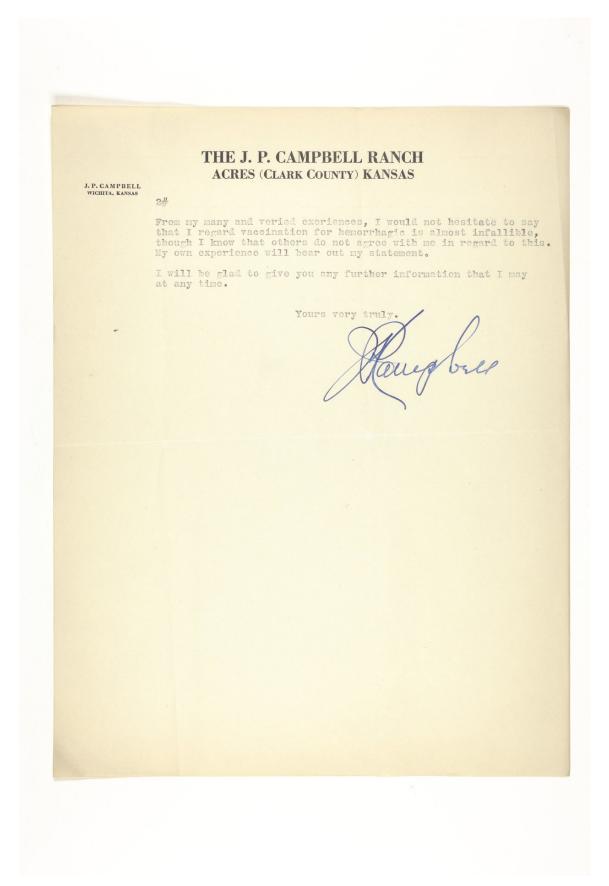
One shipment, of several cars that were on the road five days, and in a cold snow storm, for four days more before I could get to vaccinate them, they commenced dying, and they all seemed to be sick, but within 24 hours after vaccinating, they brightened up and all went on feed, and I think I only lost 2 % of that bunch after vaccination.

Just before that time, I brought in 1000 head and unlosded them at Mineola. The Meather was fine, the wheat fields were wonderful, and the temptation was so great that I turned them into the wheat fields, without bringing them home to vaccinate, they had only been on the cars 11 hours, so I just took the chance, well in JME just ten daysthey were the sickest bunch of calves I had ever had and all took sick at the same time, I had lost five head. I took them to the nearest pens to vaccinate them, and in 48 hours, I had lost 10 more of them and the rest were all well.

I could cite you to many other instances of my experience, very simi lar to these to which I have above referred to, and in every case it has worked out about the same. In some cases where calves were very sick, I have repeated the dose several times a day, for two or three days, and occassionally saved a calf, that I think otherwise would have died.

If this information is of any value to you, in making up your report, I am very glad to give it to you.







#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

HORACE G. ADAMS HORACE G. ADAMS JR. ALEXANDER W. ADAMS RAYMOND E. ADAMS

#### THE ADAMS CATTLE CO.

Maple Hill, Kansas July 13, 1931. THE ADAMS RANCH MAPLE HILL, KANSAS X. I. RANCH PLAINS, KANSAS BRAND X. I

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

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Yours of July 10th in which you ask for our experience with Hemorrhagic Septicemia.

In the Fall of 1929 we had at one time, directly after shipping, over 500 calves that were affected. We vaccinated them with a bacterin that was recommended very highly by the company that manufactured it. This bacterin seemed to aggravate their trouble and we lost a great many almost immediately after vaccinating them. We called a veterinary from Manhattan who recommended vaccinating them with a serum, which we did and got very good results.

In the Fall of 1930 the company that manufactured the bacterin we used the year before, informed us that if we vaccinated the calves some two or three weeks before shipping, it would be a certain preventative against sickness or loss. We did this but our calves started dying directly after they were received at Maple Hill. We had over 500 sick calves at one time. We again used the serum the same as the year before with very good results.

HGA:C

Yours very truly,
THE ADAMS CATTLE CO..



#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

WIRT R. BARNARD, D. V. S.
BELLEVILLE, KANSAS

July 11th, 1931.

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

My Dear Mr Mercer:

Refering to your letter of the 10th inst seeking information relative to immunization against hemorrhagic septicaemia in compiling your report.

Where the hemorrhagic septicaemia <u>aggressin</u> has been given to unexposed calves the results have been very satisfactory.Only in one instance have <sup>1</sup> had the opportunity to exposed calves treated as above by placing them with infected calves and in this case none of them broke.

The most of my work with hemorrhagic septicaemia has been with herds where the disease is present. In such herds, hemorrhagic septicaemia bacterin or better still the Mixed Bovine Bacterin containing the pneumonia strains is indicated and not the Aggressin and is far superior as a curative agent than the straight hem sep bacterin. Best results from its use will be obtain as a preventative the earlier it can be given, and its curative properties the same. It is passive in its immunity, immunity lasting not to exceed 30 days under heavy exposure.

I always use aggressin in unexposed herds and the bacterin in exposed and affected herds. I do not have any definite knowledge as to exactly how long the immunity from the aggressin is.

Biologic therapy depends for its success upon positive diagnosis primarily associated with animal vitality, climatic conditions, sanitary surroundings and proper housing.

Personally the straight hemorrhagic septiceamia bacterin I have little use for, because, the most of the cases we get are complicated and in such cases it is almost worthless, but the Mixed with the pneumonic strains are valuable to the industry, in my opinion.

Very truly yours



#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939



July 11, 1931.

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

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of July 10th relative to my experience with vaccinating against Hemorrhagic Septecemia, I will say that of the 300 head that you vaccinated last fall I lost none of them from any cause and none were attacked with hemorrhagic septecemia. My nephew, who shipped in about the same number at the same time, did not vaccinate and did not lose any either or have any attacked with that disease.

attacked with that disease.

I had one case of hemorrhagic septecemia last winter. This was a yearling steer that I had bought on the Wichita yards and vaccinated on the Wichita yards; but he did not develop the disease until, about ninety days after I had him.

I have never lost a steer from Hemorrhagic septecemia since I began vaccinating for that trouble and vaccinating every 48 hours after the animal is attacked. My opinion, therefor, from my experience is that it does help somewhat to lighten the disease if the animal is attacked, but is not a preventative. The best preventative is to keep the cattle out of cold rains; and if attacked, keep them from getting wet especially from cold rains. Hemorrhagic septecemia seems to develop from a sort of chill or cold and is very much aggravated by the same cause after the animal is once attacked.

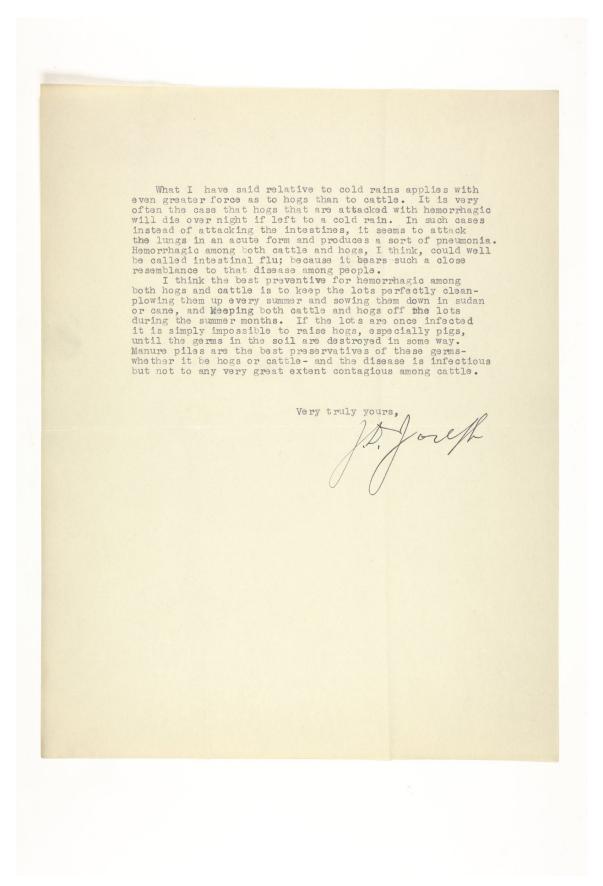
I have had considerable experience in vaccinating hogs for hemorrhagic septecemia and my opinion is that it

I have had considerable experience in vacchating hogs for hemorrhagic septecemia and my opinion is that it does no good whatever so far as the hogs are concerned, aftern they are once attacked with the disease. In fact, I think if you have a virulent type of hemorrhagic among your hogs, the only thing to do is either kill them all or ship them out. You can save a small proportion by feeding lye in some form; but not enough to pay for the trouble when you take into consideration that those you save do not do well and are rather a liability than an asset.

It has been suggested by some that these germs are

It has been suggested by some that these germs are sometimes conveyed from hogs to cattle. I think that is true. My experience has been that cattle that are placed in a lot that is badly infected with hog hemorrhagic septscemia are more likely to take the disease than those place in a clean lot.







#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939



#### State of Kansas

OFFICE OF

STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS
MCPHERSON, KANSAS

July, 11, 1931.

Hon. J. H. Mercer, Topeka, Kansas Dear Mr. Mercer:

My experience in vaccinating calves either as a prevantive or as a cure for Hemorrhagic Septicaemia has been rather limited. At the time your office started investigations I believe I visited more that a dozen herds in this part of the state. None of these were vaccinated by me. However some were vaccinated before they left the yards. That sort of information is not of distinct value unless we know what product was used and how large a dose.

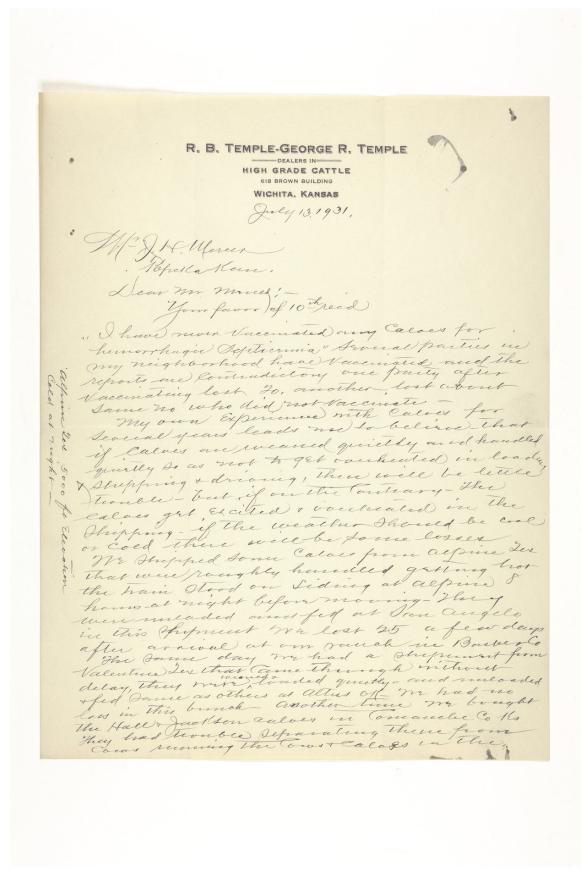
Personally I believe that feed and exposure has much to do with the severity of the disease. I have had no trouble to immunize native calves if they were not allowed to come in contact with diseased animals for a period of two weeks. The product of my preference in this procedure is the Aggressin. Many of my clients truck several calves at a time from the Wichita market and very frequently the infection is transmitted in this way to native animals. The disease thus produced in the native calves is very fatal and practically all native become infected. I know of some fifteen farms where calves, native, were immunized with the aggressin and after ten days or two weeks calves and other stock originating at public markets were placed into the same lots with loss of native calves.

I will be very glad to have your report when it comes out. I believe much may be gained of value to the stockman as well as the veterinarian from a careful check on calves entering and leaving the public markets.

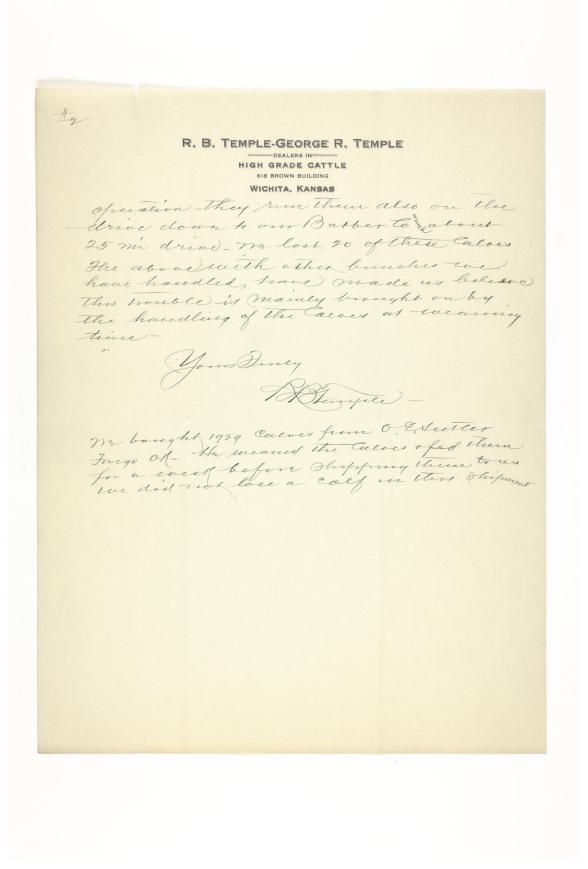
Very truly yours,

( - Hubii

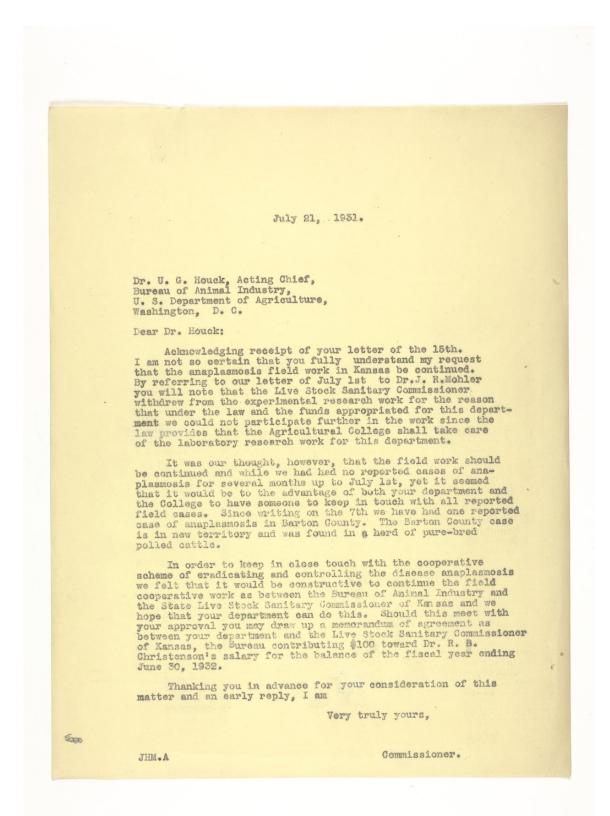




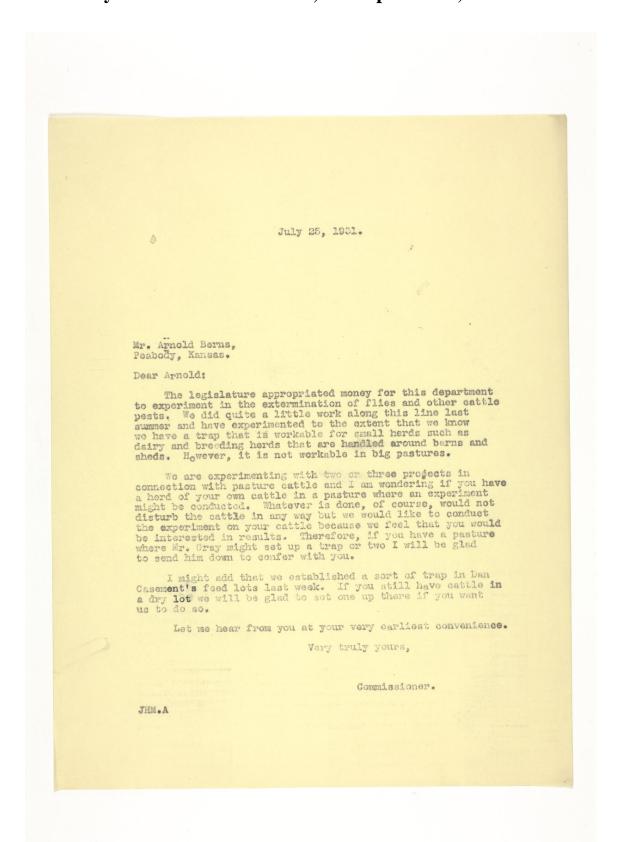




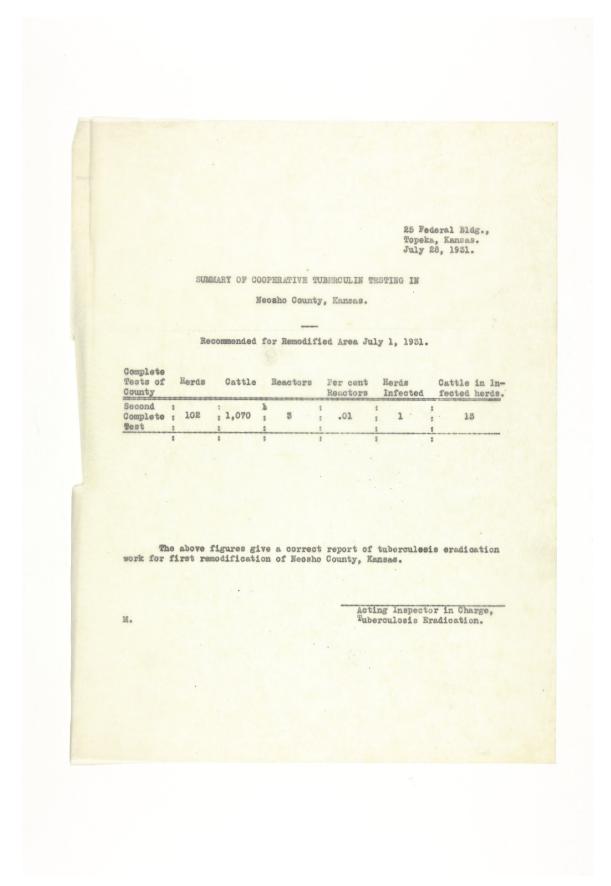














#### Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1929-1939

DR. C. P. FITCH
O. W. HEALY
W. S. MOSCRIP
P. O. HOLLAND
DR. W. A. ANDERSON

### STATE OF MINNESOTA LIVE STOCK SANITARY BOARD

CHAS, E. COTTON, VETERINARIAN SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

N. CARROLL, CHIEF CLERK

(OLD CAPITOL)

IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

ST. PAUL

August 1st, 1931

Hon. J. H. Mercer State L. S. Sanitary Commissioner State <sup>C</sup>apitol, Topeka, K a n s a s

Mr. R. L. Cuff Live Stock Commissioner Kansas City Live Stock Exchange Kansas City, Missouri

Gentlemen:

After conferring with Mr. Cuff at the Midwestern States Tuberculosis Conference and on receipt of his letter of April 20th, I referredthe matter to the quarterly meeting of this Board on July 27th. I explained to our Board, as I also explained verbally to Mr. Cuff, that, in my opinion, Mr. Mercer, as the Live Stock Sanitary official of Kansas, is the one Who should pass on and accept the certificate of the owner and also the shipper's statement on the blank forms, copies of which you furnished us, and that your representative at the yards should then tag the cattle; Mr. Mercer's office could then issue the necessary health certificate for the shipment of such cattle interstate to Minnesota. I also explained that we were of the opinion that, under these circumstances, such cattle will meet our requirements for the importation into Minnesota without the necessity of placing them under quarentine for feeding purposes or for any other purpose provided you will state on the health certificate that the cattle originate from your accredited areas and that the entire herds from which such cattle originate have passed one complete negative test within twelve months; such health certificate should be approved by Mr. Mercer. Provided the cattle have not been tested within twelve months or provided they originate from herds in counties in the process of accreditation, or herds in the process of accreditation under the Individual Accredited Herd Plan, they could be imported within six months of the date of the negative tests of the entire herds. If more than twelve months have elapsed since the date of the last negative tests of the herds from which such cattle originated we would permit them to come into our areas for feeding purposes, in quarantine, such quarantine to be continued until the cattle are filled and ready for market, but with the understanding that such cattle will not be resold and placed on other premises within the county or area unless they have passed a satisfactory tuberculin test.

We are of the opinion, as I explained to Mr. Cuff, tand we will accept health certificates approved by Mr. Mercer, and that he is the one to assume the responsibility of the proper identification of the cattle as certified by the owner and the shipper on your form submitted to us, rather than to ask the state officials of other states to accept such form; as I explained to Mr. Cuff, this form does not represent a health certificate but we have the greatest respect and confidence in Mr. Mercer and will accept these health certificates



DR. G. P. FITCH O. W. HEALY W. S. MOSCRIP P. O. HOLLAND DR. W. A. ANDERSON	STATE OF MIL LIVE STOCK SAN	TARY BOARD	HAS, E. COTTON, VETERINARIAN SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER CARROLL, CHIEF CLERK
IN REPLY REFER TO		ST. PAUL Aug	ust 1st, 1931
Hon. J. H. Mercer Mr. R. L. Cuff			
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the importation o our rules and reg tuberculosis. Th	losing copy of the booklet of cattle into Minnesota, als ulations, as well as our Are is Area Law was amended by threwith a copy of the amended	so another booklet a Law, for the co the last legislatu	containing atrol of bovine
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