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ANNUAL REPORT

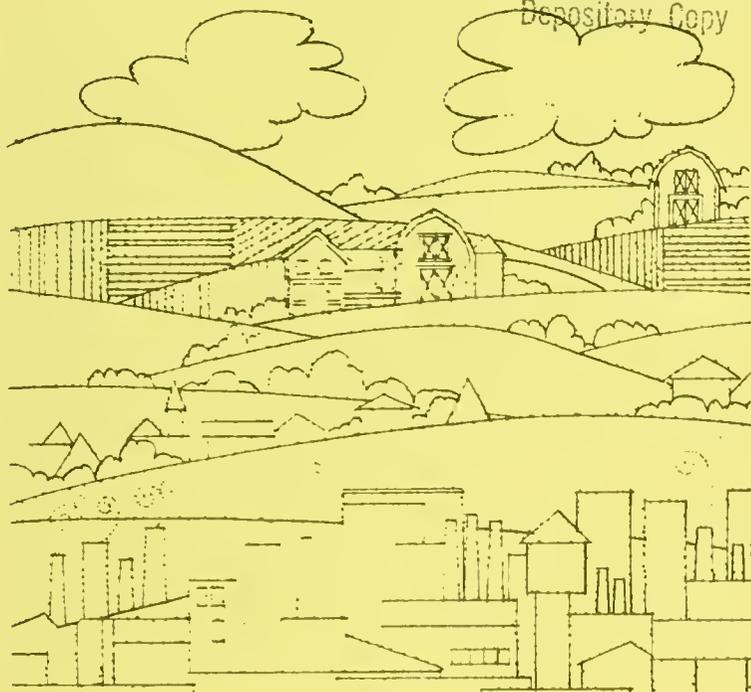
JULY 1, 1977 TO JUNE 30, 1978

ERIC WINTHROP, Jr.
Commissioner

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

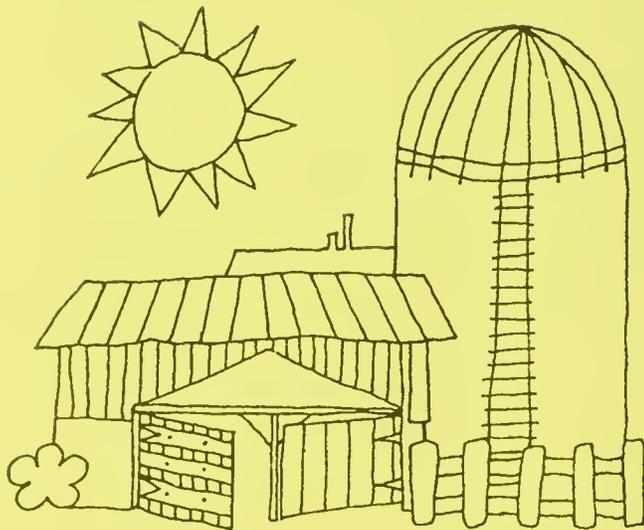
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MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT of FOOD and AGRICULTURE

100 Cambridge Street Boston, Ma. 02202



Pub; #11623-32-200-11-79-C.R.

FOREWORD

This annual report summarizes the major activities of the Department of Food and Agriculture during the past fiscal year.

The highlight of the last twelve months, and perhaps the last century, has been the passage of the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Act by the Great and General Court. This landmark legislation which provides for the public purchase of "development rights" is a program that demonstrates a new commitment to preserve essential farmland in our state.

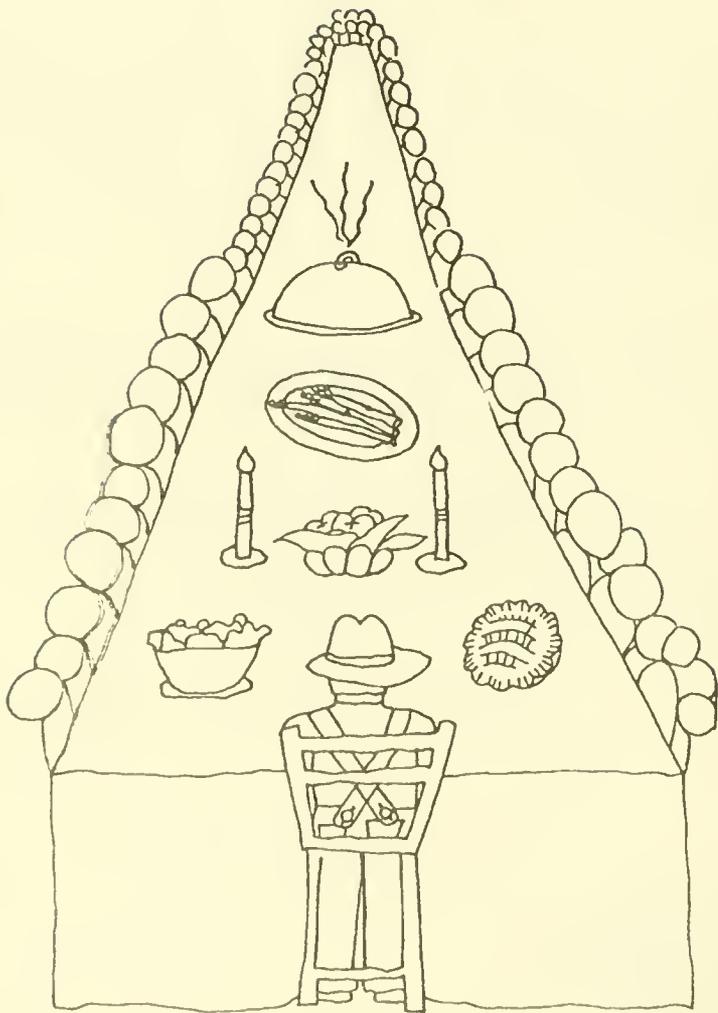
Urban and rural citizens are increasingly aware of the contributions of local agriculture to our food supply and our economy, and many are demonstrating their support by purchasing Massachusetts grown products at farmers markets, roadside farm stands and retail food stores across the state.

Agriculture is looking up in Massachusetts, and each of us at the Department of Food and Agriculture is proud to be contributing toward the future of the food and farming industry in our state.

Frederic Winthrop Jr.

Frederic Winthrop, Jr.
Commissioner of Food
and Agriculture





PRODUCT PROMOTION

The promotion of Massachusetts products continued through the use of public service announcements and printed "Massachusetts Grown and Fresher" materials. The Division also assisted various commodity groups with their promotional programs and provided funds for advertising.

Information compiled and published by the Division included listings of Massachusetts turkey farms, Christmas tree farms, and farms offering "pick your own" sales of blueberries, strawberries, apples and vegetables. Various local crops were also developed and distributed primarily at Farmers Markets and roadside stands.

The Division sponsored exhibits in the State Building at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, and at the New England Flower and Garden Show, where we received a silver medal.

We also exhibited at the New England Life Insurance Co. cafeteria, and provided the menu ideas for a "Taste of Massachusetts" day during the Thanksgiving season.

The Division coordinated and supervised the state Chicken Cooking Contest at Burlington Mall. We also coordinated a "Great Pumpkin Contest" in collaboration with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture; entries from 16 states were exhibited at Faneuil Hall Marketplace and later at the Association's annual convention in Concord, N.H.

We were also instrumental in arranging for the Governor's proclamation "Valentine's Week," an effort to help local flower growers market their \$100 million dollar seasonal crop during the aftermath of the historic February blizzard of '78.

The Division also made arrangements for the annual display of Christmas trees at the State House by the Massachusetts Christmas Tree Association.

By attending the meetings of the various commodity groups and associations, we are able to cooperate more closely in the promotion of Massachusetts agricultural products.

The Department's film "Partners of the Land," had 533 showings to a total estimated audience of 35,879 and it was also telecast 21 times to a total estimated audience of 376,702.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

A new effort this year to increase public awareness of local agriculture was the observance of the first annual "Massachusetts Agriculture Week" during August, 1977. Governor Dukakis signed the proclamation at ceremonies attended by farmers and representatives of various agricultural groups.

The week was planned to coincide with the annual "Farm Tour" sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and related agencies. Agriculture Week emphasized the benefits to both farmers and consumers of preserving the productivity of farmland in Massachusetts.

News releases were written weekly to explain programs and current concerns of various Divisions of the Department, agricultural issues, meetings, locally grown crops in season and direct marketing outlets.

Numerous requests from news writers and broadcasters were answered; major areas of inquiry were local crops, farms, weather conditions, legislation concerning agriculture, current best food buys and nutrition. There were more than 2100 newsclips concerning the Department in newspapers across the state.

Best food buys of the month were featured on the WCVB-TV "Good Day" program; current shopping tips and information on other agricultural topics were also broadcast regularly on WHDH and WEEI in Boston and whenever requested on other radio and TV stations. The Department's twenty-five-minute program "Countryside" was also aired weekly on WBZ each Saturday and Sunday morning.

There were many requests for interviews with Commissioner Winthrop and there was also good response from TV stations across the state who aired our public service announcements about the benefits of local farm production.

MARKETING ACTIVITIES

Farmers markets continue to increase in Massachusetts and there are more than twenty-five in the planning stages for the 1978 summer season. It is estimated that there are also six hundred and ten farm operated roadside stands and fifty "pick your own" operations across the state, which is further indication of the popularity of farmer-to-consumer direct marketing.

The Division has also laid the groundwork for increased production of Massachusetts eggs and fresh vegetables by helping to make arrangements for the future use of these products by a large local food chain. We are

ident that local growers and producers can sell their production increases, we stress that quality and correct marketing methods are essential.

ET NEWS

The Division is actively involved in disseminating Wholesale Produce et information from the Boston and Springfield markets. Also prepared published by the Division are the Boston Wholesale Flower Market report a weekly apple report for the industry listing wholesale market prices storage holdings. Our weekly Food Buyer's Guide listing retail food es in the Boston area is mailed to over five hundred consumers. stands, and farmers markets, etc.

PORT MARKETING

Assistance is now proffered to seventy agribusiness firms actively aged or seeking to enter the export market. Additional numerous iries are serviced from foreign nationals working and/or studying he New England area. A large proportion of these inquiries emanate from .can nationals from Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Zaire and Chad and include ew joint venture proposals for agricultural production and processing ns.

The close liason efforts with the Eastern United States Agricultural Food Export Council, Inc. (EUSAFEC) and the Foreign Agricultural Service, A.S.) has resulted in participatio by eleven firms in trade shows in land, Germany, France, Switzerland, Egypt, Panama and Venezuela Also, firms participated in a EUSAFEC sponsored trade show in San Juan, rto Rico servicing the Carribean area.

REGULATORY SERVICES

The regulatory and inspection service is responsible for all the fruit vegetable inspections at shipping points and processing plants. These pections are made on a fee basis at the request of the applicant or pper. Inspections were also made at wholesale markets and retail res in order to insure the correct labeling of apples, potatoes, d, pet food and speciality fertilizers.

The program provides for inspection and certification of approved ntrolled atomsphere apple storage rooms, seed, feed, and fertilizer gistration and inspection, and administration of the related laws luding cooperative work with USDA in regard to the Federal Acts vering these commodities.

SEED INSPECTION PROGRAM/OFFICIAL SAMPLES TESTED

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Agriculture	72	62
Mixtures (lawn)	97	86
Vegetables	509	477
Flowers	250	206
Flower Mixture	5	4
	<u>934</u>	<u>835</u>

FRUIT & VEGETABLE INSPECTION REVENUE

	<u>1976-77</u>	<u>1977-78</u>
Apples	\$ 9,812.07	\$10,061.74
Cranberries	245.32	-----
Onions	3,374.26	2,979.96
Potatoes	8,862.26	3,251.25
Total	<u>\$22,293.91</u>	<u>\$16,292.95</u>

FEED, FERTILIZER AND LIME REGISTRATION

	<u>1977 Brands</u>	<u>1978 Brands</u>
Feed	1,929	2,008
Fertilizer/a	658	697
	<u>1977 Plants</u>	<u>1978 Plants</u>
Fertilizer/b	15	14
Lime	25	29

FEED, FERTILIZER AND LIME REVENUE

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>
Feed	\$ 48,225.00	\$ 51,900.00
Fertilizer/a	16,450.00	18,200.00
Fertilizer/b	1,875.00	1,750.00
Lime	625.00	725.00
Fertilizer/c	8,344.77	8,849.90
Fertilizer/d	<u>3,029.98</u>	<u>2,197.10</u>
	\$ 78,549.75	83,422.00

/a Speciality
/b Commercial

/c Tonnage
/d Penalties

DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH
Walter F. Lewis, Director

There can be no successful animal-related agriculture without the control and eradication of livestock disease.

We have entered an unprecedented period of livestock history. The demand and price for all types of livestock is at an all time high, even discounting inflation. The next several years should offer an exceptional economic opportunity, especially for established producers. The current demand for our livestock is a very important factor in this unusual situation. It is very important that disease outbreaks do not jeopardize these good opportunities. From time to time, over the years, the Massachusetts legislature has seen fit to pass laws and then provide funds that would help with this important job. This year was no exception. Tuberculosis and Brucellosis are probably the most important diseases since they can be transmitted in a number of ways, from diseased animals to healthy humans.

BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL AND ERADICATION

Brucellosis has been wiped out, thru depopulation, on one of the two farms that were infected at the beginning of this year. New infection was discovered in a large herd; this was depopulated. Strict attention to surveillance is important if we are to be spared further Brucellosis infection in our cattle herds. Mandatory calfhood vaccination should be a great help if field strain Brucellosis infection breaks out.

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis in man and bovine is seldom seen today in Massachusetts. It has been controlled by guarding against entry of infected animals, strong surveillance at slaughterhouses and the testing of thousands of cattle every year. It was in this routine on the farm testing that TB killed its ugly head in a small Middlesex County herd. Complete depopulation of this herd was being planned at year's end. Complete testing of the entire bovine population on a regular basis is essential to control this disease.

HOG CHOLERA

Fortunately another year has passed without an outbreak of hog cholera in Massachusetts and throughout the nation. On January 31, 1978 the country was declared free of hog cholera. This signaled the very important reopening of export opportunities for pork products.

It is our firm belief that the manifestation of this disease, discovered in Massachusetts in 1976, came from the use of hog cholera vaccine. It is quite possible that the use of this vaccine continued after it was outlawed in 1969.

It is reliably reported that hog cholera vaccine still exists in Massachusetts. It is likely that it will be used again. In view of this situation, plans should be made to continue a surveillance of Massachusetts hogs for the presence of hog cholera titer. It is recommended that every herd be checked at least once per year. Much of this could be accomplished by splitting samples taken in connection with brucellosis eradication and revalidating.

BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION IN SWINE

The number of known hog farms with brucellosis infection is now less than a dozen. Some of those remaining are large. It is possible that complete clean-up will require the implementation of a law making eradication mandatory. A bill will be placed in the legislative channels calling for complete eradication and indemnity. Study may show that a redesigning of import requirements may be in order to protect our farms from reinfection.

PSEUDORABIES IN SWINE

The increased prevalence of Pseudorabies in other parts of the U.S. is a signal for us to study procedures to prevent its entry into Massachusetts. Import requirements should be developed, surveillance within the state established and a laboratory in the state designated to perform the necessary testing procedures. Policy and rules for the use of Pseudorabies vaccine in Massachusetts should be developed.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

This devastating foreign disease is traveling toward us at a rapid speed and may arrive here or the Caribbean via Puerto Rico at any time.

Stronger enforcement of the Garbage Cooking Law is now needed because of the threat of this disease. The most likely way of entry to the U.S. is by illegal import of pork products on the person of visitors or citizens from countries where African Swine Fever exists. A legal proceeding is now in the planning stages with the Attorney General's Office against a swine raiser who refuses to cook garbage and obtain a permit to feed garbage.

PROGRAMS RELATED TO HORSES

Equine Infectious Anemia

Continued progress was made this year in the eradication of E.I.A. in Massachusetts as indicated in the following table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Tests</u>	<u>Number of Reactors</u>
1975	20,288	147
1976	21,976	69
1977	20,404	46
1978	15,727	28

The program of tests and quarantine or slaughter of reactors has been successful in control and eradication of E.I.A. in the state. The number and percentage of reactors have reduced dramatically each year. Eradication is within our grasp if 100% mandatory testing were established. It is significant that the number of positive horses from long imports has remained the same while the total number of positive horses has declined. Stronger protection against importing the disease is indicated. Present progress of the program indicates that less frequent retesting of horses should be considered.

EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS

Equine Encephalomyelitis in horses was reported this year. Undoubtedly this resulted from the failure of horse owners to have their animals vaccinated. This calls for an informational and educational program for the 1979 spring season.

LICENSING OF RIDING STABLES

238 Riding Stables/Riding Schools applied for licensing this year; 21 licenses were issued. This licensing program is primarily animal-protective in intent and the general care and use of the equines involved in this area have improved.

LICENSING OF RIDING INSTRUCTORS

A total of 810 Horseback Riding Instructor Licenses were issued. Of these, 117 represented first year licenses and 693 were renewals. First-year applicants are licensed on the Beginner-Level. Level changes to Intermediate and Advanced are earned in subsequent years through experience and measured degrees of success with students.

HORSE SALES AND TRANSPORT LICENSING PROGRAM

A new law calling for the regulating of sales and transportation of horses has been enacted. The implementation of this program through the development of rules and regulations will be a new effort for 1979.

CONTROL OF DRUG ABUSE IN DRAFT HORSES

Limited implementation of the law to control drug abuse in draft animal pulling contests was arranged and carried out by our staff. This surveillance was very well received by the contestants who expressed the desire to have the program extended.

RABIES CONTROL

The Division's part in the rabies control program consisted of the quarantining of 8,755 dogs by Division appointed Animal Inspectors.

Consideration should be given to the possible exclusion of skunks and other high rabies risk species for use as pets.

PET SHOP LICENSING

There were 242 pet shops licensed in 1978. The program has resulted in improved conditions for animals. Changes should be made in the rules and regulations that would more definitely delineate the actual responsibilities of pet shop operators.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The original budget for the Division was \$292,414. It was necessary to ask for additional funds to carry on the fight against Brucellosis. Increased funds were appropriated for indemnity payments to farmers for reactor cattle that were killed. Increased funding was also provided to pay private veterinarian for Fee Basis testing and vaccination necessary in the Brucellosis control and eradication effort. Additional funds were also provided to pay travel costs of field personnel. A total of \$324,500 in additional funds were provided by the Legislature.

DIVISION OF POULTRY
James Sheehan, Supervisor

POULTRY STANDARDIZATION

One of our primary responsibilities is to the Massachusetts poultry breeders; 100,741 birds were blood-tested for evidence of Pullorum-Typhoid disease under the National Poultry Improvement Plan, and for the fifth year, no reactors were found.

This year Massachusetts poultry breeders exported 1,622,555 baby chicks and 100,599 dozens of hatching eggs.

Inspectors were on hand at 26 fairs and/or poultry exhibitions to inspect birds for clinical symptoms of disease or illness and to determine the compliance of the exhibitors with the Pullorum-Typhoid testing program.

POULTRY SERVICES

Another of our important duties to the general public is the inspection of eggs on the retail level. In this fiscal year, 6,874 lots of eggs were inspected for proper labeling, and to insure that the product met Massachusetts standards for weight and quality, which must, by statute, appear on the carton. Violations were found in 71 lots, representing approximately 1.03% of the total number of lots inspected.

Fourteen egg producer/packers and packers were approved to package eggs in cartons displaying the Massachusetts logo, "Massachusetts Produced and Fresher."

There were 116 state institutional inspections and 1073 cases of eggs were examined; 190 cases were rejected as not meeting the specifications of the Commonwealth.

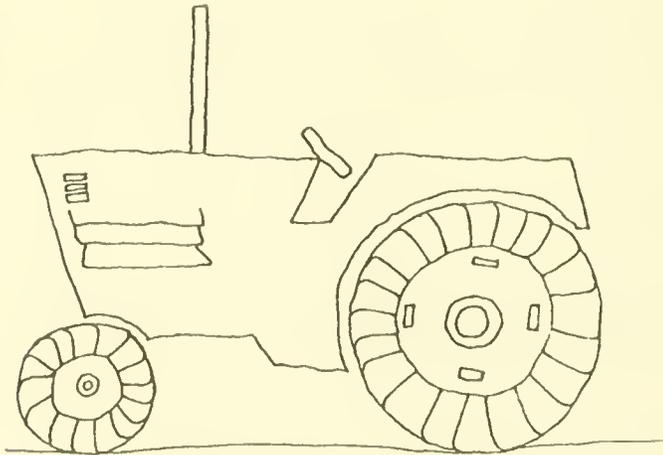
Quarterly surveillance visits were made to egg handlers registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Egg Products Inspection Act.

This Division also compiles weekly information on egg inventories throughout the state in cooperation with the U.S.D.A. Market News Service in Newark, N.J.

The quality of 3,476,000 pounds of frozen turkey and chicken was certified at the point of delivery. This meat was used in connection with the School Lunch Program. This activity and the surveillance visits are a result of a cooperative agreement with the U.S.D.A.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Division's budget for the fiscal year was \$83,322; \$71,022 were allocated for salaries of five inspectors plus one supervising inspector, \$300 for laboratory supplies for the Pullorum-Typhoid testing program, \$7,800 for gasoline, turnpike tolls, etc., \$1,000 for repairs of state cars, \$2,100 for freight, postage, stationery & telephone bills, and \$1,100 for rent of one car from the Motor Vehicle Management Bureau.



STATE RECLAMATION BOARD
Charles J. Cannon, Secretary

The following changes have been made in the State Reclamation Board's membership. Albert H. Zabriskie of the Department of Environmental Management joined the Board to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Edward Wright, former chairman. Harold D. Rose of the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering was unanimously voted chairman.

By contractual agreement between the State Reclamation Board and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Jere Downing, entomologist, has been employed. He will work with Dr. John Edman at the University. His duties will include support to the project superintendents with regard to water management, use of insecticides and related subjects.

Early winter weather this year was very severe and drainage ditch work was curtailed due to low temperatures and heavy snow. The spring season brought a lengthy period of rain which occurred after the initial spring larviciding had been completed causing a second hatch of mosquitoes to emerge. Wet weather conditions continued throughout the summer months making conditions ideal for mosquito breeding. Mosquito larvae continued to be very dense throughout the fall season.

Source reduction is the major control method of all projects. Besides lessening the quantities of insecticide used, it also greatly reduces the emergence of adult mosquitoes.

All projects maintained close liaison with officials of member communities. With each passing year more of the mosquito control effort stems from a cooperative effort between conservation commissions and departments of health and public works than with the individual property owner. Full cooperation is carried on with the Encephalitis Field Station.

The appropriated budget for the Board's activities during the fiscal year was \$27,840.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND USE
Susan Redlich, Director

COMMUNITY GARDENING

We have helped develop gardens at 16 different state-owned lands (hospitals, prisons, state parks), serving youth, elderly, and people on fixed income. We negotiate between the holding agency and garden groups to make land available and trouble-shoot if problems arise. Anyone can ask us for help in locating a spot at one of the over 188 community gardens in the state, or assistance in developing a new garden site.

COMMERCIAL FARMING

With thousands of acres of good agricultural land belonging to the Commonwealth, we recognize that this resource, where not already being used to raise food to supply state institutions, can be used productively by local farmers and thereby bolster our agricultural economy. Where agencies are cooperative, we lease land for agriculture. Support is needed for our attempts to see better utilization of state lands.

RESEARCHING LEAD IN URBAN SOILS

We've helped initiate and coordinate efforts to investigate the extent of lead contamination of urban garden plants and soils, and helped set up a program for any gardener to get free soil-testing for lead. Participating in this effort are Boston Urban Gardeners, Inc. Suffolk County Extension Service, Waltham Experiment Station, and the E.P.A.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In addition to providing information and referral services statewide for people involved in farming or gardening, we work directly with agencies and community groups in getting programs started and tapping resources for community use. Soil-poor community gardens received top soil brought in by state trucks we pressed into service. We have sponsored a feasibility study of large-scale organic waste composting that would produce humus for re-building urban soils suitable for raising food.

EDUCATION

Aware of the tremendous interest in gardening and farming activities

by youth, we sponsored a Gardening with Youth Conference attended by approximately 100 people. We've published Introduction to Vegetable Gardening, the Downtown Farmer and El Agricultor Urbano.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

We're working with agencies and community groups to make land available on a permanent basis for neighborhood people that want and need to raise food, and supporting projects that demonstrate the viability of urban agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

By participating in the planning process and monitoring decisions that may affect agricultural lands, we're trying to prevent further loss or destruction of agricultural resources. With the recent passage of the Farmland Preservation Bill, we are assisting in its implementation and providing information to the public.

A FARMERS' MARKET FOR BOSTON

With our assistance, organizing is underway for the opening of a farmers market at several neighborhood locations. Such markets provide fresh, quality produce for inner-city residents, improving nutrition and affording an opportunity for farmers to sell directly to consumers.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The budget appropriated to accomplish the various programs of the Division was \$69,000.

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION ACT
is signed by Governor Michael
S. Dukakis. Behind the Governor
at left are state Environmental
Affairs Secretary Evelyn F.
Murphy and state Food and
Agriculture Commissioner
Frederic Winthrop, Jr. At
right is Representative
Richard J. Dwinell of Millbury,
House Chairman of the Committee
on Natural Resources and
Agriculture; at left is Warren
K. Colby, state Food and
Agriculture Department, and
Senator Robert D. Wetmore of
Barre.

The landmark legislation
enacted in December, 1977
demonstrates a new commitment
to preserve essential farmland
in Massachusetts.





This year marked the most significant milestone in Massachusetts agriculture within the last 100 years. With the passage of the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Act, Massachusetts has embarked on a very positive program to save its prime farmland. This program will be administered by the Department.

Another responsibility will be the administration of the Pesticide Board, which was transferred from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering.

The following Acts of this fiscal year have direct influence on the Department of Food and Agriculture.

Chapter 641. An Act relating to the composition of the Reclamation Board. (Approved October 14, 1977)

Chapter 694. An Act allowing the sale of imitation frozen desserts and frozen desserts made with milk fat substitutes. (Approved October 31, 1977)

Chapter 780. An Act providing for the acquisition of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions by the Commonwealth. (Approved December 1, 1977)

There was included in the Act a five million dollar bond issue for a pilot program to purchase development rights from owners of prime agricultural lands. This is to be administered within the Department.

Chapter 793. An Act relative to the control and eradication of brucellosis in bovine animals. (Approved December 3, 1977)

Because of the incidence of brucellosis in some cattle herds in the Commonwealth, this act allowed for increasing the compensation paid to owners of cattle destroyed because of infection by, or exposure to brucellosis.

Chapter 857. An Act regulating the dealing in and transportation of equine animals. (Approved December 23, 1977)

This Act added regulatory responsibilities and licensing

provisions to the Division of Animal Health in the Department for those dealing in and transporting equine animals.

Chapter 929. An Act providing for licensing and regulating of Farmer-Wineries. (Approved January 3, 1978)

Chapter 940. An Act relative to the distribution, possession, processing, sale and storage of milk. (Approved January 4, 1978)

This Act established state standards of identity and labeling requirements for milk and milk products consistent with Federal law.

Chapter 3. An Act regulating the labeling, distribution, sale, storage, transportation, use and application and disposal of pesticides (Approved January 30, 1978)

The Commonwealth is required to establish a regulatory program for pesticides control, and this legislation gives the Department this responsibility and therefore, the Commissioner of Food and Agriculture was made chairman of the Pesticide Board. Considerable responsibilities were also given to the Board requiring an increase in the administrative work load of the Department.

Chapter 14. An Act relative to the effective dates of certain milk licenses. (Approved March 28, 1978)

This amendment to the milk licenses law provides for the licenses to expire twelve months from their effective dates, rather than on June 30 as before.

Chapter 44. An Act authorizing certain testing for drugs in animals participating in contests at agricultural fairs. (Approved April 7, 1978)

This Act allowed for blood testing of animals entered into pulling contests.

DAIRY FARM INSPECTION

Chapter 940 of the Acts of 1977, effective January 4, 1978 abolished the milk regulation board and moved the responsibility for the inspection and registration of dairy farms from the Director of the Division of Dairying and Animal Husbandry to the Commissioner of the Department of Food and Agriculture. Acting under authority of the Commissioner, the Division made 7896 "first inspections" for health and sanitation at dairy farms supplying the Massachusetts market with fluid milk. Approximately 21%, or 1734 farms, failed on first inspection and required reinspections.

MILK PLANT INSPECTION

Ninety-five "first inspections" were made for health and sanitation compliance and 25% failed on first inspection and required reinspections.

MASTITIS CONTROL

122,537 milk samples from approximately half the dairy herds in the state were collected and delivered to the diagnostic laboratory at the University of Mass. in Amherst for the purpose of detecting mastitis. This program of sampling, testing, reporting, treating and resampling maintains high production in the herds of the state and a better quality milk for consumers.

U.S.D.A. GRADING AND U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH RATINGS

Personnel in this Division certified by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture devoted 74 days to this work, and from the fees charged, the Commonwealth received \$7,800 in income.

All requests for U.S. Public Health Service certified raw milk ratings were fulfilled by the personnel in this Division certified by the U.S. Public Health Service.

The appropriated budget for the fiscal year for the various programs and administration of this Division was \$217,584.

DIVISION OF MILK CONTROL COMMISSION
George M. Healy, Acting Director

Milk Control was enacted in 1934 for the purpose of insuring a continuous production and distribution of milk in the Commonwealth. Legislative and administrative regulations are necessary in order to guarantee a continuous supply of milk products to the consuming public.

Milk production is the largest segment of our agricultural economy. Massachusetts farmers receive over 60 million dollars per year for their milk. The investment in land, building, livestock, etc., runs into millions of dollars. For the dairy industry as a whole, the investment is hundreds of millions of dollars which also provide a livelihood for thousands of citizens in the Commonwealth.

The activities of the Division of Milk Control this year were as follows:

1. Established Class I and Class II prices and butterfat differentials that milk dealers must pay for milk in areas not controlled by the Federal Milk Market Administrator.
2. Established minimum prices to milk dealers who purchase milk from Massachusetts producers whose price is not established by the Federal Market Administrator.
3. Enforced rules and regulations governing procedures for the determination of milk fat content in milk or cream for payment purposes for all Massachusetts producers.
4. Provided for the measuring and sampling of raw milk on Massachusetts farms and for the licensing of persons to do this work.
5. Prohibited predatory price discrimination in the marketplace.
6. Maintained statistical and research section which provided pricing information to the milk industry and statistical information for U.S.D.A. publications.
7. Granted 628 regular milk dealer licenses and 3,865 store licenses during the fiscal year.

Income derived from the milk industry for the fiscal year amounted to \$242,752.37. Expenses of the Division for the same period amounted to \$198,280.70.

FAIR ACTIVITIES

The public showed continued interest in agricultural fairs this year, and total attendance was more than 2,500,000 people.

The 124 fairs and shows in Massachusetts included 21 major, 18 community, 24 youth, 22 livestock and 39 Grange Fairs.

Agricultural fairs offer a unique type of family entertainment as well as educational exhibits and demonstrations concerning livestock production and farm products.

To stimulate this form of agricultural education, at the fairs, the Division offers prize monies and awards ribbons. This year there were prize awards for 97,422 exhibits, 42,377 of which were youth exhibits.

At the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, the Division continued to operate and maintain the Massachusetts Building, which was visited by 600,000 people this year.

All but a few of the smaller fairs were inspected this year. Our fair inspectors, who work on a part-time basis, inspect (examine) each fair relative to the actual numbers of prize awards, public health and safety conditions and the need for rehabilitation of fairgrounds and buildings. The inspection reports are especially useful in determining the amount of prize money payments to be made at each fair.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Division offers financial assistance to individual fairs to help defray the cost of improvements for the convenience of the public. The need for such improvements is checked by the fair inspectors.

STANDARD BRED HORSE PROGRAM

The Standardbred and Thoroughbred Horse programs encourage and promote the breeding, propagation, ownership, raising, racing and marketing of horses bred and foaled in Massachusetts. They also promote the advancement of agriculture and agriculture related industry within the state.

The program is continuing to attract new breeders to Massachusetts despite increased competition from neighboring states. Breeders of Standardbred horses in the state are to be complimented for their loyalty to our program and their faith in the future of harness horse racing in Massachusetts.

This year there were Massachusetts Sire Stakes races for two and three-year old Standardbreds held at eight different fairs with a total of 58 races.

This was the eighth year of our program and its success can be measured in part by the fact that top pedigree stallions have been brought into the state which in turn should add to the genetic wealth of our already much improved Standardbred horse population.

THOROUGHBRED HORSE PROGRAM

In the 1977-78 racing season, 1139 Massachusetts bred Thoroughbred horses went postward in races at Suffolk Downs and three agricultural fairs.

Breeder and stallion owner awards amounting to \$93,592,75 were paid to Thoroughbred stallion and more owners throughout the Commonwealth. Massachusetts-bred horses accounted for 113 wins, 154 seconds and 151 thirds, competing in open races at pari-mutuel race tracks in Massachusetts.

Again, Mass. bred horses contributed greatly to filling races in short fields at Suffolk Downs during the 1978 winter meeting, when Suffolk was suffering severely from shortage of competitive horses. Mass. bred horses accounted for the equivalent of 145 races in this time of short fields. It is estimated that Mass. bred horses alone created handle money of \$5,800,000 and revenue to the state of \$552,000 based on the Commonwealth's nine per cent take out of the total handle.

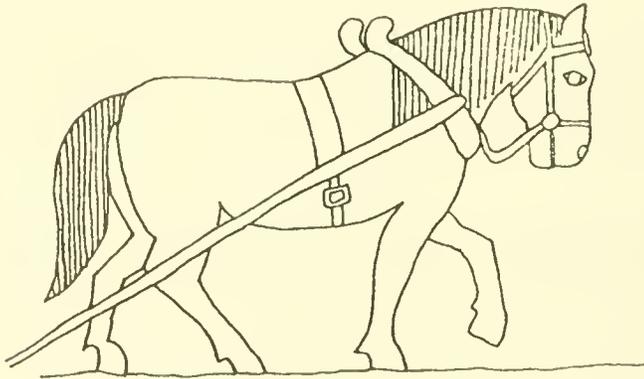
In the spring of 1978, legislation was implemented to reduce the State's share of the total handle at Suffolk Downs. Purse structure for the horsemen will be improving to a rate hike of about twenty per cent in the coming fiscal year, and breeders' awards will be higher, enabling Mass. horsemen to breed better stock and contribute to the racing industry and to the Commonwealth.

Twenty-five Thoroughbred stallions were registered with the Department of Food and Agriculture and 253 mares were reported bred

to Thoroughbred stallions standing in the Commonwealth.

FAIRS DIVISION BUDGET

The total appropriated budget for the fiscal year was \$744,858,000. Of this total, \$373,089 were appropriated for fair prize awards, fairs' inspections, promotional programs and administrative costs; \$150,000 were appropriated for the fairs' rehabilitation program; \$117,469 and \$104,300 for the thoroughbred and Standard-bred Programs, respectively.



PESTICIDE BOARD
Lewis Wells, Program Supervisor

The Pesticide Board and its staff were transferred into the Department of Food and Agriculture from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering in January 1978 by Chapter 3 of the Acts of 1978 which created 132B of the General Laws.

This Chapter also provided for several other significant changes from the statute it replaced. The Board was enlarged and for the first time certain interests were mandated to be represented in the public membership including farmers, environmentalists, a toxicologist, a physician, and a commercial applicator of pesticides. A subcommittee of the Board was charged with the duty of registering pesticides, and certain changes were effected to make Massachusetts law compatible with the amended Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

In mid March, 1978 the offices of the Board were moved to 100 Cambridge Street.

In this fiscal year, the effort to carry out certification of those who apply or supervise the application of restricted pesticides was continued even though the complete statutory basis was lacking. This work was carried out largely with state funds until the necessary changes in the statute were made. Approximately 5,000 examinations were given, corrected, and the results placed on file.

After the enactment of the new legislation, a state plan for carrying out certification was prepared for submittal to EPA and new regulations were drafted in accordance with the new legislation.

The state plan and the new regulations were presented for review by the new Board upon its establishments in June, 1978.

In addition to the above activities, nineteen investigations of pesticide incidents or alleged pesticide incidents were made. One enforcement action was taken.

The appropriated budget for the Board's activities during the fiscal year was \$37,750.

DIVISION OF PLANT PEST CONTROL
Peter C. Kuzmiski, Director

There are nine major programs of this Division and goals and Accomplishments in each area during the fiscal year were as follows:

1. The inspection of nurseries is a major activity, and there are several reasons why the detection and control of plant pests in nurseries is beneficial. Some pests have limited distribution; prevention of spread on plants helps in the containment of these pests. Early detection also permits control to be applied before the pest reaches epidemic proportions. Nursery inspection helps guarantee that the consumer will purchase a pest free plant. Inspected plants can be moved interstate without being rejected due to the presence of a damaging pest.

Nursery inspection began on July 1, and was completed on October 1, 1977. About 500 nurseries and greenhouses were inspected and certified and no unusual or serious plant pest situations were encountered. The nurseries were in generally good condition relative to growing conditions, quality and productivity.

2. Each year about 350 persons or establishments are issued Agents' Licenses allowing the buying and selling of nursery stock. Applicants must submit their sources of certified stock before an Agents' License can be issued.

3. Phytosanitary certificates are issued to allow movement of plants and seeds into other states and countries. There were 184 federal, and 150 state phytosanitary certificates issued this year. Also issued were 442 certificates to allow the export of plant seeds to foreign countries.

4. Nursery stock entering this state must be accompanied by a valid certificates of inspection by the state of origin, thus eliminating the need for further inspection. Random inspections were made at nurseries and retail outlets selling nursery stock to monitor sales of stock that might have been grown out of state.

5. Under our state White Pine Blister Rust quarantine, 101 control-area permits were issued to allow the planting of currant and gooseberry plants in approved planting sites within the Commonwealth. The currant and gooseberry act as an alternate host of the fungus which causes a serious disease of White Pines.

6. Surveys were made to determine the presence of the Cereal Leaf Beetle and European Chafer. Heavy parasitization was found on all Cereal Leaf Beetle-infestations found in our survey. This insect now occurs throughout the state, but the natural control by the parasites will no doubt keep this pest at a minimum. Results of the European Chafer survey showed no new infestations outside of the known infested area. Scouting for presence of the Gypsy Moth was done during the winter months with emphasis given to recreation areas and mobile home and trailer parks. The incidence of the Gypsy Moth has decreased from that of last year.

7. Collaboration with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in the enforcement of applicable federal domestic and foreign quarantines continued. Regulated articles under these quarantines were inspected and certified to allow their interstate movement. These articles include: plant, lumber, stone quarry products, lawn furniture, soil, sod, and by other articles that may artificially spread plant pests.

There are usually about 30 to 50 persons or nurseries that import and grow plants from foreign countries each year. These plants must be grown in detention for two growing seasons and inspected before final release from quarantine is made. This is a provision of the federal Postentry Quarantine with which our inspectors collaborate.

8. Two regular monthly radio programs contributed to our public service activities. Many inquiries were received and answered by phone, letter, or in person. These inquiries related to the various phases of agriculture, from ornamental and food crop culture to the identification of plant pests, plants, and the use of pesticides.

9. Apiary Inspection is a major program of this Division and an annual report of activities follows.

Personnel consisted of four permanent and seven temporary employees in Plant Pest Control and one permanent and six temporary employees in Apiary Inspection.

Appropriated budgets of \$71,600 for Plant Pest Control and \$4,500 for Apiary Inspection were sufficient to meet the objectives of each Division this year.

APIARY INSPECTION
Thomas L. Burbridge, Chief Inspector

Apiary inspection was performed during the spring and summer months in ten counties by six part-time inspectors paid on a per diem basis. Each inspector must have the ability to detect and diagnose all contagious or infectious diseases of honeybee larvae. Each inspector is trained in the use of aseptic inspection techniques and periodically is observed and evaluated on his performance.

After an extremely hard winter with a winter-kill of approximately twenty per cent, very little spring honey was removed. Ideal summer conditions, only interrupted by two weeks of constant rain, produced near optimum honeyflows. This resulted in significant stores of honey and pollen. Most colonies seem to be entering the fall in extremely strong conditions.

Increased awareness and cooperation of local tree wardens, mosquito control applicators and individual farmers have helped reduce the pesticide damage to honeybees. Much of this credit must be attributed to the dedicated educational and cooperative efforts of the county beekeepers' associations.

Each year approximately fifty per cent of the known colonies in Massachusetts are inspected. Very little inspection was performed in areas west of Worcester County due to the lack of applicants from those areas.

Increased incidences of American Foulbrood (Bacillus Larvae) were observed in those areas not inspected for several years. It was also observed that amount of sacbrood and chalkbrood seems to be increasing in Massachusetts apiaries.

The registration of honeybee colonies is not required in Massachusetts. Each year several hundred new beekeeper hobbyists begin colonies. An increasingly inordinate amount of apiary inspection time is expended in locating these colonies, many of which are never found. Some of these colonies are possible vectors of the highly contagious larval bee disease, American Foulbrood. It is scientifically impossible to eradicate local infestations of larval bee disease unless the locations of all colonies are known. It is strongly recommended, therefore, that the mandatory registration and location of all colonies of honeybees in Massachusetts be legislated.

Retail prices of honey ranged from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per pound depending on color, flavor origin and area of sale.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE--APIARY INSPECTION

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

SEASON 1978

COUNTY	NO. COL. LEARNED		NO. COL. OWNED		NO. COL. A.F.B.		NO. COL. F.F.B.		NO. COL. TREATED		NO. COL. DESTROYED	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
BARNSTABLE	518	0	518	596	2	---	0	---	2	---	0	---
BREWER	0	13	163	204	---	0	---	0	---	0	---	0
BURKET	414	336	575	922	5	15	21	22	26	15	0	1
ESSEX	983	995	1658	1825	13	10	7	0	20	10	0	1
FRANKLIN	0	24	315	402	---	0	---	0	---	0	---	0
HAMPDEN	515	11	950	942	12	0	3	0	3	0	12	0
Hampshire	68	3	120	548	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
MIDDLESEX	2945	1963	3310	5035	21	17	55	79	75	17	0	1
NORFOLK	754	404	1450	1450	13	21	15	15	27	21	0	1
PLYMOUTH	1986	1479	2068	2068	11	34	6	45	17	34	0	12
WORCESTER	338	270	829	829	5	14	0	3	5	14	0	0
SUPDOK	0	6	---	5	---	0	---	0	---	0	---	0
TOTALS	8521	5504	11962	14827	82	111	107	164	176	111	12	16

A.F.B. 1977 06%

A.F.B. 1978 2%

F.F.B. 1977 1.3%

F.F.B. 1978 3%

ESTIMATE # of COLONIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

15300

December 31, 1978
Peter C. Kuzmisk1, Director
Plant Pest Control

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Evelyn F. Murphy, Secretary

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Frederic Winthrop, Jr., Commissioner
John D. Barrus, Assistant Commissioner

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Charles S. Bean, Westwood Clive H. Olson, Taunton
Shirley Cross, Sandwich Harley Phelps, Jr., Lanesboro

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James T. Walsh, Bonding and Hearing Officer
Warren K. Colby, Planning Assistant, Agricultural Programs

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Susan Redlich, Director

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James P. Sheenan, Supervisor of Poultry
Mabel A. Owen, Supervisor of Riding Academies
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DIVISION OF FAIRS

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Peter Bundy, Supervisor Standardbred Program
Stephen F. Quinn, Supervisor of Thoroughbred Program

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Guy L. Paris, Assistant Director - Promotion and Information
James M. Cassidy, Assistant Director - Regulatory
George M. Porter, Chief Market Investigator
Janet M. Christensen, Public Information Officer

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Emilie G. Abbott, Supervisor of Milk Marketing Research

PESTICIDE BOARD

Lewis Wells, Program Supervisor

DIVISION OF PLANT PEST CONTROL

Peter C. Kuzmiski, Director
Warren P. Shepard, Assistant Director
Thomas L. Burbridge, Apiary Inspector

RECLAMATION BOARD

Harold D. Rose
John J. McColgan
Charles J. Cannon, Executive Secretary

