
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1929



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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
Boston, November 30, 1929.

To the Commissioner of Conservation:

The report of the work of this Division for the year ending November 30, 1929, is respectfully submitted.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Eradication of bovine tuberculosis in cattle is the most important activity of this Division. Work commenced with a rush last December as the result of two drives put on by the Health Unit of Barnstable County and the Hood Milk Company of Boston in Franklin County, and since that time the applications for tests have been coming in to this office in an increasing number from all over the State.

The total number of tests in 1928 was 54,651, and in 1929, 92,773. The cattle under supervision have increased by 18,279, making a total at the end of this year of 58,045 under test.

Barnstable County was declared a modified accredited area on June 13, 1929, and as the Legislature of this year gave special quarantine authority applying to that County, such authority was exercised under rules and regulations approved by the Governor and Council, and these rules and regulations were put into effect on October 23, 1929.

We have at the end of this year twenty-seven towns that are over 85% under supervision and are eligible for action in accordance with the following section:

“Section 33B. Whenever not less than eighty-five per centum of the cattle permanently kept in a town are, upon application of their owners, being tested for bovine tuberculosis under the supervision of the director, the director may apply the same test to all other cattle in such town.”

Requests from the Boards of Health of several of these towns have been made for the operation of this law, and some towns have already been cleaned up under its supervision.

For convenience the record of the work on tuberculosis eradication is divided into three classes:

(1) THE EXAMINATION OF CATTLE REPORTED AS SHOWING PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS OF DISEASE.

The work of the department in connection with this classification is authorized under Chapter 129, Section 29 (requiring report of the existence of contagious disease in domestic animals), Section 11 (examination and condemnation of animals found to be affected with tuberculosis), and Section 12-A (payment for cattle condemned).

During the year there has been reported 307 head of cattle included in this classification. Of this number 211 were examined physically, condemned and killed, 198 proving to be affected with tuberculosis and 13 showing no lesions of that disease. On 7 animals a so-called “permit to

kill" was granted as there was a doubt on physical examination as to whether the condition of the animal was due to tuberculosis or not. Five of these 7 animals proved to have tuberculosis and 2 proved to be affected with some other condition. Twenty-one animals reported, died prior to being examined. Sixty-four animals were released as physical examination did not indicate tuberculosis. In the case of 4 animals no disposition was made, and these four cases have been carried forward for action next year.

(2) THE TUBERCULIN TESTING OF CATTLE.

Section 32, Chapter 129, General Laws, relative to the use of tuberculin and Chapter 353, Acts of 1922 the so-called "Request Test Law," were amended by Chapter 335, Acts of 1927 and Chapter 332, Acts of 1928.

The following tables are a record of the work accomplished in the testing of cattle at request of owner:

1929
TUBERCULIN TESTS BY COUNTIES

	FIRST TEST			SECOND TEST			THIRD OR MORE			ACCREDITED			TOTAL		
	Herds	Head	Reacted	Herds	Head	Reacted	Herds	Head	Reacted	Herds	Head	Reacted	Herds	Head	Reacted
Barnstable	146	342	21	375	918	23	208	1,394	30	132	632	4	861	3,286	78
Berkshire	390	3,427	1,024	234	2,401	99	335	9,211	447	137	2,827	19	1,096	17,866	1,589
Bristol	13	241	108	10	178	10	39	1,379	90	33	1,236	8	95	3,084	216
Dukes	15	72	23	15	95	5	6	85	2	20	211	1	56	463	31
Essex	155	1,525	843	102	1,167	60	94	2,389	48	25	583	2	376	5,864	953
Franklin	605	7,759	1,144	219	3,322	109	101	2,258	53	54	1,637	7	979	14,976	1,313
Hampden	130	1,370	560	57	754	48	91	1,243	45	104	1,515	9	382	4,882	662
Hampshire	164	1,137	254	74	749	22	115	2,635	130	120	2,265	2	473	6,786	408
Middlesex	151	1,678	1,117	62	620	71	217	5,419	295	84	1,337	32	514	9,054	1,515
Nantucket	4	7	0	35	296	20	6	185	0	1	20	0	11	212	0
Norfolk	94	596	330	31	140	3	185	5,050	186	80	1,032	38	394	6,974	574
Plymouth	79	460	131	31	140	3	181	3,012	165	109	1,532	19	400	5,144	318
Suffolk	1	1	1	1	1	0	11	107	2	2	5	0	14	113	2
Worcester	199	2,822	1,157	81	1,281	72	202	6,199	111	145	3,966	32	627	14,268	1,372
Total	2,145	21,436	6,712	1,296	11,922	542	1,791	40,566	1,604	1,046	18,848	173	6,278	92,772	9,031

COUNTY STATISTICS

	CATTLE CENSUS		UNDER TEST				ONE CLEAN TEST		TWO CLEAN TESTS		ACCREDITED	
	Herds	Head	Herds	%	Head	%	Herds	Head	Herds	Head	Herds	Head
Barnstable	656	2,064	689	100	2,213	100	61	98	471	1,161	145	648
Berkshire	2,030	20,841	861	42	11,224	54	352	3,018	165	2,242	247	4,209
Bristol	2,491	19,701	68	2	1,991	10	10	184	11	186	29	1,154
Dukes	153	917	58	38	423	46	12	35	5	14	33	331
Essex	1,589	13,979	260	16	3,323	23	124	1,316	40	471	51	1,139
Franklin	1,987	17,957	679	34	9,311	52	534	6,090	24	325	78	2,196
Hampden	1,926	12,873	306	15	3,328	25	103	823	38	291	134	1,952
Hampshire	1,935	16,691	432	22	5,439	32	154	1,027	44	471	200	3,251
Middlesex	2,751	22,423	378	13	4,912	21	119	1,467	68	895	109	1,674
Nantucket	45	542	10	22	211	38	3	6			7	205
Norfolk	1,315	9,183	302	23	3,730	40	100	1,295	55	746	101	1,153
Plymouth	1,962	10,147	327	16	3,331	32	106	894	63	372	137	1,718
Suffolk	45	293	10	22	64	21			4	8	4	43
Worcester	5,126	45,595	468	9	8,545	19	139	1,892	63	1,175	176	4,286
Total	24,011	193,206	4,848	21	58,045	30	1,817	18,145	1,051	8,357	1,451	23,959

The above figures indicate:

		1928	1929
An increase of	1,800 herds under test	3,048	4,848
An increase of	18,279 cattle under test	39,766	58,045
An increase of	1,698 herds no reactors last test	2,621	4,319
An increase of	19,371 cattle no reactors last test	31,090	50,461
An increase of	268 herds accredited	1,183	1,451
An increase of	5,064 cattle accredited	18,895	23,959

The average salvage received by owners of reacting cattle for this year was \$43.08 as compared with \$45.17 in 1928.

The Brighton Market handles about 15,000 dairy cows yearly and is by far the largest distributing point for replacements of any sales place in New England. The issuance of either a white or a pink certificate on each dairy cow leaving this market has been very helpful, as by that means the purchaser may know the status of the cattle he is buying. The ratio of the "pink slip" cows to "white slip" cows changed from the first of the year when 70% of the dairy cows were "pink slip" cows and 30% "white slip" cows; to 30% "pink slip" cows and 70% "white slip" cows during the latter part of the year. This change in the proportion of "white slip" cows or those from accredited herds, modified accredited areas, clean herds under supervision or cattle which have passed two recent clean tests sixty to ninety days apart over "pink slip" cows, which are not included in these classifications, is a true indication of the growth of interest in the tuberculin test. When cattle arrive at the barn Tuesday mornings for sale, these two classes of cows are kept separate.

Inoculation for the prevention of Brighton or Shipping Fever, so-called, is upon the arrival of the cattle at the Market given practically at cost to cattle whose owners desire same. This service is much appreciated by the Brighton dealers, and, we believe, prevents many fatalities from that disease.

During the year there were 482 trucks which delivered 1,872 reactor cattle at the Quarantine Station, and these trucks were cleaned and disinfected before leaving the yard. This was done in accordance with the requirements of rules and regulations which were adopted in the fall of 1928. The Brighton Stock Yards Company on April 1, 1929, put in operation a regulation that all trucks before taking dairy cows from the Brighton Market must be cleaned and disinfected. During the period from April 1 to December 1 there were 1809 trucks so cleaned and disinfected.

All these improvements in the method of handling cattle at the Brighton Market have been very helpful in raising the standard of that Market as a suitable place to buy dairy cows.

During the year there were received at the quarantine station 2,027 head of Massachusetts cattle intended for dairy purposes. Two thousand one (2001) were accepted on records of test made prior to shipment; 26 were held and submitted to test of which number 5 reacted.

(3) SUPERVISION OF THE INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF CATTLE INTO MASSACHUSETTS.

Following is a record of cattle received at the Quarantine Station at Brighton:

Released on approved certificate of health	Held and Tested
6,246 Maine	2
2,812 New Hampshire	12
1,940 Vermont	13
449 New York	5
43 Wisconsin	0
12 Rhode Island	3 2 reacted
128 Canada	2
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11,630	37 2
Total receipts 11,667 head	

Compared with 12,471 received in 1928 on papers, 100 held and tested, 7 or 7% reacted.

There were 14,829 dairy cattle received at other points on permit from the following states: Canada, 1,135; Connecticut, 766; Illinois, 50; Indiana, 61; Iowa, 121; Kansas, 42; Maine, 2,161; Maryland, 1; Michigan, 19; Minnesota, 69; Missouri, 57; New Hampshire, 1,633; New Jersey, 65; New York, 1,139; Ohio, 131; Oklahoma, 56; Pennsylvania, 11; Rhode Island, 176; Tennessee, 58; Texas, 37; Vermont, 5,964; Virginia, 1; Wisconsin, 1,076. Two hundred sixty-five (265) of this 14,829 were tested after arrival, 30 reacting. In addition to the dairy cattle there were received on permits 5,188 beef cattle, and 1,384 cattle for exhibition purposes. This compares with 12,143 dairy cattle, 4,558 beef cattle and 1,334 cattle for exhibition purposes in 1928.

RECEIPTS OF LIVESTOCK AT THE QUARANTINE STATIONS AT BRIGHTON AND SOMERVILLE

There were received at these stations during the year the following: 75,071 cattle; 120,987 calves; 263,777 sheep and lambs, and 736,804 swine.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF SWINE

Service in connection with the immunization and treatment of swine in prevention of hog cholera and its allied diseases has been continued under the general plan employed during the past few years. This service is rendered without cost to such owners as apply, and who agree to comply with such regulations as are required by this Division. Owing to unusually favorable weather conditions during practically the entire year there has been a decided falling-off in the demand for treatment, as it is an undisputed fact that swine diseases are more prevalent in seasons in which there is a considerable amount of wet weather. During the year there were 93,199 treatments applied in connection with hog cholera, as compared with 113,321 treatments during the year 1928; and 23,514 treatments for hemorrhagic septicemia, as compared with 33,442 in 1928.

RABIES

There were 3,196 dogs reported to have bitten persons this year, and there were 618 dogs found to be affected with rabies, 244 less than last year. These figures are encouraging, and, we believe, indicate that local authorities are giving more attention to the enforcement of the dog

laws. In order that this Division should be as helpful as possible in handling this serious situation, the following letter was sent:

March 28, 1929.

To Mayors of Cities and Chairmen of Selectmen of Towns:

GENTLEMEN:—

The time is approaching for the relicensing of dogs and I wish to call your attention to the importance of enforcing all laws concerning dogs. The following facts in reference to the report of this Division for last year are startling and invite serious consideration.

During the year over 3,000 people were reported as bitten by dogs and 880 dogs affected with rabies died or were killed, an increase of almost 100 positive cases over the previous year. There were approximately 600 people who took the Pasteur treatment as the result of injuries inflicted by dogs involving an estimated expense of at least \$30,-000.00.

Thus far this year the rabies situation has been more of a menace than ever. During last week there were reported three dogs affected with rabies which did considerable damage in Fitchburg, Wellesley and Needham. We find that a large number of the dogs affected with rabies are stray or ownerless dogs which would be entirely eliminated if the town and city authorities enforce the law in reference to the licensing of dogs.

May we invite your active cooperation in a matter that so deeply concerns the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Very truly yours,

EVAN F. RICHARDSON,

Director.

Following is a report in detail for the year:

RABIES

	SHOWING SYMPTOMS					CONTACT				BITE CASES				Total
	Positive	Negative	Questionable	Released	Killed or died—no symptoms of rabies	Killed positive	Disposal pending	Questionable	Negative	Released	Killed—no examination	Killed negative	Disposal pending	
Forward, year 1928					73					117				190
December, 1928	45	7	—	22	2	1				133	2	5		217
January, 1929	49	2	—	62	3	—	3			113	3			240
February	46	8	1	62	8			3		141	3	7		279
March	70	7	3	58	9	4				200	1	7		359
April	55	—	—	55	7	4				268	1	3		393
May	73	2	2	370	11	8				339	1	15		821
June	31	4	2	36	3	3				378	2	8		467
July	50	4	2	104	7	3				353	3	12		538
August	55	6	1	28	1	8				326	3	12		440
September	55	7	2	—	2	2		1		273	1	5		348
October	39	—	1	20	3	—				256	5	3		327
November	50	3	1	—	1	9				225	5	1		295
Forward							166						134	300
Total	618	50	15	890	57	45	166	3	1	3,122	30	83	134	5,214
1928	811	50	38	655	97	51	73	—	—	1,949	28	109	117	3,978
Total positive cases, 618														
The above record refers to the following animals:														
Cats	9	3		20	8					23	1	8		72
Cattle	2		1	2	1	3								9
Dogs	605	47	12	555	48	40	166	3	1	3,097	29	74	134	4,811
Horses	1		1	3		2								7
Swine	1		1	310										312
Monkeys									2					2
Rat												1		1

3,196 dogs bit persons during the year 1929.

3,389 persons bitten (165 by rabid animals).

456 heads examined (313 positive, 133 negative, 10 questionable).

INFECTIOUS ABORTION: BANG BACILLUS DISEASE

Owing to the increasing number of states requiring that cattle shipped into their respective states must be accompanied by a certificate indicating the animal shipped to be free from Bang Bacillus Disease and the desire on the part of breeders and the owners of high grade cattle to establish disease-free herds there is a rapidly growing demand for service in connection with this disease.

During the fiscal year there were submitted to this Division 3,800 blood samples as compared with 834 received during the year 1928. Of this number 807 gave positive results, 654 were recorded as doubtful, 2,323 were declared negative and 16 were unfit for examination.

At present the laboratory reports are based on a dilution of from 1 to 30, 1 to 60, 1 to 120, 1 to 240. An animal is considered as affected with Bang Bacillus Disease if examination of blood shows positive on dilutions of 1 to 60 or higher; doubtful, if a dilution of 1 to 30 is positive but higher dilutions are negative; negative, if a positive result is not obtained in any dilution.

Service as rendered at this time by this Division is limited to the examination without expense to the owner of such samples of blood as are submitted and the furnishing of vials for the obtaining of such samples.

One State institution has succeeded during the year in establishing a Bang Bacillus Disease-Free herd by removing all animals giving positive results to examination of blood.

MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

Actinomycosis:—Five head of cattle were reported for this condition, only one proving on examination to be affected with that disease. That animal was condemned and slaughtered. The other four animals were released from further observation.

Anthrax:—No deaths from this disease were reported. Two animals reported suspected of being affected were found upon examination not to have Anthrax.

Blackleg:—Service in connection with preventive treatment was furnished as in previous years, 745 animals having been given treatment on 75 farms in 38 towns.

Glanders:—One hundred seven horses were examined for glanders, four of which were found to have the disease and were killed. Two of these animals were detected from information obtained because of the owner contracting the disease, the horses proving on examination of blood to be affected. Bloods were taken from fifty-four horses in one stable in the city of Boston. Examination did not reveal presence of glanders. One hundred seventeen bloods were taken for laboratory examination and ninety-four ophthalmic tests were applied.

Mange:—This condition was reported on three premises, eleven animals being affected. Advice regarding treatment was given and animals upon recovery were released.

Tuberculosis in Swine:—Thirty-four head of swine found at time of slaughter to be affected with tuberculosis were reported and a careful physical examination made of all other livestock maintained on premises from which these hogs were derived. Instructions relative to cleansing and disinfecting of premises were given.

Other diseases, as Hodgkins Disease, Coli Bacillus Disease and Nodular Disease were reported and investigated.

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF FARM ANIMALS AND PREMISES

The usual order for inspection of all cattle, sheep and swine and of premises where kept was issued December 20, 1928, calling for completion of the inspection on or before March 1, 1929.

From the reports received from the Inspectors of Animals of all cities

and towns in the Commonwealth, there were inspected on 24,011 premises: 193,206 head of cattle, 8,228 sheep, 90,707 swine.

Meetings of Inspectors of Animals were held during the year at Boston, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Worcester. These meetings were well attended and it is believed resulted in improvement in the service rendered by the Inspectors.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Appropriation for the salary of the Director, chapter 146, Acts of 1929	\$3,500.00	
Supplementary Budget, chapter 386, Acts of 1929	250.00	
Total amount appropriated		\$3,750.00
Expended during the year for the salary of the Director	\$3,625.00	
Unexpended balance	125.00	
		\$3,750.00
Appropriation for personal services of clerks and stenographers, chapter 146, Acts of 1929	\$13,500.00	
Supplementary Budget, chapter 386, Acts of 1929	480.00	
Total amount appropriated		\$13,980.00
Expended during the year for personal ser- vices of clerks and stenographers	\$13,977.17	
Unexpended balance	2.83	
		\$13,980.00
Appropriation for services, other than person- al, including printing the annual report, traveling expenses of the Director, and office supplies and equipment, chapter 146, Acts of 1929	\$6,000.00	
Supplementary Budget, chapter 386, Acts of 1929	2,400.00	
Total amount appropriated		\$8,400.00
Expended during the year for the following purposes:		
Books and Maps	\$56.25	
Express and messenger service	349.10	
Postage	1,681.21	
Printing report	54.61	
Other printing	803.21	
Telephone and telegrams	1,034.96	
Stationery and office supplies	2,529.56	
Expenses of the Director	1,321.49	
Total Expenditure	\$7,830.39	
Unexpended balance	569.61	
		\$8,400.00
Appropriation for personal services of veteri- narians and agents engaged in the work of extermination of contagious diseases		

among domestic animals, chapter 146, Acts of 1929	\$53,000.00	
Transferred from Appropriation for Extraordinary Expenses	\$2,000.00	
Brought forward from 1928 Appropriation	7.00	
Total amount appropriated		\$55,007.00
Expended during the year for the following purposes:		
Services of salaried agents	\$36,601.90	
Services of per diem agents	17,884.00	
Labor hired	102.00	
Total expenditure	\$54,587.90	
Unexpended balance	419.10	
		\$55,007.00
Appropriation for the traveling expenses of veterinarians and agents, including the cost of any motor vehicles purchased for their use, chapter 146, Acts of 1929	\$22,000.00	
Transferred from Appropriation for Extraordinary Expenses	2,750.00	
Total amount appropriated		\$24,750.00
Expended during the year for the following purposes:		
Traveling expenses of regular agents	\$15,579.48	
Traveling expenses of per diem agents	8,755.31	
Total expenditure	\$24,334.79	
Unexpended balance	415.21	
		\$24,750.00
Appropriation for reimbursement of owners of horses killed during the present and previous years, travel, when allowed, of inspectors of animals, incidental expenses of killing and burial, quarantine and emergency services and for laboratory and veterinary supplies and equipment, chapter 146, Acts of 1929		\$6,300.00
Expended during the year for the following purposes:		
Supplies for veterinary inspectors	\$423.12	
Laundry	390.28	
Antiseptics, biologics and disinfectants	399.42	
Thermometers, needles, syringes, etc.	495.86	
Ear-tags, punches, chains, etc.	1,397.42	
Expenses of killing and burial	156.00	
Expenses of travel allowed inspectors of animals	799.62	
Quarantine expenses	962.00	
Sundries	10.00	
Total expenditure	\$5,033.72	
Unexpended balance	1,266.28	
		\$6,300.00

Appropriation for reimbursement of owners of tubercular cattle killed, as authorized by section twelve A of chapter 129 of the General Laws, inserted by section 1 of chapter 304 of the Acts of 1924, and in accordance with certain provisions of law and agreements made under authority of section 33 of chapter 129 of the General Laws, as amended, during the present and previous years, chapter 146, Acts of 1929	\$200,000.00	
Supplementary Budget, chapter 385, Acts of 1929	50,000.00	
Brought forward from 1928 appropriation	62,453.44	
Transferred from Appropriation for Extraordinary Expenses	2,500.00	
Total amount appropriated		\$314,953.44
Expended during the year for the following:		
6,319 head of cattle killed (chapter 129, General Laws as amended)	\$310,475.10	
171 head of cattle killed (physical cases, including no lesion cases)	4,453.63	
Total expenditure	\$314,928.73	
Unexpended balance	24.71	
		\$314,953.44
Appropriation for expenses in connection with the Eastern States conference on tuberculosis eradication among cattle when held in this commonwealth, chapter 386, Acts of 1929		\$250.00
Expended for expenses of Conference	\$249.39	
Unexpended Balance	.61	
		\$250.00

The average amount paid for cattle slaughtered under the provisions of Chapter 353, Acts of 1922, Chapter 335, Acts of 1927 and Chapter 332, Acts of 1928, was \$70.51 for registered purebred cattle and \$45.80 for grade cattle.

Thirty-eight claims for reimbursement for cattle condemned and killed as physical cases of tuberculosis during the year remain unsettled, these claims amounting to \$950.

Four hundred eighty-three (483) unpaid claims covering 2,920 cattle, to which provisions of Chapter 353, Acts of 1922 and Chapter 335, Acts of 1927, and Chapter 332, Acts of 1928, apply, remain unpaid, amounting to \$143,120.93.

There has been received during the year for dog fees in accordance with Chapter 347, Acts of 1928, \$79; for sales of hides and carcasses \$61.40; Hemorrhagic Septicemia treatments at Brighton \$462.15.

Respectfully submitted,

EVAN F. RICHARDSON,
Director.