

State of Iowa
1928

REPORT OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1928

BY

Report of the
Department of Agriculture

For the Period Ending June 30, 1928

M. G. THORNBURG
Secretary of Agriculture

Published by
STATE OF IOWA
Des Moines

State of Iowa
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Report of the
Department of Agriculture
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To His Excellency, John Hammill, Governor of Iowa.

Sir: I herewith submit the annual report of the Department of Agriculture for the biennial period ending June 30, 1928.

Respectfully yours,

M. G. THORNBURG,
Secretary of Agriculture

Aug. 15, 1928.

M. G. THORNBURG
Secretary of Agriculture

State of Iowa
August 15, 1928

REPORT OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1928

M. G. THORNBURG, Secretary of Agriculture

During the last biennial period the Iowa Department of Agriculture has continued to make progress in a three-fold manner: First, in the strict enforcement of laws coming under the division; second, in operating in an economical manner so that the total receipts from fees and licenses more than exceed the total appropriation for operating expenses; and third, in securing the co-operation of different organizations whose business is under the supervision of the department. We believe that we have kept faith with the legislature which created the department as an efficient and economical method of handling agricultural problems and conducting the inspection service necessary under the many different laws that come under the department's supervision.

The returns from agriculture in Iowa were not as great in 1927 as in 1926. This was due largely to lower prices for hogs, poultry and eggs. Slightly higher prices were received for cash corn and for beef cattle but these gains were not sufficient to offset the smaller returns from hogs and poultry. During the first half of 1928 there was a decided improvement in hog prices and also some improvement in the prices of poultry and eggs. If these prices are maintained throughout the remainder of 1928, Iowa's agriculture should be in better shape than in 1927. The crop prospects during the spring of 1928 indicate that Iowa will continue to lead the nation as the largest producer of staple feed crops.

The dairy business in Iowa has continued to grow during the past several years. In many cases, it seems that Iowa farmers have purchased high-priced dairy cattle which were not always choice specimens. We have probably reached the point where additional attention should be paid to the culling of cows which we already have in our herds and the use of good pure bred dairy bulls in order to further increase the efficiency of our herds.

Improvement in the value of beef cattle may have a material influence in Iowa agriculture. Undoubtedly in many sections of the state, farmers will begin to pay more attention to the production of baby beefs than has been the case during the past few years when steers were comparatively cheap.

DAIRY AND FOOD DIVISION

The work of the Dairy and Food Division is largely inspection authorized under 26 different laws. In this division, the department has been able to make its greatest showing from the standpoint of business efficiency. This has been due to the methods which have been followed in putting the inspection work on a business basis.

When the department was first started, it was decided to furnish automobiles for the inspectors as a matter of economy. The records of the cars operated by the dairy and food inspectors for the first four years show that the average cost of operation was 4.1 cents per mile. Considering that the 33 cars traveled 1,702,562 miles in the four years, this makes a saving of over \$50,000 in the cost of transportation as compared to the average mileage allowance which was usually made by other departments. Last year the cost of operating cars was still cheaper, the average cost being 3.4 cents per mile. During the past year the inspectors of the Dairy and Food Division made 172,384 inspections at a cost of 82 cents per inspection, as compared to 97,257 inspections at an average cost of \$1.84 before the department was consolidated. In other words, the 33 inspectors under the present business type of organization, have made more than twice as many inspections as the 71 inspectors under the previous type of organization, at a cost materially less to the state.

An outstanding victory of the dairy and food division during the past year has been the winning of a case which prevents the sale of colored oleomargarine in Iowa when labeled as "shortening". In 1927 a federal injunction was granted which permitted the sale of products of this kind in the United States. The Iowa law is much more stringent and dealers were warned that a product of this kind put up as an imitation of butter could not be sold in Iowa. However, some dealers did not observe the warning so that a case had to be filed. When the evidence was prepared, the jobbers who handled the product in Iowa paid the costs and agreed to withdraw all of this product from the Iowa market.

One of the new laws which is needed, is an inspection fee on oleomargarine to cover the cost of inspection in regulating the trade of this product. We sincerely hope that such a law will be adopted by the 43rd General Assembly.

Iowa farmers are large purchasers of prepared feed. Our department has been unable to give as efficient supervision of commercial feeds as the trade justifies on account of our inability to analyze sufficient feed samples. We are, therefore, recommending that we be given an additional chemist for the purpose of giving full time to the inspection of commercial feeds sold to Iowa farmers.

ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

The department has continued to make rapid progress in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis. There are now 43 counties that are modified accredited areas. From many sections of the state, there is a demand for state-wide accreditation. Doubtless, the sponsors of this movement will place a recommendation of this kind before the coming legislature. There are now 61 counties in the state which have either completed the work or are making rapid progress in the clean-up. It seems likely that several additional counties will start the work this fall, either by petitions or by vote of the people.

During the past few years, there has been considerable legal difficulty in some counties in regard to tuberculosis eradication. In all of these cases, the state law and the decision of the department have been sustained when appealed to the Supreme Court. As a result of such decisions, legal difficulties are gradually being removed and the work is progressing with greater rapidity.

The legislature has provided \$250,000.00 annually for tuberculosis eradication. Of this amount \$229,449.24 has been either paid as indemnities or is contracted as indemnities. \$20,552.76 has been paid for salaries and expenses.

During the past year, the federal government has paid approximately \$365,000.00 in Iowa for indemnities and \$42,000.00 operating expenses.

During the same time \$271,924.92 of county funds have been expended for indemnities and \$231,890.88 has been expended for salaries and expenses. This makes a total of \$503,815.80 which has been furnished by the different counties for tuberculosis eradication.

Due to the increased cost of cattle and the increased indemnity

which is provided, there has been a material increase in the cost of eradicating bovine tuberculosis. In order to more nearly equal the funds which are provided by the federal department and by the different counties, I am recommending that a yearly appropriation of \$350,000.00 be set aside for tuberculosis eradication work instead of \$250,000.00 now appropriated.

THE IOWA WEATHER AND CROP BUREAU

The Iowa Weather and Crop Bureau is a statistical division of the department. The United States Department of Agriculture co-operates with our department in maintaining this bureau. Its chief duties are to collect facts about weather and crop conditions and distribute them so that Iowa farmers may benefit from this information. One of the most important lines of work is the tabulation of agricultural figures secured by the Iowa assessors. The collection and tabulation of these figures have been so complete that they are recognized as the standard basis of agricultural crop and live stock statistics.

Monthly crop and live stock reports are printed in bulletin form and distributed to people who are interested. Live stock data is largely compiled through an Iowa division of the United States Bureau of Economics which is located in Des Moines and co-operates with this division of the department. Weekly summaries of weather and crop facts are issued to the press on Wednesday of each week during the crop season. These figures are largely compiled from the reports of thousands of crop correspondents scattered throughout the state.

It is our plan to continue the operation of this division in the same efficient manner which has marked its work during the past.

STATE ENTOMOLOGIST

The 42nd General Assembly passed new legislation known as the "Iowa Crop Pest Act". This legislation created a division in the department known as the State Entomologist. The new law provides that the entomologist of the state experiment station shall be the state entomologist. This provision has been satisfactory and insures co-operative help on all crop pest problems and enables the department to have the services of the state entomologist, who is skilled in insect control work.

The danger of a corn borer invasion was one of the reasons for the creation of a new legislation. Our policy in regard to the

European corn borer has been to encourage federal help for states that have this pest and to adopt quarantine measures to help keep the insect out of Iowa. In addition, considerable work is being done through the Agricultural Experiment Station along research lines to help in the development of parasites and other control measures. Considerable scouting work has been done in order to investigate rumors of invasions of the corn borer in Iowa. So far, none of these rumors have proven to be the corn borer.

An emergency appropriation of \$200,000.00 was made by the 42nd General Assembly to meet any emergency demands caused by the European corn borer. During the past year, only \$2,323.27 of this fund was expended. Probably only a small amount of the fund will be expended during the coming fiscal year. However, we are recommending that this appropriation of \$200,000.00 be continued during the next biennium in order that any emergencies caused by the corn borer may be properly met.

One of the chief duties of the state entomologist has been the work of nursery inspection. This work keeps the assistant state entomologist busy practically all of the year. During rush periods, additional assistants must be employed. This work not only protects Iowa people against insect and fungus troubles but also helps Iowa nurserymen to meet the requirements which have been established for interstate shipment.

OTHER LINES OF WORK

In addition to the four main divisions as outlined above there are other miscellaneous lines of work. The Stallion Registration Division shows that during 1927 there was a continued decline in the number of stallions and jacks kept for public service. Reports which have been secured from horsemen over the state, as well as from assessors' tabulations, indicate that the number of colts raised is not sufficient to maintain the number of horses needed in Iowa for work purposes. There is considerable interest in this problem and undoubtedly the next few years will show a continued interest in horse breeding operations.

The different agricultural organizations which receive state aid have been doing excellent work during the past year. Space will not permit a full description of their work at this time but this has been made a part of the Year Book of Agriculture and may be referred to for additional details. The different state organizations receiving such aid are:

- Iowa State Dairy Association
- Iowa Beef Producers' Association
- Iowa Horse and Mule Breeders' Association
- Iowa Corn and Small Grain Growers' Association
- Iowa Horticultural Society

The work of these organizations should be continued along the lines which are already established. We only suggest two general changes. For a good many years the Iowa Horticultural Society has been charged with the management of the Mid-West Horticultural Exposition. We believe that the funds which have been expended for the Mid-West Horticultural Exposition could be applied to better advantage in doing additional promotional and investigational work along vegetable and horticultural lines and the show limited to our state show instead of a Mid-West show. These recommendations will mean a slight saving in total appropriations and I believe is in keeping with our policy of efficiency and economy.

We would also recommend that the Iowa Poultry Improvement Association be appropriated the sum of \$6,250.00 yearly, the same as the majority of the above associations. This association has been organized and operated on a self-supporting basis. It has been created to help supervise and inspect the hatchery and baby chick business in Iowa. Iowa farmers are large purchasers of baby chicks and any funds expended to increase the efficiency of the hatcheries, hatchery flock owners, individual poultry breeders and general culling services for the farmers of the state is worthy of consideration. Therefore, we hope that this appropriation will be added to the above group of agricultural organizations.

During the past year the fees received by the department have totaled \$230,991.27. These have been deposited with the state treasurer. The total expenditures of the department, excepting the special appropriation for tuberculosis eradication, amounted to \$214,425.80. In other words the department was more than self-supporting, the total income being \$16,565.47 greater than the expenditures.

The following financial statement for the period from July 1, 1927 to June 30, 1928, shows first the appropriation which was made for different purposes. The second column shows the amount of the appropriation which was expended. The third column shows the balance. You will note that in every case we have lived within our income. The largest balance is in the special corn borer appropriation. Only a small portion of this ap-

propriation was expended as there was no outbreak of the European corn borer in Iowa. During the ensuing year the total expenditures for expense of the department will be slightly greater than during the past year on account of the replacement of the cars operated by the department. However, we will continue to live within our income.

We are also including in the report a statement showing the amount of state money expended for tuberculosis eradication and including a statement of the amount of county and federal funds expended. These figures indicate that the state is not bearing its share of the total expenditures in this important work and therefore the appropriation should be increased.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1927, to June 30, 1928

Department	Appropriation	Disbursements	Balance
Agri. Dept. Salaries	\$125,400.00	\$122,899.46	\$ 2,500.54
Agri. Dept. Expense	42,000.00	32,546.47	10,746.89
	1,293.36 refunds		
Iowa Beef Producers	6,250.00	6,132.51	117.49
Corn and Small Grain Growers	4,250.00	4,245.43	4.57
Dairy Association	6,250.00	5,858.41	391.59
Hort. Exposition	6,250.00	6,250.00	
Horticultural Society	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Farmers Institutes, Short			
Courses and Poultry Shows	11,000.00	10,328.38	671.62
Board of Vet. Examiners	400.00	120.00	280.00
Horse Breeders Ass'n	6,250.00	4,935.33	1,334.67
	20.00 refunds		
Weather and Crop Bureau	8,300.00	8,154.60	145.40
Entomologist	9,000.00	6,632.14	2,408.59
	40.73 refunds		
Corn Borer	200,000.00	2,323.27	197,676.73
Totals	\$430,704.09	\$214,425.80	\$216,278.29
Fees received by Agricultural Department year ending 6-30-28			\$230,991.27
Total disbursements			214,425.80
Balance			\$ 16,565.47

TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION FUND

July 1, 1927 to June 30, 1928

State Funds		
Indemnity	\$229,447.24	
Salaries and operating expenses	20,552.76	
		\$250,000.00
County Funds		
Indemnity	\$271,924.92	
Salaries and operating expenses	231,890.88	
		503,815.80
Federal Funds		
Indemnity	\$365,000.00	
Salaries and operating expenses	42,000.00	
		407,000.00
		<u>\$1,160,815.80</u>

We would suggest the following legislation which would involve changes affecting the agricultural department:

Inspection fee on oleomargarine.

Additional state chemist for feed analysis work.

Increase in the appropriation for tuberculosis eradication from \$250,000.00 to \$350,000.00 yearly.

The continuation of the emergency appropriation of \$200,000.00 for corn borer eradication. (Most of the present appropriation of \$200,000.00 will revert at the end of the fiscal year.)

State aid of \$6,250.00 yearly for the Iowa Poultry Improvement Association.

Slight changes in the annual appropriation for the Iowa Horticultural Society. (Net amount will be less than at present.)

State of Iowa

1927

Forty-First Annual Report Dairy and Food Division

OF THE

Iowa Department of Agriculture

For the Year Ending December 31, 1927

Reprinted from the

Twenty-Eighth Annual Year Book
of Agriculture

Issued by the

Iowa Department of Agriculture

Des Moines, Iowa

Published by
G. W. H. H. Co., Inc.
Des Moines, Iowa