

Kansas Agriculture



**Kansas State Board of Agriculture
1988 Report**

Mission of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture

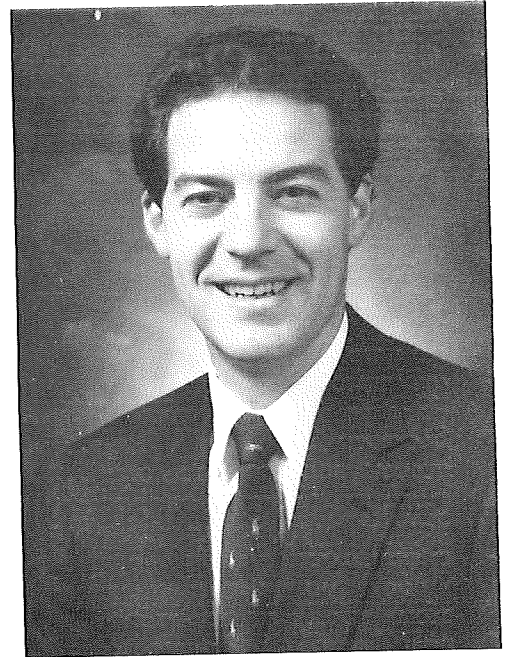
The Kansas State Board of Agriculture assists and protects consumers, farmers, agribusinesses and rural communities by assuring the production of quality products, administering regulatory programs, developing viable markets, and enhancing the Kansas economy through programs of agriculture produce inspection, water resource regulations, market research and development, information acquisition and dissemination, counseling, policy analysis and agricultural development. Programs are accomplished through a highly dedicated and professional staff directed by the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture who is appointed by the directors elected to the State Board of Agriculture.

The 68th Annual Report of Kansas Agriculture

This record of the activities of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture for 1987 and 1988 renews a series of such reports which the Board began publishing in 1877.

Budgetary restrictions had caused the Board to discontinue such publication for several years. This report renews the Board's commitment to reporting its activities to the governor, the legislature and the people of Kansas.

The cover photo shows a Kansas farmer at work at the quintessential Kansas activity—the wheat harvest. Despite vagaries of weather, Kansas has led the nation in production of hard winter wheat in nearly every year since the Board of Agriculture was founded in 1873. Agriculture's fortunes may wax and wane, new technologies and new uses for farm products enter the picture, but the wheat endures. The photo was taken by Bern Ketchum, photographer with the *Topeka Capital-Journal*.



Secretary of Agriculture Sam Brownback

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Brownback".

Sam Brownback

Secretary
Kansas State Board of Agriculture



Members of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, pictured left to right, are (front row) Thayne Larson, Gary Hall, Lois Schlickau, Jay Armstrong and Secretary Sam Brownback. Standing are Bill Mai, F.E. Bliss, Alvin Epler, Floyd Coen, Duane Steeples, Altis Ferree and Jake Roenbaugh. Not pictured is Charles Hamon.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture

Lois Schlickau

Elected 1988 and 1989 president of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Lois Schlickau, Haven, is the first female president and the first two-term president since 1918.

Representing district four, Schlickau and her husband, George, have operated Schlickau Herefords near Haven for more than 30 years.

She attended Hutchinson High School and holds an Associate of Arts degree from Hutchinson Community College.

Schlickau is a director and past president of the Kansas Hereford Auxiliary, director of Kansas Agri-Women, a member of Farm Bureau and the 4-H Advisory Board. She has also been an active spokesperson for agriculture, particularly the beef industry.

Robert E. Arbuthnot

The late R.E. "Bob" Arbuthnot of Haddam was elected 1988 vice president of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Representing district three, Arbuthnot joined the Board in 1986 and died in October 1988 after a long illness.

A graduate of Kansas State University, Arbuthnot earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and served more than ten years as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives.

He is survived by his wife, Jeaane; a son; a daughter; two sisters; a brother; and two grandsons.

Gary Hall

Gary Hall of Chapman was elected 1988 treasurer and 1989 vice president of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Representing district three, Hall is a farmer and stockman who joined the Board in 1987.

Earning a degree in business administration, Hall graduated from Kansas State University in 1976.

He is a member of the Kansas Livestock Association and Kansas Farm Bureau.

John "Jay" Armstrong

John "Jay" Armstrong of Muscotah was elected to represent district one in 1987 and selected to be treasurer of the Board in January 1989.

He is the manager of Armstrong Farms, a grain, cattle and agribusiness operation in Atchison County. At Kansas State University, Armstrong earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics.

He served as president of the Delaware Watershed District and was a former National Farm Bureau Discussion Meet winner.

His memberships include the Kansas Soybean Association, Corn Growers, Kansas Livestock Association and the Fertilizer and Chemical Association.

Floyd O. Coen

Floyd O. Coen joined the Board in 1972. He represents district five.

Born in Morton County and residing near Elkhart, he has farmed in Kansas for some 40 years. He raises registered Brown Swiss and Polled Hereford cattle.

Coen is a former president of the Board, and the state Brown Swiss and Polled Hereford organizations. He is active in the State Fairs Association and is a former state legislator.

Thayne A. Larson

Thayne A. Larson of Scandia was elected to serve district three in January 1989. The position formerly was held by the late Robert Arbuthnot.

Larson is a Republic County native who has been in the farming and cattle feeding business for 12 years.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University and is a member of the Kansas Livestock Association and Kansas Farm Bureau.

Jacob B. "Jake" Roenbaugh

Re-elected to a three-year term in 1988, Jacob B. "Jake" Roenbaugh represents district five.

Roenbaugh has been a member of the Board since 1985 and has held the offices of vice president and president. He has been a cattle, wheat, corn, soybean, and alfalfa farmer for 35 years in Kansas.

Roenbaugh attended Trousdale High School and Washburn University before joining the Coast Guard.

He is a member of the Kansas and American Quarter Horse Association, Kansas Livestock Association and Kansas Farm Bureau.

F. E. Bliss

A member of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture since 1981, F.E. Bliss was re-elected to a three-year term in 1987. He has held all the offices of the Board of Agriculture, representing district four.

Farming for 30 years, Bliss has spent the last 15 years near Longton as a Quarter Horse breeder and also has a cow-calf operation. Besides farming and ranching, he is a realtor and auctioneer.

Formerly of Arkansas City, Bliss earned a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Oklahoma State University.

His memberships include the Kansas Livestock Association, Elk County Farm Bureau and the Kansas Quarter Horse Association.

Alvin Epler

Representing district two, Alvin Epler has farmed near Hallowell for 45 years.

Joining the Board in 1982, Epler is a past president, vice president and treasurer of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. He was elected to another three-year term in January 1989.

Engaged in diversified grain and soybean farming, backgrounding and cattle feeding, Epler has received awards for soil conservation.

He is a member of the Kansas Farm Bureau and a long-time 4-H leader.

Altis Ferree

Re-elected to a three-year term on the Kansas State Board of Agriculture in 1988, Altis G. Ferree, Yates Center, represents district two.

Ferree joined the Board in 1976 and held the offices of vice president and president.

He has been a Woodson County resident and farmer for 35 years.

His memberships include the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Livestock Association. He is a past recipient of the Farm Bureau Leader of the Year and Distinguished Service awards.

Charles Hamon

Representing district one since 1974, Charles Hamon, Valley Falls, was re-elected to a three-year term on the Kansas State Board of Agriculture in 1988. He is a past vice president and president of the organization.

Working in the family business, Hamon Seed Farms, he produces and sells certified seed, primarily wheat and soybeans.

He has a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Kansas State University.

Hamon is a past national member of the American Soybean Association and a charter member of the Kansas Soybean Commission.

He also is a member of Kansas Crop Improvement Association and Kansas Seed Dealers Association.

William V. Mai

William V. Mai, Sharon Springs, has been a member of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture since 1983. He has held the position of treasurer, vice president and president. He was elected to another term in January 1989.

Representing district six, Mai has farmed in Sharon Springs for some 30 years.

Mai earned a bachelor's degree in biological science from Bethany College.

He is a member of Farm Bureau, the Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Wheat Growers and Kansas Corn Growers.

Duane Steeples

A member of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, district six, since 1975, Duane Steeples is a farmer and stockman from Zurich. He is a past treasurer, vice president and president of the organization.

Farming for 50 years in Kansas, Steeples earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in agricultural education.

Steeples farms in a family partnership, Triple S Farms.

He is a member of Farmers Co-op, Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association and Professional Farmers.

He and his wife, Carol Ann, have four children and eight grandchildren.



1989-1990 officers of the Board are (l-r) Gary Hall, vice-president; Lois Schlickau, president; and Jay Armstrong, treasurer.

Milestones—

- In October 1987, the Board of Agriculture released the Report of the Commission on the Future of Kansas Agriculture, "Kansas Agriculture and Rural Communities: Changing and Adapting to Survive."
- In May 1987, the Kansas State Board of Agriculture's marketing division announced its new promotional program for Kansas retail grocery stores—"Celebrate! Kansas Food."
- In 1987, the division of inspections began a program to cross-utilize the skills of inspectors in different enforcement programs. Inspectors now call on a smaller territory in miles, but perform a larger variety of inspections.
- The Board of Agriculture sponsored a summer 1987 forum on the Latin American Debt Crisis and how it affects Kansas agriculture.
- When Board Member Lois Schlickau was elected president of the Board in January 1988, she became the first woman to serve as the group's president since its inception 117 years before. She also was the first woman elected to the Board.
- At the 1988 Annual Meeting, the Board honored its first "Innovators of the Year." The program recognizes farmers and farm families who have created innovative ways to enhance their agricultural business and at the same time contributed to the over-all economy of Kansas.
- The Board sponsored a spring 1988 forum on Agriculture and the Environment, focusing on water quality protection.
- The marketing division coordinated Kansas food companies' participation in a promotion of the state of Kansas at the famous Bloomingdale's department stores in New York City and other areas. Kansas was only the fifth state to be chosen for such a promotion.
- 1988 was the 125th year of crop reports. President Abraham Lincoln established the United States Department of Agriculture in 1862; the nation's first crop report was released in July of 1863. The Board of Agriculture released its first statistical report in 1872.

- Secretary Brownback announced the creation of a Task Force on Non-Food Uses of Kansas Agricultural Products to meet during 1988 and report to the Board on its findings.
- Drought conditions became severe in June of 1988 and continued through a portion of the 1989 growing season. Departmental response to drought included a toll-free "Hay Hot Line," service on the Governor's Drought Task Force, emergency activities through the division of water resources, and regular updates on conditions from Kansas Agricultural Statistics. The drought contributed to increased activities for the Farmers Assistance, Counseling and Training Service (FACTS) hot line.
- A "Kansas Collection" food catalogue was made available for the 1988 holiday season to help consumers buy Kansas products by mail.
- A four-state conference on non-food uses of agricultural products was held in Kansas City in the spring of 1989. Co-sponsors were Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Missouri.
- The first Kansas Food Celebration Exposition was at the Topeka Expocentre in May 1989.
- The plant health division utilized oil overcharge money to fund an energy efficient biological weed control project on musk thistle-infested rangelands and pastures in Kansas. New weevil populations were moved to new fields in the spring under new noxious weed regulations which made biological and cultural methods of musk thistle control legal.
- In the summer of 1989, the state's responsibility for testing gas pumps moved from the Department of Revenue to the Board of Agriculture. The program is administered within the agricultural commodities assurance program (ACAP) in the division of inspections.

Kansas Agriculture— Entering the 1990s

1987 At a Glance

- Farm income improves; outstanding debts reduced.
- Wheat production, at 366.3 million bushels, up nine percent from 1986, and yields up four bushels at 37 bushels per acre. Kansas is number one again in wheat production.
- Corn production, at 141.6 million bushels, down 22 percent from 1986. Kansas ranks 11 among the states in corn production.
- Grain sorghum production is down 12 percent from the previous year at 274 million bushels. Kansas continues as the number one state in production of grain sorghum.
- Cattle inventory down one percent; prices averaged 14 percent above the previous year. Cash receipts at \$3.4 billion, were up 16 percent from the 1986 total.
- Hog marketings decreased by seven percent, but prices averaged five percent more than in 1986. Hog slaughter was up 34 percent from 1986 with some 1.9 million head slaughtered.
- Sheep inventories, at 277,000 on Jan. 1, 1988, were up 17 percent from 1986 and the highest in 14 years. New sheep slaughtering facilities led to sheep slaughter 20 percent above the previous year.

1987 Highlights of Agriculture

Secretary of Agriculture Sam Brownback

1987 generally was good for Kansas agriculture. Most often, the weather was favorable, prices were better and a high level of government payments was maintained. This resulted in significantly improved farm income and a further reduction in farms' outstanding debts.

Weather Generally Good

There were many pleasant periods of weather during 1987. January, February and March provided generally above normal precipitation and temperatures. Severe late March blizzards in western Kansas resulted in heavy losses of livestock for some ranchers and severe frost damage to the more advanced wheat which had shown rapid growth with the unusually warm winter weather. April was dry in all but north central Kansas. May, however, brought generally ample moisture. In the following summer months, state averages were above normal, but some areas of the state, particularly the east, were drier than normal until August. Warm, dry weather toward the end of July caused more damage to row crops than was realized at the time.

Fall weather was ideal for harvest with temperatures tending to be slightly above average, plenty of sunny weather, and little rain to delay harvest. During both September and October, precipitation was well below normal throughout the state except for September in the southwest. The western third of the state was exceptionally dry in October, with the result that wheat was often seeded in dust and many fields showed little, if any, growth prior to entering winter. Thus, the pleasant harvest weather had a negative impact on fall seeded crops, particularly in the west.

Wheat Production

Grain production in Kansas during 1987 was very good. Wheat production totaled 366.3 million bushels, nearly nine percent more than the previous year. Some 9.9 million acres were harvested, the lowest harvested acreage since 1972. Yield per acre, at 37 bushels, was four bushels higher than 1986. Wheat prices for the year were generally below 1986 levels from January through May, but trended higher each month after June, and at \$2.25 per bushel, averaged 10 cents more than in 1986. The value of 1987 production totaled \$897 million or 18 percent more than the 1986 crop. With wheat historically accounting for nearly 25 percent of Kansas farmers' cash receipts, this is an important item for Kansas, the nation's number one wheat state.

Corn Production

Corn production, at 141.6 million bushels in 1987, was 22 percent below year earlier levels. This was due to a 12 percent reduction in harvested acres, down to 1.18 million acres, and an average yield of 120 bushels, 16 bushels less than 1986. Prices for the calendar year were below 1986 for the first eight months, but averaged slightly higher in the remaining months. The value of production of the 1987 corn crop, at \$262 million, was about ten percent below the 1986 value. In 1987, Kansas was the 11th ranking corn producing state.

Grain Sorghum Production

Grain sorghum production in Kansas totaled about 274 million bushels, 12 percent below 1986 due to a two bushel lower yield and harvested acreage 10 percent less than last year. Like corn, grain sorghum prices ran below previous year levels through August, then surpassed 1986 levels. The value of production exceeded \$413 million, unchanged from the previous year. This was the fourth year in a row in which Kansas was the nation's number one sorghum grain producing state.

Soybean Production

Soybean production in Kansas reached a record 67.5 million bushels in 1987. This was 16 percent above the previous year due to an all-time record acreage for harvest at 2.1 million acres, 21 percent over 1986, and a yield of 32 bushels per acre. Soybean prices ran below year ago levels from January through April, but exceeded 1986 per bushel prices from that point. The value of production of the crop was estimated at \$358 million, some 33 percent above the previous year. This was the first year in Kansas history that the total value of the Kansas soybean crop substantially exceeded the total value of its corn crop. Kansas ranked ninth among states in soybean production.

Cattle

The cattle inventory at the beginning of 1987 totaled 5.92 million head, two percent above the previous year, but the fourth lowest in the '70s and '80s. The Kansas cattle inventory fell one percent during 1987 and ended the year at 5.86 million head. The 4.7 million head of cattle marketings during 1987 were one percent below the record marketings of 1977, but two percent above 1986 marketings. Cattle prices during the year averaged 14 percent above the previous year with cash receipts from the sale of cattle reaching \$3.4 billion, an increase of some 16 percent above the 1986 total. The slaughter of cattle in Kansas, at about 6.3 million head, was down 3.5 percent from the previous year, somewhat less than the national decline of 4.4 percent in total cattle slaughter.

Hogs

Kansas quarterly hog inventories averaged just below year earlier levels, but the December 1987 inventory, at 1.45 million head, showed a two percent increase. Marketings, at close to 2.3 million head, were seven percent less than year earlier levels, but prices averaged five percent more with the result that cash receipts from the sale of hogs were about three percent below 1986 levels. Kansas hog slaughter, on the other hand, was up 34 percent from the previous year with some 1.9 million head of hogs slaughtered in 1987.

Sheep Production Grows

The Kansas sheep inventories on January 1, 1988, totaled 277,000 head, up 17 percent from the previous year and the highest in 14 years. The slaughter facilities now in the state provide potential for increasing sheep inventories and marketings. The slaughter of sheep in Kansas during 1987 totaled 405,000 head, about 20 percent higher than the previous year.

Red Meat Production

Although Kansas was the number one state in red meat production in July and August 1987, significant increases in hog production in Iowa as well as a number of other midwestern states put Iowa back in the number one spot in red meat production during 1987. Kansas remained in the second spot with close to 4.7 billion pounds of red meat produced.

Farm Finances

Farm finance surveys conducted early in 1987 showed considerable improvement in Kansas farm income during 1986. Two factors playing an important role in the improved farm income picture in 1986 were government payments at a record \$871 million for Kansas farmers, and farm production expenses which were the lowest in a number of years.

1988

Highlights of Agriculture

Secretary of Agriculture Sam Brownback

Although 1988 was marred by drought, the combination of prices and production resulted in an overall good year for much of agriculture. Drought caused reductions on crop yields for fall-harvested crops, but reductions were more than offset by increased prices.

Drought Cuts Yields; Prices Increase

The biggest story in Kansas agriculture during the past year was the drought that gripped much of the nation's mid-section throughout the summer of 1988 and continued into 1989. The dry weather had a major impact on fall-harvested crops, and hay and pasture throughout the state, but resulting reductions in crop yields were more than offset by increased prices so the value of crop production in Kansas during 1988 actually exceeded the previous year's.

Financial Conditions Improve

Most Kansas farmers came into 1988 in an improved financial condition. Kansas net farm income was at \$1.7 billion in 1987, an all-time high. The year brought higher cattle prices, but lower hog prices.

Farmland values in February averaged \$368 an acre, up eight percent from the previous year. Kansas farmers came into 1988 with total assets 26 percent higher than the previous year. Their net worth was 36 percent higher. Debt-to-asset ratios showed improvement, declining to .23 compared to .28 at the beginning of 1988 and .32 a year earlier. That means that for every dollar of assets, Kansas farmers had 23 cents in debt as opposed to 32 cents in debt a year before.

Wheat

Wheat production, at 323 million bushels, was 12 percent lower than a year earlier and the smallest since 1981. The harvest of 9.5 million acres was down four percent from the previous year and the lowest harvested acreage since 1972. Yield, at 34 bushels per acre, was down three bushels from 1987 and was two bushels shy of the 1984-1985 five-year-average yield of 36 bushels per acre. Prices were up, and the total market value of the crop was near \$1.16 billion compared with \$890 million in 1987.

1988

at a Glance

- Despite drought, prices and production combine to create a good year for Kansas agriculture.
- Farmers enter 1988 in improved financial condition; farmland values up eight percent in February.
- Debt-to-asset ratios decline to .23 compared with .28 at the beginning of 1988 and .32 a year earlier.
- Wheat production down 12 percent; increased prices place total market value of the crop at some \$1.16 billion compared with \$890 million in 1987.
- Kansas leads the nation in sorghum production despite a crop which was down 25 percent from 1987.
- Kansas remains number three in cattle feeding, but gains ground on leaders Nebraska and Texas. Kansas leads the nation in cattle processing.
- Lambs on feed were up 17 percent from 1987 and the highest in 14 years.

Corn Production Up Slightly

Corn production totaled 144 million bushels, two percent above the last year. With nearly two-thirds of the crop irrigated, average yields were five bushels above 1987, but about two bushels below the five-year-average. Prices were much higher, with the total market value of the crop at nearly \$374 million.

Despite Drought, Kansas Leads in Sorghum

Grain sorghum production was down 25 percent from 1987, but Kansas still continued as the leading producer. Total production was estimated at 205 million bushels; the estimated average yield of 62 bushels per acre was down 11 bushels from a year earlier and four bushels below the five-year-average. Prices were much higher, with the total market value of the crop at some \$452 million.

Drought Mars Soybean Crop

The drought caused serious damage to the soybean crop, with production down 32 percent. Total output of the crop was 46 million bushels, down 32 percent from 1987. Yields averaged 23 bushels per acre. The estimated value of the 1988 soybean crop, at \$343 million, was about eight percent less than a year earlier. Average prices were up substantially.

Hay

Hay prices were volatile. The 1988 Kansas hay crop was estimated to be down 14 percent, but average prices received for hay went as high as \$93 a ton in August, compared with \$51 a ton a year earlier.

Livestock

Although still number three, Kansas continued to gain ground on the states of Nebraska and Texas in the race for leader of the cattle feeding industry. There were 5.9 million head of cattle and calves on Kansas farms on January 1, 1989, up one percent from a year earlier. Many still see Kansas becoming the beef state within a decade. It now is the industry leader in the processing of cattle.

Hog inventories increased in numbers, in concert with the national trends; however, total cash receipts from hogs were down some ten percent from a year earlier due to lower prices paid for hogs.

Sheep continued to be a growing area of Kansas agriculture, with Kansas lambs on feed up 17 percent from 1987 and the highest in 14 years. Sheep slaughter also was up about two percent from the previous year.



Drought during the 1988 and 1989 growing seasons caused a shortage of hay and forage, with these round bales in Saline County becoming a rarer sight and hay prices quite volatile. During both summers, the Board of Agriculture's marketing division manned a toll-free telephone line designed to bring sellers together with buyers of or renters of hay, forage and pastureland.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture Division Directory

- **Secretary Sam Brownback**
913 296-3558
- **FACTS**
(Farmers Assistance, Counseling and Training Service)
Dr. Stan Ward, director
Toll-free hot line 1-800-321-FARM
- **Division of Water Resources**
Chief Engineer David Pope
913 296-3710
- **Division of Plant Health**
Dale Lambley, director
913 296-2263
- **Division of Inspections**
Larry Woodson, director
913 296-3511
- **Division of Marketing**
Eldon Fastrup, director
913 296-3736
- **Division of Statistics**
State Statistician M.E. Johnson
913 295-2600
- **Division of Laboratories**
Max Foster, director
913 296-3301

Divisions of the Board of Agriculture—At a Glance

Division of Statistics

The statistical division, also known as Kansas Agricultural Statistics, has provided farmers and consumers alike with facts about crop and livestock production in Kansas for the past 126 years. Using teamwork, this division has been staffed both by United States Department of Agriculture and state of Kansas agricultural employees since 1924, about half the history of statistical reporting.

The statistical division establishes crop and livestock estimates to show farmers fluctuating supply and demand conditions. It receives voluntary reports from farmers on crop and livestock production, inventories and prices along with a wide range of other decision-making data. These reports are given, free of charge, to farmers and agribusiness firms which provide basic data for the reports. They also are provided to other cooperating state and federal agencies and to other agribusiness and economic entities across the nation and around the world.

Division of Inspections

Enforcing strict standards for the safety, wholesomeness, quality and quantity of agricultural products in Kansas, the division of inspections administers laws governing meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, seed, feed, fertilizer, soil amendments, lime, livestock remedies, anhydrous ammonia safety and weights and measures.

Division of Water Resources

Governing the use of Kansas water supplies through the Water Appropriations Act, the division of water resources uses its largest program to protect Kansas' limited supplies of this natural resource. The division also is responsible for more than 20 other Kansas laws concerning irrigation, drainage, stream alterations, flood control and the safety of dams. It administers several other programs and cooperative agreements related to the conservation and utilization of Kansas water resources.

The division also works with other states to administer the state's four interstate compacts and coordinates the National Flood Insurance Program.

Division of Marketing

Promoting Kansas-grown and produced foods and fiber, the marketing division strives to make potential consumers and buyers aware of Kansas products. It administers the trademark program, FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS, which identifies Kansas-grown and produced food products to consumers. It conducts an ongoing consumer education program, "Celebrate! Kansas Food" which identifies Kansas products in the stores. Twice a year, in May and October, statewide promotions utilize billboards, point of purchase materials, publicity, coupons and other methods to increase sales of the state's foods.

The division provides market information, voluntary grading services for fruits and vegetables and meat and poultry plant facilities planning and labor efficiency studies.

Division of Laboratories

Established in 1984, the division of laboratories furnishes testing for feeds, fertilizer, meat, dairy products, pesticides and seeds. Providing "behind the scenes" consumer protection, the laboratory guarantees product quality and safety and that label claims are met.

Working closely with the division of plant health and the division of inspections, the laboratory receives 25,000 to 30,000 samples per year.

Division of Plant Health

Created from the Kansas State Board of Agriculture's weed and pesticide division and entomology division, the division of plant health was formed in 1985. This relatively new division is responsible for the department's plant protection programs and apiary and pesticide laws.

Controlling plant diseases and destructive insects is enforced by the division through early detection, properly used pesticides and, increasingly, biological control methods.



Cross-trained agricultural inspectors now do a variety of tests to administer the laws assigned to the division of inspections. Their areas range from seeds to feeds, fertilizers, eggs, weights and measures and other agricultural materials.

Division of Inspections

The division of inspections administers some 20 agricultural laws designed to assure the safety, wholesomeness, quality, and quantity of agricultural products produced or consumed in Kansas. When grades and standards are uniform and well understood, both buyers and sellers are better satisfied, which is essential to the development of new markets and the maintenance of existing markets. Inspections performed by the division of inspections assure the safety, wholesomeness, quality and quantity of Kansas products—benefiting the economy and agriculture. The inspections division is under the direction of Larry D. Woodson. In the division, the dairy program is headed by Melvin Brose, the meat and poultry inspection program by J. F. (Pete) Wannamaker, and the agricultural commodity assurance program by DeVern Phillips.

Kansas Dairy Laws

Dairy laws provide for the inspection of dairy products, from the “moo” in the pasture to the bowl of ice cream. Inspections assure that dairy products are produced, processed, transported, and marketed safely and wholesomely. Samples of dairy products are collected and analyzed to determine the safety of the product and to verify that standards of identity are being adhered to and that products are properly and accurately labeled.

The USDA dairy termination program resulted in the loss of 247 dairy farms in Kansas. That was 12.54 percent of the state's dairy farms.

In a new operation in Arkansas City, an Ultra High Temperature (UHT) milk processing system was put on line. The system produces aseptic milk which can be produced, stored and marketed without refrigeration. Milk in cartons can be safely marketed up to six months.

New dairy regulations adopted upgraded the manufacturing milk standards. The new standards decreased the allowable somatic cell counts and provided for strict sanitation enforcement. A restraining order was issued preventing the agency from enforcing the Artificial Dairy Product Law. This was the second time a law aimed at the marketing of artificial dairy products was struck down.

Product tampering incidents resulted in increased penalties, new methods of maintaining product integrity and increased security methods to deter such activity. Much staff time was spent responding to tampering incidents.

The dairy section was involved in a survey for violations concerning drug mishandling due to the ban on sulfamethazine. Out of 424 records, 18 violations were found, mostly due to improper drug storage. In the fall of 1988, dairy producers were notified of the sulfamethazine problem and that action would be taken if any drug not approved for lactating animals was found in the dairy barn. Association testing and sampling indicate violations in the state were at the 2.76 percent level.

FDA issued an alert for the presence of aflatoxin, present in some drought-stressed grain, in milk. Samples of non-Kansas produced milk in the stores found one with aflatoxin present—it was below the amount allowable. Dairy associations began aflatoxin screening of Kansas-produced milk.

Agricultural Commodities Assurance Program (ACAP)

The combination of three programs and cross-utilization of staff established a newly named section within the division—the agricultural commodities assurance program (ACAP). It joins the staff from separate programs in the areas of eggs, agricultural supplies—formerly called control, and weights and measures. Most field inspectors have been cross-trained to perform several inspections. This action was intended to reduce the number of inspectors calling on facilities and to cut travel costs. The existing staff levels are able to more efficiently cover smaller territories. Inspectors are expected to be technically competent in several areas of regulatory enforcement.

The large capacity scale testing program was not changed during reorganization, but the LP-Gas meter inspector was trained to perform refined fuel (diesel and gasoline) bulk delivery meter testing, allowing ACAP to enforce a law legislated without funding for enforcement in 1985. This law provides for annual testing of all refined fuel meters by licensed service companies.

Recent changes in the law have put more responsibility on industry by requiring companies to engage a private testing company to check their devices annually rather than waiting for the state to check them. There has been a dramatic rise in compliance with the law by those companies. In some cases, compliance rates have increased by 25 percent.

Much concern was caused in the area of seed labeling by the federal government's conservation reserve program (CRP). Much seed sold for planting on CRP acres is sold directly to the farmer and not exposed for inspection and sampling.

The ACAP program stresses enforcement. New policy substantially reduced tolerances for short-filled dairy products, sales of deficient feed products and other violations of Kansas law.

The farmer or consumer suffers a loss when products do not meet label guarantees. The ACAP responsibility is to provide all protection possible for farmers and consumers of agricultural products.

Meat & Poultry Inspection

The meat and poultry inspection program submitted a new state performance plan to USDA/FSIS. It was approved with minor modification. This is a method of self-certification designed to reduce federal oversight and make the state responsible for maintaining its "Equal to Federal" status in meat and poultry inspection. In a 1988 compliance review by USDA/FSIS, the program was found to have no deficiencies.

Inspection was provided to some 200 Kansas plants. The inspection program provides ante- and postmortem inspection on all animals destined for intrastate commerce. It provides facility inspection to assure that minimal sanitation standards are being met. Inspections include the checking of insect and rodent control, acceptable chemicals and use of curing ingredients, control of condemned and inedible materials, residue detection and avoidance. Standards of identity are enforced with product sampling and label approval measures.

Technical training was provided to the staff through the annual inspectors meeting in McPherson and individual inspector reviews. Industry interest in canning operations and further poultry processing required additional technical training of both supervisors and inspectors in these areas. Many requests for facility review came from processors who want to upgrade to be able to market specialty meat items such as barbecued or snack meat items.

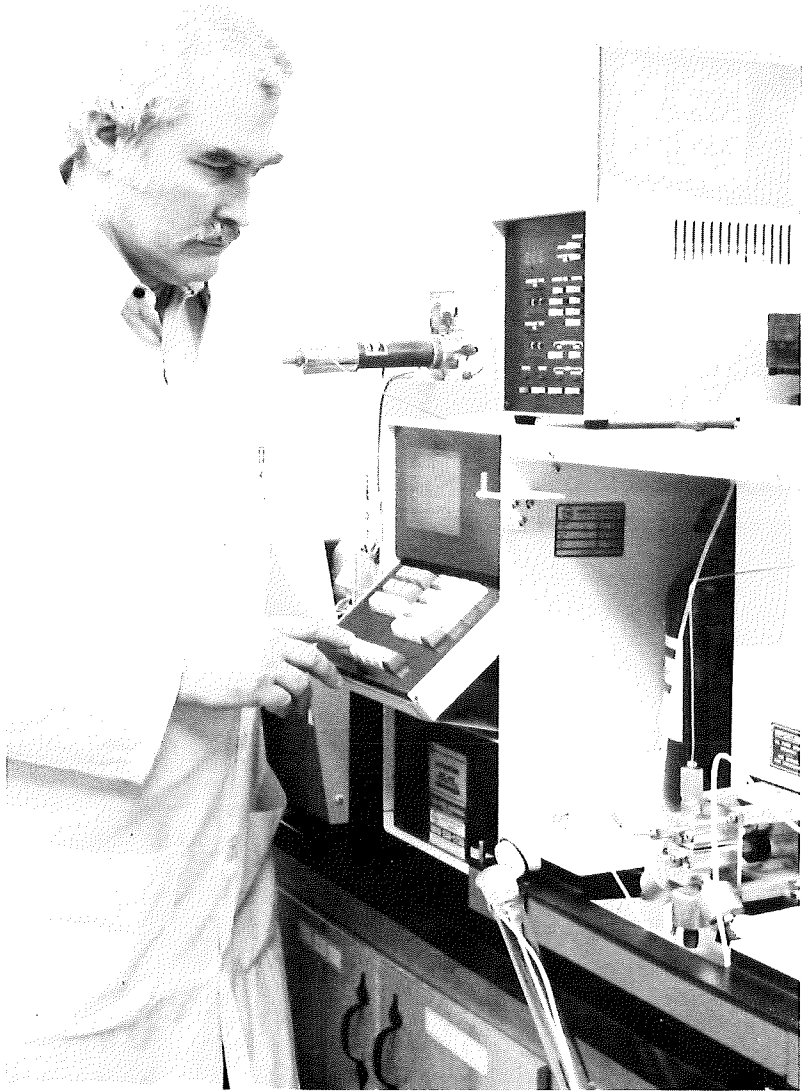
One of the more sensitive issues was the increased awareness and concern over residues found in food products. This concern impacted several inspection areas and threatens to involve others. In addition to participating in the federal residue identification program, "STOP" tests were performed on suspect animals and tissue samples were collected for laboratory analysis. STOP tests were used to detect antibiotic violations involving sulfa drugs.

The compliance program continued to investigate reports of illegal slaughter, adulteration, mislabeling, attempted salvage of unwholesome products, economic fraud, and other fraudulent and unscrupulous activities.

In the final analysis, it is the inspection division's responsibility and objective to maintain consumer protection regarding agricultural products, market equality, and integrity of government inspection programs.

To Update You . . .

- The meat and poultry inspection program was recertified as "equal to" federal inspection programs and continued 50-50 funding between the state and federal governments.
- Compliance programs removed some 395,000 pounds of unwholesome, adulterated and mislabeled products from intrastate commerce; nearly 20,000 pounds of adulterated ground beef were found at state institutions and later destroyed in cooperation with the USDA.
- Staff of the dairy program inspected 1,144 Grade A and 421 manufacturing grade milk producers. Kansas milk can be sold anywhere in the United States through these inspections.
- Through a new civil penalties law, a dairy manufacturer can be fined for repeated sanitary violations found during state inspections.
- Good manufacturing inspections were incorporated into the seed law; a fertilizer containment law was passed.
- The Petroleum Measurement Enforcement Program was transferred from administration by the state Department of Revenue to the agricultural commodities assurance program.
- A requirement for testing of large scales by private companies was expanded to all scales.



Professional employees of the division of laboratories back up inspections done to ensure that products are safe and meet label claims. Here, chemist Burton Woods analyzes a feed sample.

Established in 1984, the division of laboratories provides testing for feed, fertilizer, meat, dairy products, pesticide and seed.

Located in a separate facility in Topeka, the laboratory building was built in the early 1950s to provide a facility for each division to use for testing involved with the laws it enforced. Sources of funding to pay for the building included feed and fertilizer fee funds.

As the Kansas State Board of Agriculture began a more intense focus on regulation in the early 1980s, divisions were consolidated and the division of laboratories was formed.

"This division provides 'behind the scenes' consumer protection," says Max Foster, director.

Working closely with the divisions of inspections and plant health, the division of laboratories not only coordinates laboratory analytical programs to ensure consumer protection, but also guarantees that producers receive quality products.

The laboratory receives 35,000 to 40,000 samples per year and employs 25 people specializing in certain sections of testing.

Utilizing sophisticated computer equipment, the proximate analysis laboratory tests feeds, fertilizers and meats. Protein and fat analyses determine the correct percentages are in the samples of products.

Testing also is done for low level antibiotics in feeds which promote growth or are therapeutic. Tests are run for twelve different antibiotics.

Analyzing animal feeds for sugars, Vitamin A and various minerals such as calcium, magnesium and zinc makes certain that test results correspond with the amount in the manufacturer's product.

Drug analysis in feeds protects purchasers of feeds. Manufacturers put small amounts of drugs at low levels in feeds to prevent disease. Testing guarantees and verifies labels are in the proper amount—not too much, not too little. The lab analyzes feeds for approximately 20 drugs which usually exist in thousandths of a percentage.

The analysis of formulations of pesticides can involve testing of anything from ceiling tiles to clothing for the presence of pesticides.

Other labs in the state also test samples of water or air for pesticides, but there are no duplications of services.

Division of Laboratories

To Update You . . .

- Safety at the division of laboratories facility was improved by the construction of a separate building with an explosion-proof electrical system. Organic solvents are stored in this new shed.
- The roof of the nearly 40-year-old building was replaced; a modern, new walk-in germinator was installed in the seed laboratory.
- Equipment improvements approved included a new pH meter and ion analyzer, new vacuum and compressed air system, and a new milk cryoscope to determine added water in milk.
- Samples of water from chemigation wells analyzed found only two of 80 samples from 1987 to have detectable levels of pesticide. In both cases, traces of Atrazine were found.
- The Conservation Reserve Program, designed to take highly erodible ground out of production for a specified period of time, produced record numbers of native grass samples to be analyzed in the seed laboratory. Numbers of wheat and soybean samples decreased but were offset by increases in brome grass, alfalfa and native grass samples.
- Kathleen Willey, an A.O.S.A. certified seed technologist, joined the staff as seed laboratory supervisor.

For example, the division's laboratory uses different sources of water. The health and environment lab tests public water supplies for environmental issues; agriculture will test water from a farmer's well.

The seed laboratory is a self-supporting lab providing analysis for seed purity and germination. Working closely with Extension offices, analysts literally put seed through its paces to see what it can do.

It is meticulous and timely work. A native grass sample, with which the laboratory was inundated when the federal government's conservation reserve program went into effect, can sometimes take eight hours to sort through and then possibly 75 days to germinate.

Dairy laboratory technicians test for butter fat, bacteria counts and added water in dairy products. The time factor with dairy products makes it critical to get results in quickly. The bacteria count will increase as the product ages.

The job in the dairy residue lab consists of seeing that milk is wholesome by looking at bacteriological counts and for the presence of pesticides. Dairy residue testing starts at the producer level. The products of many different producers are pooled together in the grocery store, making unwholesome products difficult to pinpoint. The screening program is excellent, and the total violation sample rate is approximately 10 percent.

Striving to protect and educate the consumer, both farmers and consumers of food products, the division of laboratories remains an essential part of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture.

Division of Marketing

The marketing division's activities to promote the foods of Kansas drew national attention in 1988 when 46 Kansas food companies participated in a promotion of Kansas products at the famous Bloomingdale's Department Store in New York City, Boston, and other Bloomingdale's locations.

Exciting though it may have been, the May Bloomingdale's promotion was only one of many activities designed to promote the foods of Kansas under the leadership of Director Eldon Fastrup.

"Celebrate! Kansas Food"

An easy way for Kansans to get to know their home state's food products, initiated in 1987, is the twice yearly "Celebrate! Kansas Food" promotion in retail grocery stores across the state. Point-of-purchase materials draw shoppers' attention to the hundreds of food products which now bear the FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS registered trademark developed by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture in the 1970s. Promotions are in the months of May and October in hundreds of stores all over Kansas. The promotions consistently grow, with 175 food companies and more than 700 grocery stores participating. The May promotion generated some \$876,000 in sales.

In the fall of 1988, Kansas foods also were featured by Bloomingdale's as a part of its opening celebration for a new Chicago store. Sixteen FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS companies participated.

"Celebrate! Kansas Food" also is a focus in school lunch week, a project which reached 162,000 children in 1988. A directory listing FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS food companies is given to school food service directors.

Also reminding Kansans of products FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS is the yearly Agriculture Day celebration of snacks and educational materials in the Statehouse in Topeka on the first day of spring.

A newer project is a weekly television segment on Topeka's WIBW television. It focuses on Kansas food companies and "Celebrate! Kansas Food."

Kansas foods were promoted during a special day at the Heartland Market at Crown Center in Kansas City.

Projects designed to inform others about the state's diverse agriculture continue. Marketing division staff participate in food shows and conventions, such as the National Grocers Association convention.



In New York at the gala opening of the Kansas Bloomingdale's promotion, Governor Mike Hayden is interviewed for a live news broadcast back in Kansas. Behind him, some of the Kansas food products featured at the department store.

The marketing division cooperated with the development of Sunny Wheat Bread. Also working to develop and market this special Kansas bread were the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Restaurant Association.

Other major campaigns included activity at the Pride of Kansas building during the Kansas State Fair; a project in cooperation with the Kansas Lottery, "Home Town Cash"; and the Kansas Egg Recipe contest. A program of using outdoor billboards to promote the celebration of Kansas foods was begun at different locations in the state.

Publications which assist potential buyers of the state's products include the Kansas Food Processor's Guide, a directory of FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS products, a directory of farmers' markets and the Kansas Agricultural Export Directory. Progress toward increased mail order business for Kansas food was made with the publication of the "Kansas Collection" catalogue and a "Gifts" brochure.

Christmas tree and hay directories also were produced and distributed.

Exports of Agricultural Products

The Kansas Agricultural Export Directory was distributed to U.S. embassies worldwide, USDA cooperators in foreign countries, foreign embassies in the U.S., foreign trading companies operating in the U.S., and other trade contacts.

The 12 midwestern states which make up MIATCO sponsored two trade shows in June of 1988 in Aruba, Netherland Antilles and Nassau Bahamas of the Caribbean area. The shows were coordinated by the states of Kansas and Missouri.

Staff worked to sell breeding animals to purchasers in Sonora, Mexico. In 1988, for the fourth year, staff attended the Chihuahua, Mexico, Livestock Show. Sixty-six head of beef breeding Herefords, Simmentals and Salers were sold. A five-member Kansas dairy team attended the National Dairy Show in Queretaro, Mexico.

Kansas Commodity Commissions

Activities to increase crop efficiency and sales of Kansas corn, sorghum and soybeans continued.

The Kansas Soybean Commission cosponsored five seminars on research developments, commercial application, marketing strategies, foreign trade and membership. Those seminars reached 225 producers.

To Update You . . .

- The October 1988 "Celebrate! Kansas Food" promotion generated \$1,024,000 in sales of Kansas foods in the more than 800 participating stores.
- New out-of-state promotions planned for 1989 included the International Fancy Food and Confection Show in San Francisco; the Natural Foods Exposition in Anaheim, Calif.; the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago; and long-term leased space in the Dallas Market Center Specialty Food Showroom.
- The marketing division worked with the Kansas Livestock Association and International Meat and Livestock Program at Kansas State University to present a seminar on Selling Breeding Cattle to Mexico.
- Continued drought adversely affected Kansas cattle producers. The marketing division activated a toll-free telephone line to connect persons in need of pasture or hay with those who had it to sell or rent. The toll-free line was national in scope and listed 70,636 tons of hay for sale in its first 60 days. Of much importance was the use of the hotline to help people in need of pasture move cow-calf pairs to new locations.
- An Expo of Kansas foods was sponsored for the first time at Topeka's Expocentre in May.

The Kansas Corn Commission planned three marketing conferences, and the Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission co-sponsored three regional meetings.

Commissions hosted a Chinese corn processing team, a Turkish feedlot team, a Korean soybean processor delegation, a Korean meat marketing delegation, Turkish feedlot management delegation, Greek animal nutrition team, Chinese feed standards delegation, Republic of China feed technology team, Turkish feed manufacturing team, and an Indian food and feed delegation.

The commodity commissions sponsored two international grain short courses on grain grading, storage, handling and the U.S. grain marketing system. Sixty participants from Central and South America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia took part in the courses.

Product Research and Development

Included in ongoing projects are poultry expansion efforts, with a soup plant as a market for broilers located in Tecumseh, Neb., and a turkey plant in Gibbon, Neb., providing a potential market for more chicken and turkey production in Kansas.

Meetings and seminars looked into potato production and product marketing for fruit and vegetable growers. Possibilities are being tested for the use of crambe and rapeseed to produce industrial oils.

A focus was industrial uses of agricultural products. The Board of Agriculture appointed a Task Force on Non-Food Uses of Agricultural Products. Marketing division staff assisted members of the task force as they studied new industrial products and new uses for existing products which many believe hold great promise for the Kansas economy. They worked to plan a four-state Midwestern meeting on this topic which was held in March in Kansas City cooperatively with the states of Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.

The drought which began in the summer of 1988 led to shortages of hay and forage. The marketing division coordinated a "hay hotline" designed to bring buyers together with sellers of hay.

The division of plant health, directed by Dale Lambley, is the result of reorganization uniting the former entomology division and the weed and pesticide division in the agency.

Sections of work within the division of plant health include the plant protection and weed control section, the pesticide use section and the pesticide registration section.

Division of Plant Health

Plant Protection and Weed Control

The high level of exports of Kansas agricultural products resulted in an increased workload for plant protection staff. They provide inspection and export certification of farm commodities as they go to other states and nations. Certification assures purchasers that they are not bringing prohibited plant pests into their areas.

One of the regular duties of the state weed specialist is training regarding weed control—some of the groups trained included attendees at noxious weed district meetings and managers and rangers at the state's Department of Wildlife and Parks training courses. The state weed director worked to notify county weed directors and landowners about changes in noxious weed law regulations.

Legislation removed the authority of counties to sell herbicides at full cost for non-noxious weeds and allowed counties to declare the weed *serica lespedeza* to be a noxious weed on a county basis.

Surveys continued on a new pest to Kansas, the Russian Wheat Aphid, found in 25 counties. Entomologists fear it may become the most important insect pest affecting Kansas small grains, especially if it begins moving further east in the state. The federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service began a search for natural enemies of the Russian Wheat Aphid to establish a biological control program. The division and Kansas State University are cooperating with APHIS on this project, conducting a prerelease survey on the aphid and preparing a plan for parasite/predator release in the state.

Staff worked to comply with the federal quarantine on the Varroa mite, a dangerous pest to honeybees. Surveys are ongoing. None were found in 506 samples studied. Surveys were being made for the honeybee tracheal mite, with 92 out of 584 samples testing positive. Control treatments are being tried and evaluated for effectiveness.

Staff also developed a biological control program to improve control of the musk thistle. This project was funded with oil overcharge refund monies.

Plant diseases in 1988 were less prevalent than usual, probably because of extremely dry weather conditions. Wheat streak mosaic was the most damaging to the year's crops.

Greenbugs in the fall of 1988 in wheat were the most serious in 30-40 years. Damage to crops and pesticide applications were common in the western part of the state.

The Environmental Protection Agency's review of the state's pesticide enforcement programs was very favorable, and the division was notified that EPA would reduce its oversight over programs in the pesticide registration section.

Pesticide Use

An amendment to the Kansas Pesticide Law required all commercial pesticide applicators for wood-destroying or structural pest control (exterminators) to become either registered pest control technicians or certified applicators. For the division, that meant a greatly increased number of examinations to administer and applications to process.

Legislation was passed making major changes in the state's chemigation safety law. It increased fees to chemigators and made changes in the equipment required.

The federal government's proposed Endangered Species Legislation, which would place many restrictions on applications of chemicals in areas where there may be endangered species, has been put on hold at least through the 1989 growing season.

New ecological specialists were hired in the pesticide use and pesticide regulation sections through monies received from the federal government.

Year-long, staff investigated complaints of alleged pesticide misuse, most in the area of residential pest control. Division staff took part in intense surprise investigations in the Wichita and Kansas City metropolitan areas. During these two-day projects, they made surprise visits to commercial applicators to determine if commercial applicators were using pesticides in accordance with label directions.

State legislation gave the Board of Agriculture more authority to enforce the Kansas Pesticide Law, meaning less cases will have to be referred to the federal Environmental Pesticide Agency for action. The same legislation also required verifiable training for business employees who apply pesticides to turf or ornamental pests.

Sampling of chemigation well water across the state was ongoing. In the summer of 1988, laboratory reports on 136 chemigation well water samples showed six with trace amounts of pesticides. The most prevalent was Atrazine.

In August of 1988, a special meeting of the Board of Agriculture discussed recommendations to the legislature on the Kansas Chemigation Law and Pesticide Law.

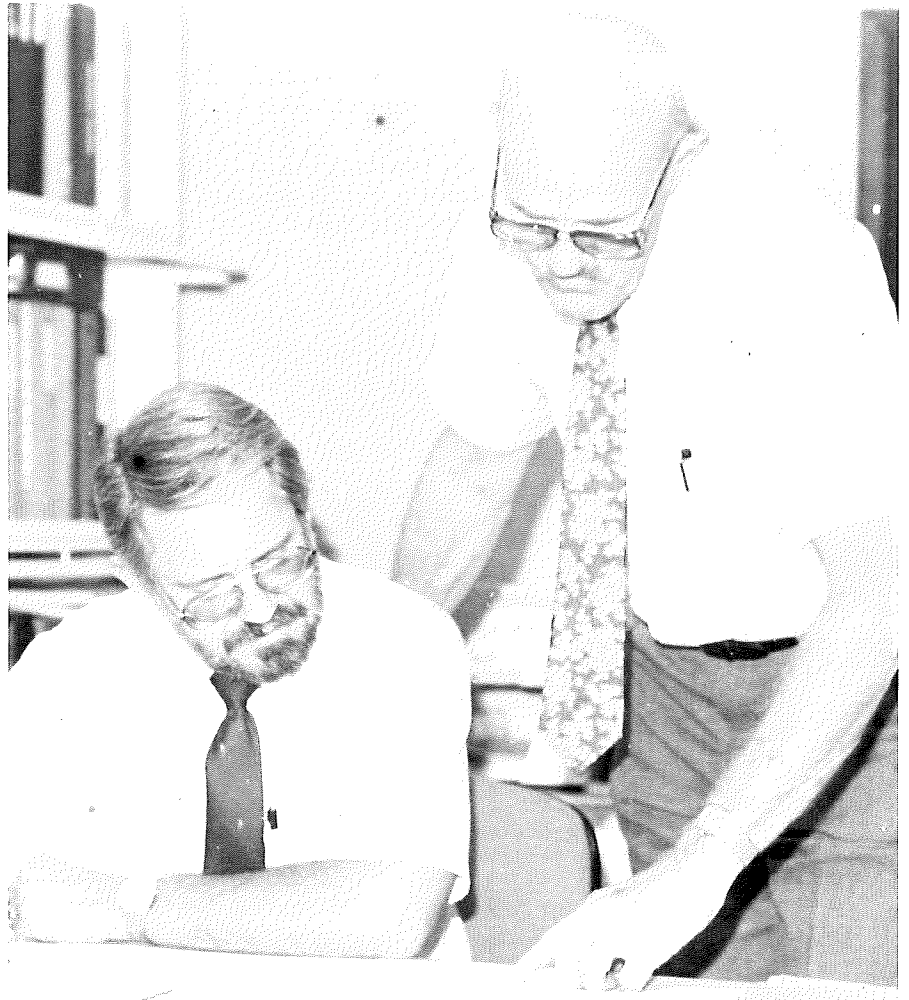
Pesticide Registration

Numbers of pesticide products registered in 1988 were down, perhaps because many companies are merging and either reducing the total number of products which could be registered or combining the same products under one name.

Pesticide numbers also will be affected by future federal programs which will affect the distribution, sale and use of chemicals—those include the Endangered Species Act and the Groundwater Protection Act. They likely will lower the number of products available for use by agriculturists.

The state received section 18 approval for two products to control mites on corn—the products were Supracide and Capture. It is very unusual to get special permission from the federal government to use two products to control the same pest.

It was determined that minimal use had been made of those products in 1988, and that the section would ask for the use of Capture in the 1989 growing season if the need arose.



State Statistician M.E. "Moe" Johnson, standing, pictured with Assistant State Statistician Eldon Thiessen.

Division of Statistics

The year 1988 marked the 125th anniversary of the first crop report. A cooperative effort between the state of Kansas and the federal government, the statistical division or Kansas Agricultural Statistics has long provided crop and livestock information to Kansas farmers. The director of the division is State Statistician M.E. "Moe" Johnson.

President Abraham Lincoln called agriculture the "largest interest" of the nation when he asked Congress to establish the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the mid-1800s. Established in 1862, the statistical division actually preceded the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, founded in 1872, by nine years.

Before Kansas became a state, a national crop reporting service had been developing, preparing and publishing agricultural data for the territory. That much-celebrated first crop report of 1863 asked only two questions—how many acres farmers had planted that year as compared to 1862, and the condition of the crop in May and June.

Kansas released its first agricultural statistics report in 1872—"Products of the State of Kansas for the Year 1871." It listed total numbers for the year at 4,567 mules; 34,905 horses; 1,276,039 bushels of wheat; and 31,559 pounds of tobacco, among other things.

Decades of State-Federal Cooperation

Kansas Agricultural Statistics and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been working cooperatively since 1924, about half the history of statistical reporting. Previously, each had been making separate monthly reports on crops and crop conditions prior to harvest.

Today, Kansas Agricultural Statistics is a division of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and a part of the federal government, employing both state civil service and federal employees.

Through their combined efforts, specific and accurate statistics on Kansas crops and livestock furnish continuous information on the state's agricultural conditions to farmers, agribusiness firms and other interested groups.

Establishing crop and livestock estimates to show farmers fluctuating supply and demand conditions, the statistical division has relied on farmers for information to produce reports over the years.

As competition increases, farmers and those who work with farmers need increasing amounts of current information to make production and marketing decisions.

Several thousand farmers provide input each month to the monthly and quarterly reports published by USDA and Kansas Agricultural Statistics.

Drought a Priority

Drought from which Kansas began suffering in the summer of 1988 became a high priority task for Kansas Agricultural Statistics. At the height of drought problems, the office prepared a weekly report to update state and other officials on the progress of drought conditions. Data compiled by the division was used to answer inquiries from individuals state-, nation-, and world-wide.

Reports Available

Reports published by Kansas Agricultural Statistics are free to farmers, agribusiness firms and cooperating USDA and state agencies which provide the basic data for those reports. Others are required to pay a fee for current reports.

Reports include *Weekly Crop Weather, Crops, Livestock, Hogs and Pigs, Agricultural Prices, Farm Facts, Wheat Quality, Custom Rates, Grain Marketing and Transportation* and others.



The drought which began in the summer of 1988 kept division of water resources employees busy monitoring stream flow, administering water rights, and providing information. Secretary Sam Brownback is pictured on a tour of drought-stricken Doniphan County.

Division of Water Resources

The division of water resources has responsibility for some 30 laws affecting water in Kansas. Of major importance is the administration of the Kansas Water Appropriation Act, requiring permits to appropriate water for beneficial use. Leadership of this division is provided by David L. Pope, chief engineer.

Dam Safety

A top priority for the Board of Agriculture was the enhancement of a program to investigate and report on the safety of dams. The 1987 Legislature authorized two additional positions to be used in connection with the safety of dams. More than 300 significant hazard dams were to be inspected under this program; 155 high hazard dams which previously were inspected will receive follow-up inspection. This was the first major enhancement of the dam safety program in nearly a decade.

Environmental Coordination Act

The new Environmental Coordination Act requires plans for levees, stream obstruction and general plans for watershed districts to be submitted to seven state environmental agencies for comment. The law also allows the chief engineer to condition approval of permits on environmental considerations. There is a mandatory 30-day comment period.

Minimum Desirable Streamflow

Target flows were negotiated for five additional Kansas streams—the Walnut River, Whitewater River, Spring River, Chapman Creek and the Solomon River above Niles. If approved by the Kansas Water Authority, target flows on these streams would be included in the State Water Plan.

Kansas vs. Colorado Case

The trial in this dispute between Kansas and Colorado regarding flows of the Arkansas River is expected to begin in January 1990 in Pasadena, Calif.

In October of 1988, the Special Master in the case denied a motion to stay filed by Colorado based on an alleged failure by Kansas to exhaust its administrative remedies in the case. The denial was very positive for the Kansas case.

Groundwater Co-op Program

Water level measurements were obtained in approximately 1,580 wells during January 1988. The measurements show that the water level averaged a .1 foot increase in Northwest Kansas during 1987. In West Central Kansas, water levels decreased .7 foot. Average water-level decline in Southwestern Kansas was .7 foot. In South Central Kansas (Big Bend Prairie South of Arkansas River) water level averaged a .9 foot increase. In the "Equus Beds" area which overlies the High Plains aquifer east of Hutchinson, the average water level increased by .3 foot.

Mined Land Conservation and Reclamation Board Abolished

The final meeting of the Mined Land Conservation and Reclamation Board was in June of 1988. The legislature had abolished the board and transferred its functions to the state Department of Health and Environment. The Kansas State Board of Agriculture had been represented by staff of the division of water resources on the mined land board for many years.

Drought Intensifies Activities

The severe drought which began in June 1988 over most of Kansas caused intense work activities in the division of water resources. Much time was spent doing emergency approvals of applications to cover replacement wells under existing water rights affected by drought.

The division began formulating plans for administering minimum desirable streamflow on streams especially hard hit by drought.

On June 30, 1988, water levels were below irrigation or conservation storage in 21 of the 24 major Kansas reservoirs. That compared with nine below storage levels one year earlier.

Drought increased by two-thirds the number of applications to appropriate water compared to a year earlier. Applications for change in existing rights also increased greatly.

Chief Engineer Pope or his designee began serving on the Governor's Drought Task Force. They served with representatives of other state, federal and municipal agencies and organizations, working together to monitor drought conditions and coordinate emergency actions and public education programs.

To Update You . . .

- Drought, beginning in June 1988, continued into the summer of 1989. It affected water supplies throughout most of the state, causing an added workload for division staff as they processed emergency changes and applications to divert water, administered water rights and monitored minimum desirable streamflows. Staff took part in public education programs across the state and cooperated with other agencies on the Governor's Task Force on Drought.
- A focus was continued on strengthening water use reporting in Kansas. The legislature made mandatory the date of March 1 for return of water use reports from landowners and attached a fine to late reports. The information gleaned from more than 10,000 water use reports is used by the division to perfect water rights, to better appropriate water resources. Data also are used by groundwater management districts and other water related agencies for management, planning and research related to water resources.
- The 1989 Kansas Legislature passed funding measures to implement the Kansas Water Plan.

Farmers Assistance, Counseling and Training Service

The Farmers Assistance, Counseling and Training Service (FACTS) was approved by the Kansas State Legislature to assist farmers and rural residents with effects of the farm crisis. It is a joint program of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and the Kansas Cooperative Extension Service. Since it began operation July 1, 1985, it has helped Kansas farmers, ranchers, agribusiness people and their families through counseling, assistance and referrals for financial and legal problems, employment and retraining needs, basic family needs, and personal or family crisis. Dr. Stan Ward is director of the FACTS office. Kansans can call the toll-free number, 1-800-321 FARM, for assistance.

Farmers Assistance, Counseling and Training staff have conducted, attended, and helped instruct many community awareness programs, professional and paraprofessional training workshops, and planning and coordination meetings around the state. A state department of Social and Rehabilitation Services workshop on rural awareness presented to SRS supervisors, Co-op Annual Meetings to make people aware of FACTS services, and five regional rural resource meetings with human service providers who help rural families are just a few of the hundreds of workshops, seminars, and conferences staff have participated in while fulfilling the mission of the FACTS office.

Workshops on suicide prevention were conducted at various locations around the state, co-sponsored by the Interfaith Rural Life Committee. Both professional and non-professional people attended the workshops to gain new skills in dealing with clients who may be potentially suicidal. Another training session, "Responding to the Radical Rural Right" was conducted in Manhattan. Interest in this workshop was so great that FACTS later co-sponsored with the Hutchinson/Reno County Law Enforcement Training Center and the U.S. Department of Justice a similar workshop for approximately 450 law enforcement personnel.

January 1987 was the start of referrals from FACTS to mediation. An additional role which is beneficial to clients is one of mediation of family conflict. In certain instances, this type of mediation must be done before financial problems can be dealt with; in other instances, mediation can be fundamental to the restoration of a dysfunctional family to a functional family.

A Bank Closing Response Team was put in place. The FACTS office is notified by the Kansas Banking Commission immediately after public announcement of a bank closing. As soon as notification is received, other members of the team are notified, and a workshop is scheduled for farmers whose loans are affected by the closing.

Report on the Blueprint for Kansas Agriculture

A panel of Kansas State University agricultural economists unveiled for the first time the "Blueprint for Kansas Agriculture." Dr. Marc Johnson chaired the panel.

In brief, the study showed optimism about Kansas' potential for agriculturally related economic development and listed industries with high potential for the state. Researchers noted that large food processors can locate in rural areas and suggested that communities develop county or multicounty campaigns for growth to offer a broad base of resources which would attract industry.

Innovation, efficiency and marketing will become ever more important to let farmers remain competitive in the future when crop and livestock profit margins will be very narrow. Farmers need resources of ideas, knowledge, market penetration, targeting marketing and promotion.

High potential industries for Kansas include animal fats and oils, blended flour, corn sweetener, animal foods, dressed poultry, fresh vegetables, low fat milk, meat packing, cheeses, sausages and prepared meat, soybean oil and consumer goods ranging from cereals, snacks and baked goods to numerous other convenience foods for modern consumers.

Report on the Corporate Swine Study

Consultant George O'Day, author of a report on "The Study of the Impacts on Kansas of Corporate Swine Farm Laws" for Kansas, Inc., discussed the findings of that study for delegates to the Annual Meeting.

In Kansas, O'Day said, swine farm numbers are decreasing at a faster rate than in competing states. Kansas hog slaughter has decreased for several years as slaughter in neighboring states increases. More than 40 percent of Kansas-produced hogs are slaughtered out-of-state, a loss of value-added revenue to the state. Average prices received by Kansas swine farmers are on a downward trend.

The study recommended that the state should pass a "stratified amendment" to the law which provides equal treatment for all and encourages controlled corporate hog businesses in the state. It also says Kansas should begin recruiting potential corporate operations; create a center for swine research and technology; increase swine Extension specialists; and provide financial assistance for upgrading and expansion of qualified swine farms. Kansas should study and disseminate research data on the use of wheat, sorghum or other grains as an alternative feed for swine; allow existing feed manufacturers and cooperatives to enter production on the same basis as corporations and to contract with packers for marketing; study the possibility of converting an existing or inactive cattle packing plant to hog packing; and allow controlled breeder farms and large-scale swine farms in areas which require economic activity and/or do not have heavy numbers of swine farms.

**Highlights
117th Annual
Meeting,
Jan. 12-14,
1988**



Board member Lois Schlickau looks on as Senator Jim Allen, chairman of the senate's committee on agriculture, briefs delegates on the soon-to-begin legislative session.

Report of the Commission on the Future of Kansas Agriculture

In November of 1986, the Commission on the Future of Kansas Agriculture was appointed. Its purpose was for leaders inside and outside of agriculture to focus on what Kansas could do to assist its agriculture and rural communities. After numerous meetings and input from many experts and organizations, the commission identified 10 important issues presented as questions and suggested ways to deal with those key issues. They were:

- (1) Do we adjust for the present economic trends?
- (2) What can be done to assist surviving commercial sized farmers to be profitable, vibrant and competitive in the future?
- (3) How can Kansas diversify and into what areas?
- (4) What should be done to allow financially stressed farmers the opportunity to remain on the land?
- (5) What should be done to assist those Kansas farmers who must make the transition out of agriculture?
- (6) What should be done to assist small scale agriculture?
- (7) What should be done to help rural communities survive and thrive?
- (8) What human resources are going to be needed in agricultural and rural development in the future?
- (9) What should be done to preserve our agriculture and natural resources and environment?
- (10) Is regional coordination of agricultural and rural development desirable and achievable?

Secretary of Agriculture Sam Brownback said the report was presented to delegates for their input on whether or not the Board of Agriculture should accept the total commission report, reject it, or amend portions of it. Delegates were charged to discuss the report in their caucus meetings.

Annual Banquet

Formerly scheduled speaker Peter Myers, Assistant U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, was forced to cancel his engagement. He was replaced by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Governmental and Public Affairs Wilmer D. "Vinegar Bend" Mizell.

Mizell is a former professional baseball pitcher, Congressman from North Carolina and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Mizell said revisions on the Farm Bill should be out by Feb. 1. Issues being looked at include changes in wheat and feed grains regulations; more input into the Conservation Reserve Program by the Extension Service; and the need for Farmers Home Administration mediation boards. Mizell said he is confident that the farm bill would have no major changes.

There still is a goal of putting 45 million acres of farmland into the Conservation Reserve Program—presently 22 million acres are enrolled. There are many positive indicators for agriculture, he said. There has been a \$15 to \$25 billion increase in farmland values in the past year. Crop stockpiles are dropping, and it is predicted that farm exports will be up \$4 billion in 1988 with export volume expected to increase 26 percent as compared with 1986. A positive area for the future, he said, is industrial uses of agricultural commodities. The USDA is working with Kansas State University and other institutions to pinpoint and refine industrial uses of crops.

Panel Discussion on the Future of Kansas Agriculture

Leaders from three of Kansas' largest farm organizations were asked to share their visions of the future of Kansas agriculture with the delegate body. They were Ivan Wyatt of Kansas Farmers Union, Max Deets of the Kansas Livestock Association and Dennis McKinney of the Kansas Farm Bureau.

Max Deets, manager of the Solomon Valley Feedlot at Beloit, said agriculture will continue to be one of Kansas' major resources and must be utilized. Changes and improvements are necessary to take agriculture into the future. He warned that reapportionment will make agriculture even more of a minority than it has been, making it even more important to elect rural leaders who are informed and will work for agriculture. He also urged a careful eye be kept on food safety regulations and environmental control. "The future is positive for agriculture in Kansas," he said.

Ivan Wyatt of the Kansas Farmers Union saw both positives and negatives in agriculture. "There have been positives in agriculture, but don't be misled. There are still problems in agriculture," he said, mentioning the fact that the farm population will decrease again this year, rural banks continue to close, forced farm sales and partial liquidations are still taking place. He said the increase in farm income is largely due to government payments, not increases in sales or prices.

Wyatt said agriculture cannot allow itself to be isolated. All sides need to work together for a common cause. He believes that the multi-state grain pact could work with correct management. About efforts to bring about more liberal corporation laws in the state, Wyatt said, "Farmers are more efficient than the corporate structure There are advantages, especially tax breaks and incentives, for corporations that are not available to individual farmers We can't separate rural economic development from the future of the family farmer." He said there should be more labor and management from farmers, increased diversification, care with resources, and good leadership from agriculture.

Representing the Kansas Farm Bureau, Dennis McKinney said there are many positives for agriculture but there still are problems and challenges. He said the farm program has lowered surpluses and the loan rate has helped lower world market grain prices so that other countries are being forced to become more market oriented, too. Marketing of production on a contractual basis, McKinney said, has pros and cons but can be used as a management tool to lower risk and help cash flow. New technology is coming at a rapid rate, and Kansas farmers should take advantage of it to be competitive. Biotechnology will increase. Farmers should practice conservation and protect the environment before the government forces them to. Kansas feed grain production can help increase profitability for all species of livestock and poultry, McKinney said, and will benefit economic development and help rural communities thrive. He said people are agriculture's most important resource.

Research—Catalyst for Change in Agriculture

The Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station does mission-oriented research projects, all of which have ultimate goals for Kansas agriculture in mind, said Dr. Kurt Feltner. Kansas' high ranking in production for wheat, red meat, flour and other products are positive examples of Experiment Station research over the past 100 years.

Feltner said the Agriculture Experiment Station is not a place but rather a program of research which uses a variety of talents and academic disciplines to benefit agriculture. Beyond researchers, the Agricultural Experiment Station utilizes a network of fields and stations which provide data about the state's wide variety of climates and soil types. Pay-offs over past years include development of a vaccine to prevent blackleg, a bloat-preventative for feedlot cattle, improvements in breeding stock, elimination of bunt, varieties of wheat resistant to Hessian Fly, new conservation tillage systems, and the Konza Prairie for ecological research. For each \$1 devoted to research, Feltner said, agriculture gets a \$1.50 payoff.

Who benefits from agricultural research? Feltner said the state's general fund benefits from improvements in agriculture, the farmer benefits, and the consumer benefits the most by a lowered cost of living. Feltner urged support of the Board of Regents' Margin of Excellence program which would provide urgently needed salary improvements for faculty and enhance the total Experiment Station program in the amount of \$760,000. Those funds would go to study the processing of agricultural products such as meats and crops in the state; sustaining profitability of existing agriculture, including forage-based livestock systems; improving dryland agricultural systems; and biotechnology. Research growth areas will be in alternate uses of existing crops; development of specialty crops; and more research on industrial crops. Kansas needs to remain competitive in its traditional crops and livestock.

The Future of U.S. Farm Policy—Discussion by U.S. Representatives Pat Roberts and Dan Glickman

In his introduction, Moderator Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh said the 1985 Farm Bill was a true piece of landmark legislation. It marked a major policy switch from price support to income supports. Now corrections to the 1985 Farm Bill are being debated and it is not too early to begin thinking about the next major Farm Bill in 1990. He asked the Congressmen to address those areas.

Congressman Glickman said the Gramm-Rudman budget cuts have made some changes in the farm programs, but in general the nature of the 1985 Farm Bill has been preserved and likely will be next year, too.

He discussed areas the agriculture committee may focus on this year. He said they will continue to pursue oversight over the Commodity Credit Corporation and its sale—or dumping—of grain on the market in the amount of 10 to 25 million bushels a week. In effect, that has changed the price of wheat. He says Congress must ask if that is legal, if the government is manipulating the price up or down in the process.

In the area of trade-related matters, he said the committee must discuss the need to sell more products overseas and look at the Japanese failure to buy more livestock and other commodities. He said the future of the American farmer is as dependent on what other countries do with our farm commodities as it is on what the Farm Bill looks like. We must increase demand for exports, look at alternative uses for existing products, and cut the import of tropical oils as opposed to U.S. oils. He said the majority of calls into his office deal with the complexity of farm programs.

Congressman Roberts said in his speech he would deal with three major areas—the budget, the 1990 Farm Bill, and what is happening with the existing Farm Bill this year.

The budget compromise of a 1.5 percent cut in target prices was better than what could have been an 8.5 percent cut. Agriculture dodged the bullet this year, and the two-year budget means there should be no surprises for agriculture for a while.

What will be covered in the 1990 Farm Bill depends largely on who will be president then. It should have as its central theme a policy consistent with the natural evolution of farming and economic reality, Roberts said. Farms are getting larger and more efficient.

Under the current program, the farmer agrees to idle a percentage of ground in exchange for government payments. In 1990 the word in Washington may be "decoupling"—to do that would separate from supply management and cut the link with the rationale that has been the linchpin of farm program policy. As large as farm program payments are, he said, they also are insurance against market interference or embargoes. The 1990 Farm Bill should build on the present effort to reduce world-wide agricultural subsidies and barriers to trade.

Flinchbaugh asked each Congressman to assess the 1985 Farm Bill at its midpoint, how it is working and how they would change it if they could.

Glickman said he would give the 1985 Farm Bill a "C"-plus. It is good in the area of conservation and has had some effect on export markets, but the down side is that it is based on a deliberate effort to lower world grain prices and make up the difference with government checks. As the program dropped the world price to squeeze U.S. competitors, we squeezed lots of American farmers out of business, he said. The farmers who were left were left leaner and meaner, and we were positioned to move out into the world marketplace. "I would like to see a stronger effort to enhance rather than depress price," Glickman concluded.

Congressman Roberts said he would have to grade the Farm Bill a bit higher, in the "B" range. Recently Secretary of Agriculture Lyng said the bill had been successful in terms of export demand, regaining market share, bringing farm income up in 1987, stabilizing production costs and land value, creating a healthier livestock sector and helping farms pay off their debt load faster. Roberts said he thinks school is still out on whether it is reaching its goals. There are lots of variables, including the budget deficit, the value of the dollar and our relations with the Soviet Union. The Farm Bill itself is not the entire picture. Yes, it was very price oriented, but it was not so much an effort to drop price as it was to regain market share and competitive advantage if we truly are to operate in a world market, Glickman says. The real problem was that Americans farmed by inflation for several years—when that turned everyone got burned. The Farm Bill worked much better in the South than it did here in the grain sector. "I would have preferred going to a marketing loan program route for wheat and feed grains, but it would have been expensive," he concluded.

Governor's Luncheon

Governor Mike Hayden noted the great improvement in the state's improved fiscal health and said that agriculture has played a part in that improved budget situation. Issues to think about, he said, include funding for a state water plan, continued emphasis on successful marketing of the state's products, and a task force to focus on ways to ensure and enhance life in Kansas' rural communities.

Greatest Diversification Stories Ever Told

Richard Krumme, editor of Successful Farming Magazine, told delegates that too many leaders are making decisions about the industry of agriculture and ignoring the people of agriculture. Deregulation has left out rural America. We live in a confused time, we don't know what's around the corner, but likely there will be a lot of opportunity for agriculture. Americans today live in a service economy and many successful diversification ideas identify and provide a service by filling a market niche. Control of too many farms has slipped away to the government or to lenders—we need to regain control and take charge of our agricultural business, Krumme said. Today about one-third of farm income comes from the government. He believes farmers would rather get their income from the market, not from the government. We need to start producing for a market, not a grain bin, seeing opportunities in change, not problems. We need to respond to consumer needs. We must remove some of our dependence on growing bulk commodities and focus on adding value and exporting finished products. There is no one solution to the problems of agriculture—there are thousands, he said. Some of the diversified projects, he mentioned included sprouts for salads, puppies, pick-your-own fruits, specialty vegetables, specialty livestock, bird seed, straw logs, mushrooms, aquaculture, crafts, catering or recreation. “We are not saying to turn your entire farm over to an alternative venture, but to replace a money loser with a money gainer, perhaps 20 percent of net income,” Krumme said. To be successful at diversification, he said, you must be able to work with people and learn and use marketing skills. There are solutions to the farm crisis, and they are on your own farm, not in Washington, D.C., he concluded.

The USDA Looks at Alternatives in Agriculture

Dr. Paul O'Connell said he heads a relatively new action program which looks at ways to provide new opportunities for American farmers. The major areas emphasized are industrial crops, aquaculture, small scale agriculture and low input farming. Congress has funded this program in the amount of \$4 million.

It isn't easy to get a new idea from paper into the hands of the public. With traditional crops like wheat or beef, there is a complicated system already in place to help the farmer get it into the marketplace, but a new crop immediately results in questions of how to get it processed and on the market. State departments of agriculture and land grant institutions need to look at a total view of production, processing, marketing, and international sales.

A partnership is needed between the private sector and government to do research and commercialize promising technologies. We should use our capitalistic system to our benefit, he said. Government should remove red tape so the production, processing and marketing sectors can be brought together.

O'Connell explained several projects he now is directing. In one program, the 20-year-old technology to commercialize kenaf, an annual non-wood fiber substitute for wood chips in newsprint, was not being utilized. His department developed a working partnership between interested parties, an equipment manufacturer, the pulping industry and the newspaper industry. A test run showed the newspaper industry paper made from kenaf has a distinct price and quality advantage, uses less ink, is stronger, whiter, has less ink rub-off, uses less processing energy and has growing areas across the southern tier of the U.S. As a result the newspaper industry will build a \$300 million plant in South Texas which will create a demand for 40,000 acres of kenaf. By the year 2010, demand for newsprint will be massively increased, as will demand for kenaf.

They also are working on a hybrid striped bass aquaculture demonstration project, utilizing 20-year-old technology on a private farm and Campbell's Soup will do test marketing on the product. They hope to reduce seafood imports. Other projects focus on producing rubber in the U.S., and rapeseed as an industrial oil. He said a renewed push for alternative opportunities represents a positive, market-oriented response, not a reliance on government subsidies, and is the best long-term hope for farmers to gain back prosperity.

Alternative Ag and the Small Business Sector

Thomas McRae, president of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, says we must step back, understand that the rural economy is in transition, but there is opportunity. The Grain Belt and the South have had a land and natural resources economy. Not only have oil, agriculture and lumber been in economic decline, but rural areas were hit with a triple whammy in that the kinds of industry which had located in more rural areas in the 1950s through the 1970s were the most likely to move offshore.

Are these trends irreversible? No, McRae says, they are not. Natural resources and agricultural products are cyclical products. There will always be a need for ag products and natural products, so prices will improve. The rules of attracting industry have changed, and states must change also. Fewer than one in one hundred new jobs now come from industrial recruitment, but many states are continuing to focus economic development efforts on it. They actually are losing old jobs faster than recruiting new ones. The majority of new jobs are coming from the small business sector, and many of those businesses are related to either alternative or conventional agriculture, processing agricultural products and adding value. Small business should be encouraged.

McRae listed the most important factors he sees affecting economic development. They are (1) Quality primary and secondary education; (2) Planning which does not focus on the past—planning which includes a small business strategy; (3) Public policy which treats small business fairly and does not favor large, out-of-state industry through tax laws and industrial incentives; and (4) Availability of capital and technical assistance to finance small business opportunities in rural places. McRae said he believes rural America does not have to die, despite problems. We can build a stable rural economy if we make better use of what we have, he said.

Agricultural Innovators

A slide show was presented featuring the Kansas State Board of Agriculture's five honored Agricultural Innovators of the Year for 1987. They are Wayne Applegate, Post Rock Natural Grains, Russell; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Eck, Golden Mill Sorghum, Bartlett; Linda McDiffett, Prairie Popcorn/Best of the Sweet Country, Alta Vista; Don and Linda Miller, Dutch Mill Bakery, Yoder; and Tom and Marcella Ryan, the Barn Bed and Breakfast, Valley Falls.

The State of Kansas Agriculture

A look back at 1987 shows a generally brighter picture for Kansas agriculture and encourages optimism for the future, according to Secretary of Agriculture Brownback. Generally favorable weather, improved prices, and high levels of government payments helped improve farm income, decrease farm debt and stabilize land value. Although debt-to-asset ratios have improved for most farmers, the recovery is still jagged and precarious, he cautioned. Some 10 percent of Kansas farmers are too highly leveraged and have a negative cash flow, which is less than the number in that condition two years ago, but still too many. The recovery is based on factors which still could change.

For the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Brownback said, it was an active year. The agency continues to expand its duties from strictly regulatory to actively working for Kansas agricultural development. It has sponsored forums on important agricultural issues, encouraged discussion of the future of Kansas agriculture, sought realistic alternatives for Kansas agriculture and been open to new ideas and programs. Brownback said he is enthused and heartened by the innovative and inventive character of the Kansas agricultural community.

The 1988 Legislature

Senator Jim Allen and Representative Clifford Campbell, chairmen of the Senate and House agriculture committees, joined delegates at the Thursday morning breakfast to give an overview of what the 1988 legislative session may bring.

Representative Campbell said the legislature will be looking at a change of the check-off on wheat sales to fund promotion and other activities of the Kansas Wheat Commission. It presently is at four mills, making Kansas one of the lowest of other wheat-growing states. They are asking that the maximum be raised to 10 mills (or one cent) per bushel.

At the request of some western Kansas residents, they will be looking at changing laws to let counties remove weeds from the property of absentee landlords when weeds are harming adjoining fields.

The Governor has proposed that the State Water Plan, which is three years old but still unfunded, be funded in the amount of \$4.5 million.

Other areas which will be looked at include division of assets and AIDS testing.

Senator Allen reminded the audience that he still supports the current structure of the Board of Agriculture and he sees a brighter picture for the future of agriculture.

He said there is a bill in the Senate and House which would exempt CRP grass seed from sales taxes. He also said Kansas sales tax in general is in need of an overhaul.

Another important issue for the session will be the Board of Regents Margin of Excellence program and selective admittance policies for Kansas universities. He believes elementary and secondary school teacher salaries should be increased further than the 4.5 percent recommended in the Governor's budget.

There is still a crisis in liability insurance which should be dealt with. Other important issues include the windfall profit tax, state employees salaries, chemical sales for noxious weed control, and central filing of liens on money owed.

He said agriculture now has a smaller voice. After reappraisal, we no longer will have a rural legislature and the new issues may be rural versus urban. Cooperation is vital.

The Rural Development Challenge in Kansas

Dr. Mark Drabenstott of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City said many myths are in the minds of Americans when they talk about rural America. One is that rural America depends primarily on agriculture. That is not true, he said, and cited statistics saying manufacturing is responsible for 36 percent of rural personal income, three times more than for farming. Actual farmers also are in a minority in rural areas today, he said.

The second myth is that farm policy is rural policy. It is a myth because only 12 percent of the rural population actually are farmers and are affected by farm policy. America has no real rural policy, he said, and needs clear rural objectives. Farm programs are not curing rural economic problems.

Myth number three is that economic problems in rural America are short run and cyclical. In truth, he said, the problems of rural America are structural. The rural economy is in the throes of fundamental adjustments to new market realities.

The rural economy did improve some in 1987. Income improved, land values upturned, farm liquidations decreased and agricultural bank failures appear to have peaked. The energy industry improved somewhat. But even though the rural economy showed signs of renewal, there still is a wide gap between it and the general economy. The only real rural winners have been in areas that depend on retirement and government activities. Even those economies could falter in view of federal budget cuts.

Drabenstott said Congress should clearly define rural policy and reappraise farm policy. "We may have to admit that not every community will survive." He said greater cooperation between counties and states can help rural economies. Resources and energies should be targeted on the basis of sound analysis of existing strengths and weaknesses. In the future, we must look beyond agriculture and food to other rural bases. There also needs to be more cooperation between universities, government and the private sector.

Closing Business Session

The delegate body after roll call reelected three Board members—Charles Hamon, Valley Falls, district one; Altis Ferree, Yates Center, district two; and Jake Roenbaugh, Lewis, district five.

Delegates indicated to the board their support of the report of the Commission on the Future of Kansas Agriculture and support of specific changes to the state's Noxious Weed Law. Other issues supported by the delegate body included the Kansas Pork Producer Council's position on corporate swine farming in Kansas; a recommendation to change the Federal Meat Inspection Act to allow state-inspected meat and poultry products to be shipped across state lines and a recommendation to support a petition by Wilson County producers asking that ASCS restore reduced yields on 1987 crops.

Organizational Chart

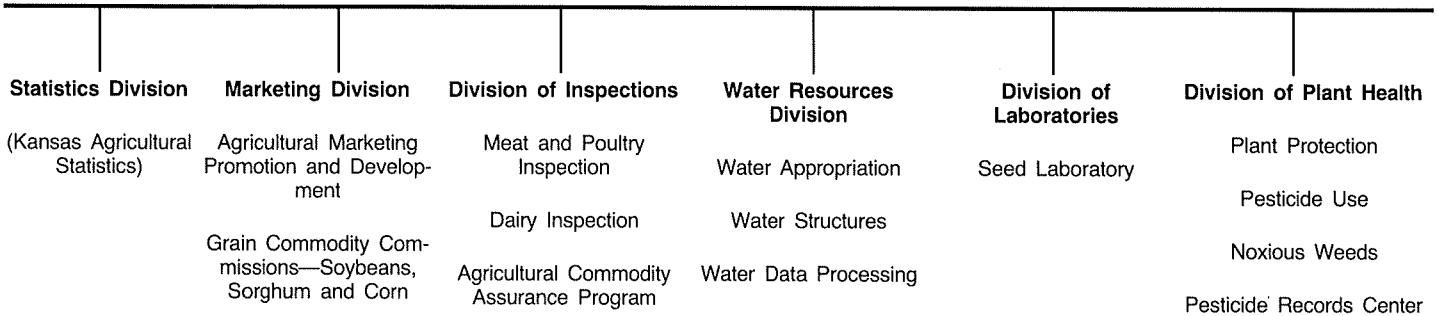
Kansas State Board of Agriculture

(12 members)

Secretary of Agriculture

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

Legal Section Public Information Section Personnel Section Fiscal Section Farmers Assistance, Counseling and Training Service Research Section





Delegates to the 1989 annual meeting were able to share the excitement of recent promotional efforts for Kansas foods, from Bloomingdale's in New York to local groceries across the state during spring and fall Celebrate! Kansas Food promotions. Here, Board President Lois Schlickau and Secretary Sam Brownback look on as the marketing division announces the grand prize winner from the fall FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS recipe contest. The prize was a cart of Kansas foods.

The 118th Annual Meeting of Kansas agriculture was a celebration of Kansas foods, Kansas farmers, and the Kansas future with its theme, "New Markets for Agricultural Products."

The meeting opened with an introduction of the Celebrate! Kansas Foods program with nearly 200 delegates from the state's farm organizations.

Domestic Marketing Specialist Charlene Patton explained that the "FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS registered trademark program was really developed to enhance the visibility of food processing companies whether they be small, medium or large companies," Patton said.

"Celebrate! Kansas Food is the retail portion of our FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS program in which we actually work with these companies, getting their products into grocery stores, and working with those retailers and suppliers to make sure that Kansas products are visible on the shelf."

Patton explained that the Celebrate! program began in May of 1987, when 312 grocery stores and 96 food companies participated. The most recent promotion, in October 1988, had more than 800 retail grocery stores and 190 food companies as participants.

How I Found New Markets for My Kansas Agricultural Products

The FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS program is made up of entrepreneurs—people who have had an idea for a product which filled a need and learned to market and sell it.

Moderator Bob Hajicek introduced representatives of three such companies—Pat and Julie Johnson of Johnson Farms at Erie; Doug and Carolyn Wright of Cookies by Carolyn from Little River; and Mak McGaughey of LorMak Farms Mill of Concordia. These three very different companies shared the stories of their businesses.

"LorMak Farms started five years ago," said McGaughey. The company began with some organic gardening at home and a kitchen-table wheat grinding operation.

LorMak first convinced the local grocery store to carry its home-ground flour. The operation grew to 22 stores in the local area, but the only product, flour, was not paying for itself.

118th Meeting Celebrates Kansas Foods, Farmers, and Future

“So we developed a second product, cracked wheat hot cereal,” McGaughey said. They then were encouraged to develop a third product, whole wheat buttermilk pancake mix, and find a brokerage firm to improve their distribution.

Today they distribute their products across the state through Dillons and Boogaart/Bestyet. Mail order, through the State Board of Agriculture’s catalogue of food products, also is important to their business all over the United States.

“We are by no means at the end of the road,” McGaughey said. “I feel we’ve just started. In five years we’ve just got the groundwork laid and hope to do a lot more growing.”

Carolyn Wright of Cookies by Carolyn explained that her company began in her home about five years ago. She began selling an “everyday” cookie to hospitals and food service rather than retail.

“And then about a year and a half ago,” she said, “we decided to test market a gourmet cookie in the commissaries. We did find it was a convenience food. People liked and enjoyed it, and it sold.”

Last June, they began selling them in grocery stores and today Cookies by Carolyn are available in some 150 Kansas stores.

The cookies have several unique features to fit specific markets. They appeal to the convenience food market because they are pre-cut, uncooked cookies with a baking liner which is out of the oven in eight to ten minutes.

The gourmet cookies are formulated and marketed as natural products. Health-conscious consumers are very aware of natural products.

Wright said the company is focusing on several improvements. They are changing their packets to incorporate graphics which will attract purchasers and improve sales. They also are modifying their advertising, which formerly had been mostly in the form of in-store demonstrations. They will be moving to coupons, grocery flyers and end caps, in addition to some demonstrations, to widen the audience for Cookies by Carolyn.

A different kind of business is represented by Pat and Julie Johnson of Johnson Farms at Erie. The Johnsons have a cow-calf and grain operation. Of their 1,800 acres, about 40 acres are devoted to specialty crops ranging from fall decorative crops to flower bulbs, including 16 varieties of cannas.

With the exception of operating a booth at the yearly National Crafts Festival at Silver Dollar City, the Johnsons wholesale all their products.

Their canna flower bulbs are marketed through brokers to large bulb companies and their fall decorative crops are directed to farmers' markets, nurseries, wholesale grocery companies and entertainment parks.

Marketing of the bulbs was a trial and error operation. They first attempted direct wholesale to nurseries over a six-state area, which met with little success.

"So we met our markets today by being in competition with them," Johnson said. "Now we sell all our canna bulbs and other flower materials through brokers and large seed companies.

"All our products are wholesale. We ship transport lots and straight truck lots. We do not try to retail any of our fall crops because the area we're in has a lower population. We're not in a large population center, so we don't have any retail markets. But we have shipped our products from Florida to Colorado," he said.

Alan "Bud" Middaugh

Keynote speaker at the annual banquet of agriculture Tuesday evening was Alan "Bud" Middaugh, president of the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

He suggested that the audience think about the export market in terms of what he calls the five "p's" of foreign market development—pressure, perseverance, planning, presence and the private sector.

Pressure is necessary to bear down on foreign governments about trade barriers they have erected to keep competitively priced meat products out. He said the U.S. only in about the last decade decided to become internationally oriented in meat sales and still is the largest beef importer in the world.

"I would like to think that maybe someday we would at least equal the eight percent of the beef we consume coming in from the outside with maybe eight percent of the beef we produce going off-shore, compared now to the three percent we produce going off-shore," Middaugh said. "Foreign governments quite obviously respond to pressure."

In the area of perseverance, Middaugh said the U.S. is so new to foreign development compared to other countries, and Americans are particularly impatient. "It takes time to overcome trade barriers."

Planning is vital to foreign market development, he said. Americans can't go to foreign countries and expect to sell without knowing the territory. "Listen to the consumer overseas," he said.

Presence is important. “You can’t really understand the mentality of the folks overseas until you go visit them, talk to them, hopefully live there, put in some time—there’s no way we can understand their side of this hormone issue,” Middaugh said.

Companies need to have a presence in the country they hope to sell to and they need to have personnel who understand the language and the way business works there.

The final “p,” Middaugh said, is private sector, industry commitment to foreign market development.

“Finally,” said Middaugh, “I’m optimistic as to the foreign market potential for quality beef products from America. Even in light of this current trade friction we have with the Europeans, I firmly believe the export market remains the most important new business opportunity available to American producers and exporters of quality beef and pork.”

Changes in Agriculture

The need for a non-subsidized, global agricultural environment was called for by Farmland Industries Chief Executive Officer James Rainey.

“Change is coming rapidly to agriculture, whether we like it or not,” said Rainey.

Rainey said agriculture must accept a global economy as an unchanging and irrefutable fact of life.

“Even though we no longer rule the roost as we once did in exports of farm products, I think the comparative advantage is still with us,” Rainey said. “We need to keep in mind, however, that comparative advantage does not necessarily translate into competitive advantage.”

American farmers are tops in efficiency and productivity, he said, but national farm policy and other factors have caused conflict between domestic farm income objectives and the goal of developing an efficient farm industry to compete internationally.

“I know I’m treading on sensitive ground when I say we can trace the reason for much of our present dilemma back to the onset of federal involvement,” Rainey said.

He cited the U.S. grain embargo nine years ago as a prime example of the danger of federal involvement.

“In the last three years, agricultural subsidies have cost the treasury \$63 billion,” he said. Although subsidies have helped bring about today’s greater financial stability in agriculture, they have grown to the point that they are high on the budget-cutters’ agenda.

"Frankly, I'm convinced that a planned and phased reduction in ag subsidies will be in the best interest of our cooperative members, their producer members, and American agriculture in general," Rainey said.

"The situation calls for political courage in Brussels and in Washington. How can we make our politicians see that while subsidies in the short term may help farmers, they are breeding competition for the future that can destroy those same farmers?" he asked.

"We believe those who plan our nation's farm policy will have to recognize the world market realities and strive over the long haul for a market-oriented agriculture instead of settling for drastic acreage reductions that have such an adverse impact on our industry and life in rural America," he concluded.

Trends in Kansas Agriculture

In a switch of their usual roles, three members of the Kansas media were asked to share their view of trends in agriculture with the delegate body.

Mike Bates, reporter with the Wichita office of the Associated Press, opened the panel discussion.

Bates said he sees two emerging issues which will become more important over the next few years.

The first is the large area of environmental and health concern, among them hormones in beef, ag chemicals in groundwater, farmer exposure to chemicals, deforestation and food safety.

"The environmental conscientiousness of the world in the late 1980s continues to expand and some futurists are predicting environmental accommodations will drive decision-making more and more. I think food producers are going to be necessarily a big part of that as it goes on," Bates said.

"The second issue bearing down on us with amazing momentum is animal rights. And we probably haven't felt the pressure here in Kansas that they have in some other states like, for instance, Massachusetts, where they recently had a referendum," he said.

Bates closed by noting a new drawing together of farm groups and consumers which he sees occurring.

“People are starting to learn more and more about each other and more and more about what their roles are. I think the only thing that can come out of that is more understanding and more cooperation and progress,” he concluded.

Mark Vail, farm broadcaster with the Kansas Agriculture Network and president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, said he believes the largest area of development possible for agriculture is going to be outside the borders of the United States.

He said it is hard for many Americans to understand the things which Third World or other countries which are developing countries for market development have to deal with. Local government often puts barriers in the way of market development. Finances, fragility, transportation and locality affect markets.

“My suggestion to you would be to educate yourself to the realities of the world trading situations and the fact that most of the rest of the world does not trade or operate like we do.”

Editor Hank Ernst of the “Kansas Farmer” magazine listed his trends for Kansas agriculture as the environment, animal rights, structure of agriculture and agricultural leadership.

He said Kansans are among the leaders in conservation measures, and preservation of our fertile soils is important.

“Water is everyone’s responsibility,” he said. “The statewide water plan should be funded by everyone. But I see merit in the surcharge on chemicals used that may not play very well in this room. The fees should be charged both for ag and non-ag uses.”

In the area of animal rights, Ernst said, “Without whitewashing the issue, we need to explain to the doubting Thomases the benefits, both humane and economic, of our confined production practices.”

Also important to Kansas will be the family farm operation, active agricultural leadership, and improved relationships between farmers and consumers.

The Animal Rights Movement

Director Steve Kopperud of the Animal Industry Foundation says the animal rights movement is coming to Kansas.

The first distinction which must be made, he said, is that the issue of animal rights is not animal welfare.

“Animal welfare is what you, farmers, do for a living,” Kopperud said, “what Kansas is proud of—producing high quality products from animals that are well cared for, that are healthy all of their lives, and animals you are proud of.”

He explained that, on the other hand, animal rights is a socio-political movement, well funded, well organized and a European export.

The agricultural segment of the movement, focusing on farm and ranch animals in the U.S., is about seven years old. Among the involved organizations are the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM); People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA); Farm Animal Care Trust; the Animal Welfare Institute; the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; and the Humane Society of the United States.

In Massachusetts last fall, the Coalition to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation got a question on the ballot, “Do you favor the continued humane treatment of farm animals on the farms in the Commonwealth?”

Massachusetts farmers set out to defeat the question, raised funds and stood at the polls. They won, with 72 percent of the voters saying the animal rights groups were wrong, that it made no sense for farmers to abuse farm animals.

This fight taught agriculture two lessons. One, that the animal rights groups are serious, and, two, that for agriculture to prevail it must put aside its differences and have unity of purpose and unity of message. They did so in Massachusetts, and successfully educated the consumers.

“Four hundred animal rights groups are operating in the country today,” Kopperud said, “with a combined budget of \$200 million, and that’s conservative. It is a serious, serious movement.”

“What are we going to do about this?” Kopperud asked.

“We formed the Animal Industry Foundation for one reason. Commodity groups, cattlemen, pork producers, all have agendas they need to address directly. The foundation provides for the commodity groups a single place where they can come and deal with this issue as a unified front,” he said. “We put aside the rivalries, and we go forward on some of these projects.”

Kopperud explained they have created a publication, “Animal Agriculture Myths and Facts” to counter the ten most commonly heard myths about animal production. They also have prepared an educational computer software program for grade school children which is available in this state through Kansas Agriculture in the Classroom.

A Proposal for Recreational Access to Kansas Land

Assistant Secretary Don Jacka teamed with Secretary of Wildlife and Parks Robert Meinen to explain a proposal for recreational fee access to Kansas land.

“The proposal,” Jacka said, “is an attempt to provide more revenue to landowners in exchange for one of their basic natural resources. It transfers liability of the landowner for people who come on their land by transferring it to the state . . . and it is voluntary.

“The Board of Agriculture has been working with Wildlife and Parks to make sure agriculture and landowners in the state get the best shake out of legislation. The legislature will make final determination on this issue,” Jacka said.

Secretary of Wildlife and Parks Bob Meinen emphasized that the recreational access program would open more private lands for recreational purposes by leasing land from private landowners. Their goal is to add another 600,000 acres of leased land to what now is managed for public access.

The Upcoming Legislature

A brief preview of the 1989 Kansas Legislature was provided to delegates by Representative Susan Roenbaugh and Senator Jim Allen.

According to Representative Roenbaugh, affordable health care is a vital issue facing rural Kansas.

“I think the most controversial thing we’re going to deal with this year is funding of the State Water Plan,” Roenbaugh said. “The interim committee on Energy and Natural Resources this summer recommended funding the State Water Plan by various ways, a lot of it through additional taxes on fertilizers and chemicals. I think there’s a better way. Everyone in the state uses water. Let’s not put it just on the backs of agriculture.”

Other issues she mentioned included allowing counties with only one Extension agent to hire a second at the expense of the state; creating intensive chemical use districts as a part of the Pesticide Use Law; and allowing less-than-label use for pesticides.

Recommendations from the Non-Food Use Task Force were presented at the Annual Meeting by Chairman Ladd Seaberg.

- The federal government should allow non-traditional crops grown for industrial usage on set-aside acreage.
- The executive branch should order the utilization of industrial products from agricultural sources, such as soybean ink oil, corn or wheat starch polymer products, ethanol in state vehicles and other such industrial products.
- State law should be amended to remove the requirement that blended fuels containing alcohol be so labeled.
- Funding should be made available through loans or grants to assist private businesses to commercialize non-food uses of farm commodities.
- The state should provide funds for research and development of value-added processing of ag products for non-food uses.
- Kansas should co-sponsor a Midwestern conference on the commercialization of non-food uses.
- Kansas should perform clean air testing and consider use of oxygenated fuels where air quality is a concern.
- Farm co-ops should consider ethanol blended fuels at retail outlets.
- The state should develop a fuels education program to make people aware of the technical qualifications of alcohol fuels.
- The Midwestern states should work together toward the commercialization of non-food uses of ag commodities.
- The state should establish a cooperative effort between the pharmaceutical industry, medical research centers and the beef industry to develop new products from animal co-products.
- The center of excellence, funded by K-Tec, should actively investigate pharmaceutical potential; automation of animal co-processing; and the use of building materials made partially from ag commodities.
- CCC grain stocks should be used to increase non-food usage of products.
- The Commodity Commissions should continue funding research and market development in the non-food area.
- Marketing assistance should be provided by state agencies and other groups to persons attempting to commercialize non-food use products.
- Kansas should cooperate with the USDA Office of Critical Materials and the Northern Regional Research Lab in Peoria, Ill., in obtaining new industrial use crops which complement the Kansas soil and climate.
- Kansas should focus on technology transfer in new crops and new uses.
- Kansas plant breeders should concentrate on specific end use utilization and quality characteristics in addition to yield and quantity.
- Awards to engineering undergraduate and graduate students should be instituted to recognize and encourage innovative new non-food uses.

Non-Food Use Task Force Recommends Action

Fast Facts About Kansas Agriculture 1987-1988

In 1988, there were 69,000 farms in Kansas. The average farm was 694 acres, with 47,900,000 acres of Kansas land in farms. That compared with 75,000 farms in 1983, each averaging 644 acres and a total of 48,300,000 acres in farms.

Kansas topped the nation in wheat production, sorghum grain, sorghum silage, wheat flour milled and cattle slaughtered.

The state moved to number four in agricultural exporting states—leading in exports of wheat and wheat products, live animals and meat, hides and skins and animal fat.

In 1988, 19,190,900 acres of crops were harvested, valued at \$2,861,104,000. Crops included wheat, sorghum, corn, soybeans, hay, oats, barley, rye, cotton, dry edible beans, sunflowers, apples and peaches.

Farm income for 1988 included \$2,328,816,000 from crop marketings; \$4,265,452,000 from livestock and livestock product marketings. That's a total of \$6,594,268,000. Kansas farmers received \$848,000,000 from government payments, bringing the statewide total payments and receipts to \$7,442,268,000.

Farm production expenses for 1988 totaled \$6,356.5 million; total net farm income in the state was \$1,588.7 billion.

Average gross income per farm before inventory adjustment was \$116,564; average net income after inventory adjustment was \$23,025.

Farmland values in February 1988 averaged \$368 an acre, up eight percent from the previous year.

Red meat production for 1988 was valued at \$4,839.2 million.

Kansas Rank in American Agriculture 1988

Number 1

- All wheat produced—323,000,000 bushels—17.8 percent of the U.S. total.
- Sorghum grain produced—204,600,000 bushels—35.4 percent of the U.S. total.
- Sorghum silage produced—1,400,000 tons—25.7 percent of the U.S. total.
- Wheat flour milled—46,363,000 hundredweight—13.7 percent of the U.S. total.
- Cattle slaughtered—6,306,600 head—18 percent of the U.S. total.

Number 2

- Cropland—30,598,859 acres.
- Grain drills on farms—64,445.
- All cattle and calves on farms—5,900,000 head.
- Prime farmland—25,602,400 acres.

Number 3

- Red meat production by commercial slaughter plants—4,776,076,000 pounds.
- Wheat flour milling capacity—104,440 hundredweight.
- Motor trucks on farms—155,900.
- Commercial grain storage capacity—943,820,000 bushels.
- Land in farms—47,900,000 acres.
- Cattle and calves on grain feed—1,460,000.

Number 4

- Combines on farms—45,560.
- All hay excluding alfalfa—2,700,000 tons.
- Exports of farm products—\$2,329,800,000.

Kansas State Board of Agriculture
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Topeka, Kansas 66612-1280

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE



MYTHS & FACTS



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animal industry foundation

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Revised, April, 1989

In an increasingly urban society, our contact with animals, especially farm animals, is limited. While man and animal depend on each other, our modern culture separates us from other species more and more. As a result, our understanding of the needs and roles of domestic animals becomes weaker, and in some cases, distorted.

One of the best strongholds of animal welfare in our culture is the farmer. With the exception of zoos and animal parks, only the farmer enjoys close, daily contact with animals. As farmers tend livestock and poultry, guaranteeing their health and welfare, the animal provides an economic return to the farmer in the form of wholesome, high quality foods valued by the vast majority of consumers.

The consuming public today is generally unaware of farmers' relationship to their animals, and how meat, milk and eggs are produced on modern farms. The average consumer may not make the connection between attractively packaged meat, milk and eggs in the supermarket, and the process of getting these foods from the farm to the dinner table.





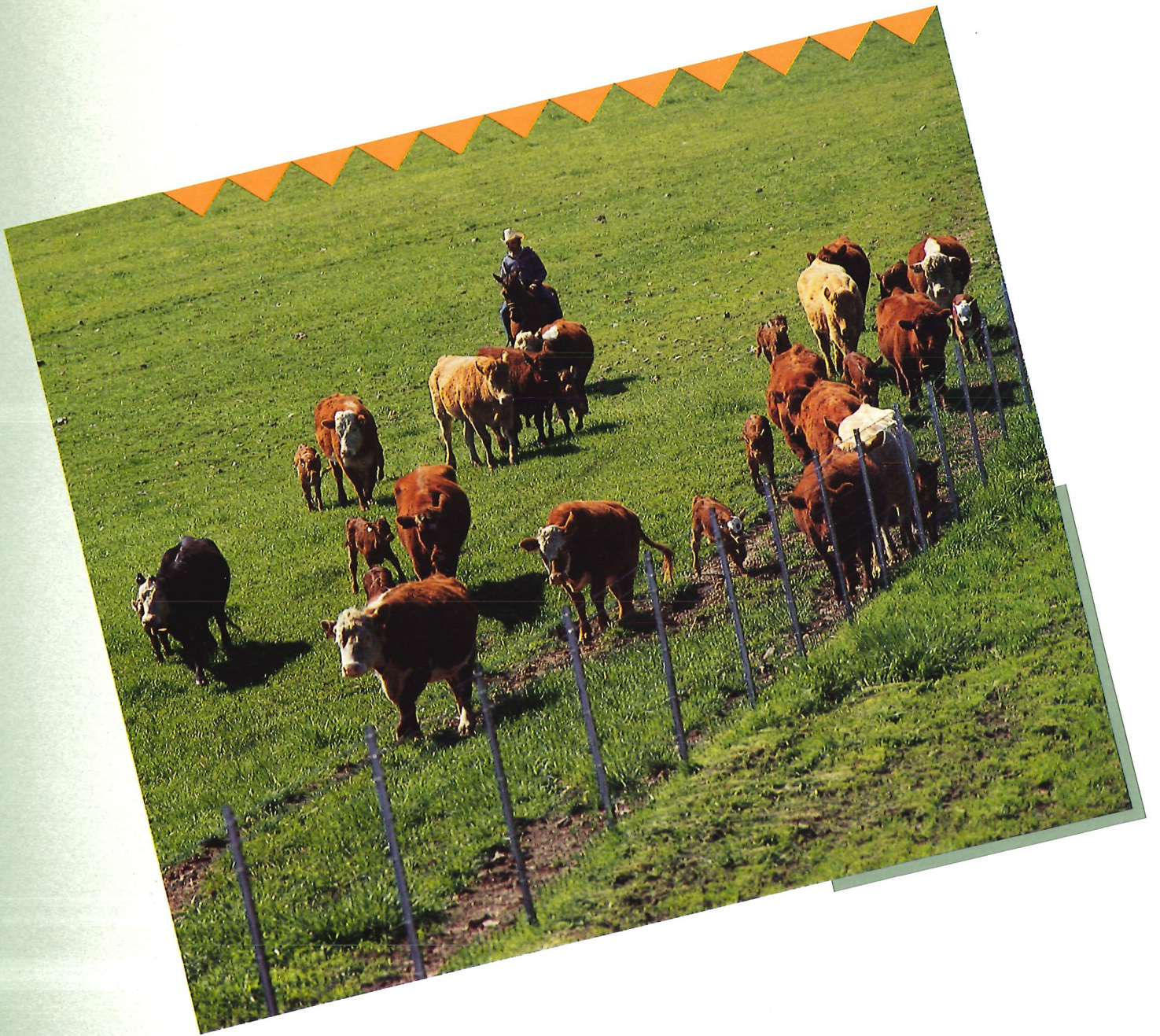
The image of the family farm with its red barn, a few chickens in the yard, some pigs in the mud and cows in the field isn't accurate anymore. But neither is it the sterile, mechanized, emotionless "food factory" that some would have us believe. Today, U.S. animal agriculture is a dynamic, specialized endeavor, the envy of the rest of the world. Only in America can 3% feed 100% of the population as efficiently as we do. The key to this efficiency? The best cared for livestock and poultry in the world.

Modern farm animal production is no accident. Improved animal housing, handling practices, and healthy, nutritious feeds are the result of billions of dollars of private and government research into how to raise healthy animals. And as American animal agriculture grows and changes, there is a double constant: Farmers' concern for the welfare of the animal, and their dedication to providing the highest quality, safest food in the world.

Farmers have always enjoyed broad public support for their efforts to provide abundant, nutritious food. But today, groups which reject the harvesting of animals for food, and others, who because they don't have the facts or have bad information, are working to convince the public that farmers and ranchers no longer tend their animals as animals, but as food "machines."

It's time to set the record straight. This booklet will explain the inaccuracy of some of the commonly heard myths about modern animal agriculture, and give the general facts on how farmers and ranchers operate and why. It will also provide an insight into how some everyday parts of our lives—not connected to the dinner table—are the result of modern animal agriculture.





MYTH:

Farm animals deserve the same rights as you or I. All creatures deserve to share the planet equally with man.

FACT:

To believe that man and all other animals exist with the same rights is anthropomorphism, or the “humanizing” of animals. This is a belief held by some vegetarians and animal rights extremists, and is not accepted by the general population. There are theological, scientific and philosophical arguments for why man cares for animals so they may serve him. Certainly, man has the moral obligation to avoid cruelty in dealing with all animals in all situations.

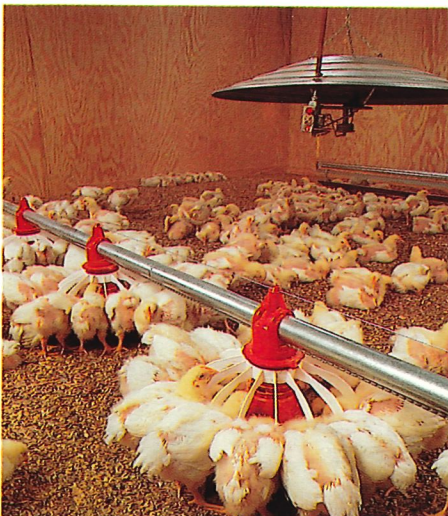
MYTH:

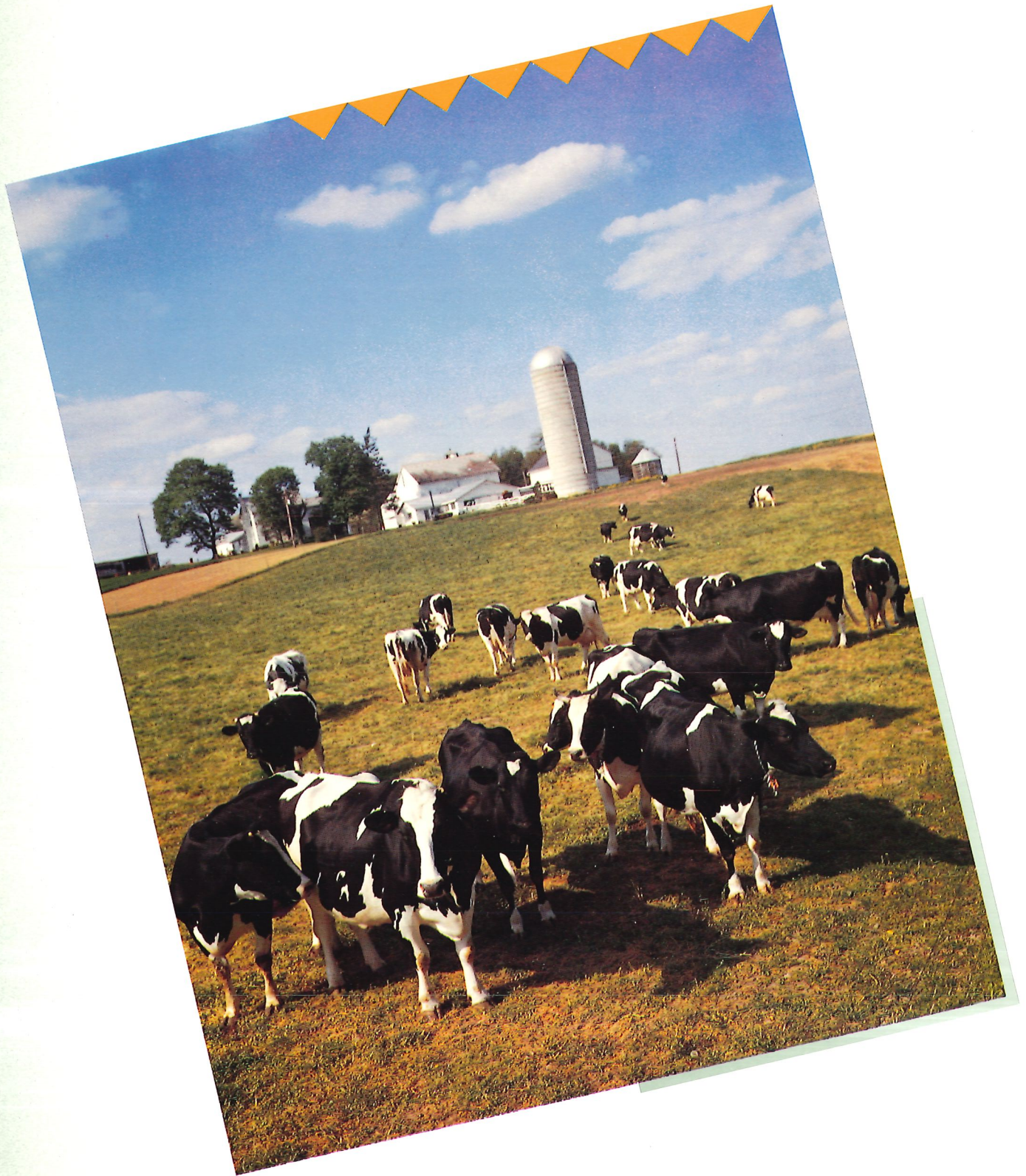
Farmers care less for their animals than they do for the money animals bring them. Agribusiness corporations mislead farmers into using production systems and drugs that mean profits at the cost of animal welfare.

FACT:

Farmers and ranchers are neither cruel nor naive. One of the main reasons someone goes into farming or ranching is a desire to work with animals. A farmer would compromise his or her own welfare if animals were mistreated. Agriculture is very competitive in the U.S., a career which pays the farmer a slim profit on the animals he cares for. It is in the farmer’s own best interest to see the animals in his charge treated humanely, guaranteeing him a healthy, high quality animal, a greater return on his investment, and a wholesome food product. No advertising campaign or salesman can convince a farmer to use a system or product that would harm an animal. Farmers are always looking for ways to improve their farms to ensure animal welfare and the economics of production.

We must also understand the difference between what an animal may want and what it needs. It is not generally in the best interest of the animal to be left untended. An animal may eat poisonous plants if in the open, or fall prey to predators. An animal may “want” to do these things, but does it “need” to?





MYTH:

Farming in the U.S. is controlled by large corporations which care about profits and not about animal welfare.

FACT:

Of the 2.2 million farms in the U.S., 87% are owned by an individual or a married couple responsible for operating the farm. If partnerships—typically a parent and one or more children or other close relatives—are added to this total, 97% of U.S. farms are family-owned and operated, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “1987 Fact Book of U.S. Agriculture.” Even those farms which are legally corporations are generally family controlled, with USDA reporting only 7,000 non-family controlled corporate farms in the U.S.

MYTH:

Farm animals are routinely raised on “factory farms,” confined in “crowded, unventilated cages and sheds.”

FACT:

Animals are generally kept in barns and similar housing, with the exception of beef cattle, to protect the health and welfare of the animal. Housing protects animals from predators, disease, and bad weather or extreme climate. Housing also makes breeding and birth less stressful, protects young animals, and makes it easier for farmers to care for both healthy and sick animals.

Modern animal housing is well ventilated, warm, well-lit, clean and scientifically designed for the specific needs of the animal, such as the regular availability of fresh water and a nutritionally balanced feed. For instance, a hog barn wouldn’t be used for cows, any more than an adult would sleep in a child’s crib. Housing is designed to allow the farmer to provide the best animal care and control costs.





MYTH:

Not only are all animals confined, most are held in crates and cages and not allowed to move at all.

FACT:

Animal behavior is as varied as human behavior. In some cases, animals are restrained to avoid injuring themselves, other animals or the farmer. All forms of restraint are designed for the welfare of the animal as well as efficiency of production.

Breeding sows are helped during breeding so they are not injured by the larger, heavier boar. When a sow is ready to farrow or give birth, she is placed typically for 3–4 weeks in a stall to make her delivery easier, help with veterinary care if necessary, ensure she does not step on or roll over and crush her litter, while allowing her piglets to be near her. Pigs are naturally aggressive and curious, and what has been described as “manic” or abnormal behavior during this protective restraint is currently under study by swine specialists.

Dairy cows are milked in stalls, usually twice a day. This is so farmers can use modern milking equipment, and to protect the cow and the farmer. Placing the cows in these stalls during milking also facilitates medical treatment of an animal weighing more than 1,200 lbs. At other times, most dairy farmers will turn cows out into pasture or into large pens.

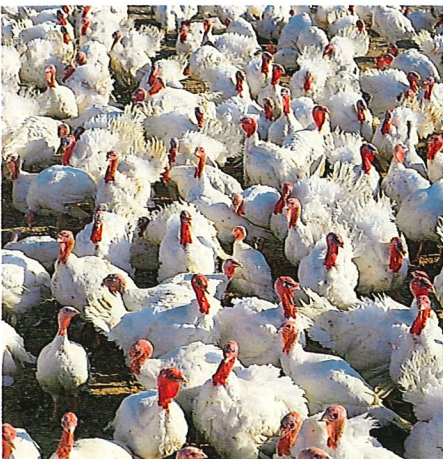
Laying hens are kept in cages to ensure adequate feed and water reaches every bird every day and to facilitate egg collection. It allows the farmer to care for more birds efficiently and produce the millions of eggs consumers value each year. Sorting the birds into small groups helps control naturally aggressive behavior, such as pecking and cannibalism, while allowing the birds to interact with their penmates. It takes greater amounts of land, labor and money to raise laying hens in open flocks because of exposure to bad weather, disease, predators, etc. Today, one egg farm may house 50,000–100,000 hens. If layers were not raised in a controlled environment, feeding, cleaning, preventing disease, treating sick birds, and locating where 50,000 birds laid thousands of eggs each day would greatly increase the cost of eggs, and price a valuable food out of the diet of many consumers.

Veal calves may be raised in stalls, hutches, pens or in small groups. The system used by an individual farmer varies by region and climate, type of calf, farmer preference and size of farm. One system cannot arbitrarily be said to be better than another in all situations. Studies comparing these various housing systems are on-going.

Veal calves are generally kept in individual stalls to provide individual attention, improve general health, separate aggressive young bulls from each other, minimize or eliminate injury to the animals and the farmer, and to aid in feeding efficiency and veterinary care.

In modern stall systems, calves can stand, lie down, see, touch and react to other calves in well-lit, sanitary barns. It is not true that veal calves are kept in “boxes” or perpetual darkness. Veal feed is a liquid milk “replacer” product that is specially formulated for baby calves. It is a fortified formula containing minerals, vitamins, and animal health products, including minimum recommended amounts of iron to ensure calf health. The farmer would be compromising his own economic welfare if calves weren’t kept healthy.

Beef cattle in large herds or feedlots are restrained generally when being given veterinary care. In cow/calf operations, housing allows for protection from predators and the elements, disease control and ease of handling.





MYTH:

Farm animals are routinely “mutilated” by beak trimming, tail docking, branding, dehorning, castration, and other practices to make it easier for the farmer.

FACT:

To the inexperienced viewer, some routine farm animal handling practices necessary to the welfare and health of the animal and the insurance of quality food may appear brutal, just as some life-saving human surgical and medical practices may seem brutal to the casual observer. All of these practices are done in a professional manner to ensure the welfare of the animal.

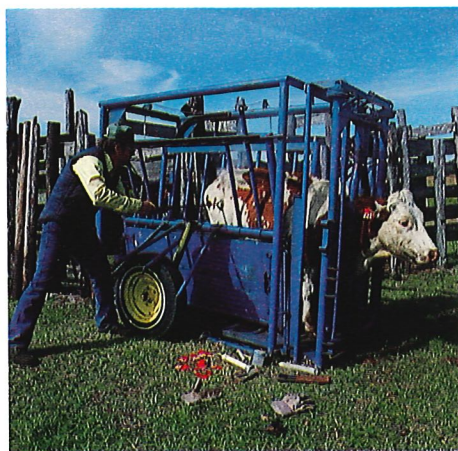
Egg laying hens may have their beaks trimmed—not removed—to avoid injury to each other as a result of the bird’s natural cannibalistic tendencies. Claws may be trimmed to avoid injury during mating.

With hogs, piglets may have their needle teeth trimmed shortly after birth to avoid injury to the nursing sow and to litter mates. Tails may be docked or shortened to end a natural tendency toward tail biting that occurs in some swine herds.

Beef cattle, sheep and some dairy cattle may be dehorned when young to avoid injury to each other and to the rancher; castration, or neutering, may be necessary to help control aggressive behaviors in young animals, and to insure quality meat consumers demand. In sheep, tails may be docked to improve hygiene and prevent fly and parasite infestation.

Permanently identifying animals by ear-marking, tattooing, branding and other means is necessary to maintain accurate health records to prevent the spread of disease to animals and man. It also helps during marketing.

All of these practices are under regular review and new research is done to ensure their necessity and effectiveness, and to ensure the required results are achieved in the most humane, efficient manner.





MYTH:

A vegetarian diet is healthier than a diet that includes meat, milk & eggs.

FACT:

Both the federal government and the American Heart Association contend a diet containing meat, milk and eggs is appropriate to both group's dietary guidelines. The Washington Post, reporting on the First International Congress on Vegetarian Nutrition held in Washington in March, 1987, had this to say: "The Congress didn't uncover any earth-shattering findings or recommend that everyone take up bean sprouts full time," the Post reported. Health benefits can be derived by nonvegetarians who follow a prudent diet that is low in fat, sodium, sugar and alcohol. Just as there are nonvegetarian diets that are unhealthy, so too there are poorly planned vegetarian diets. The approach to healthful eating should be common sense.

MYTH:

Farm animals in "confinement" are prone to disease, forcing farmers to routinely use antibiotics, hormones and drugs to keep them alive. This jeopardizes animal and human health.

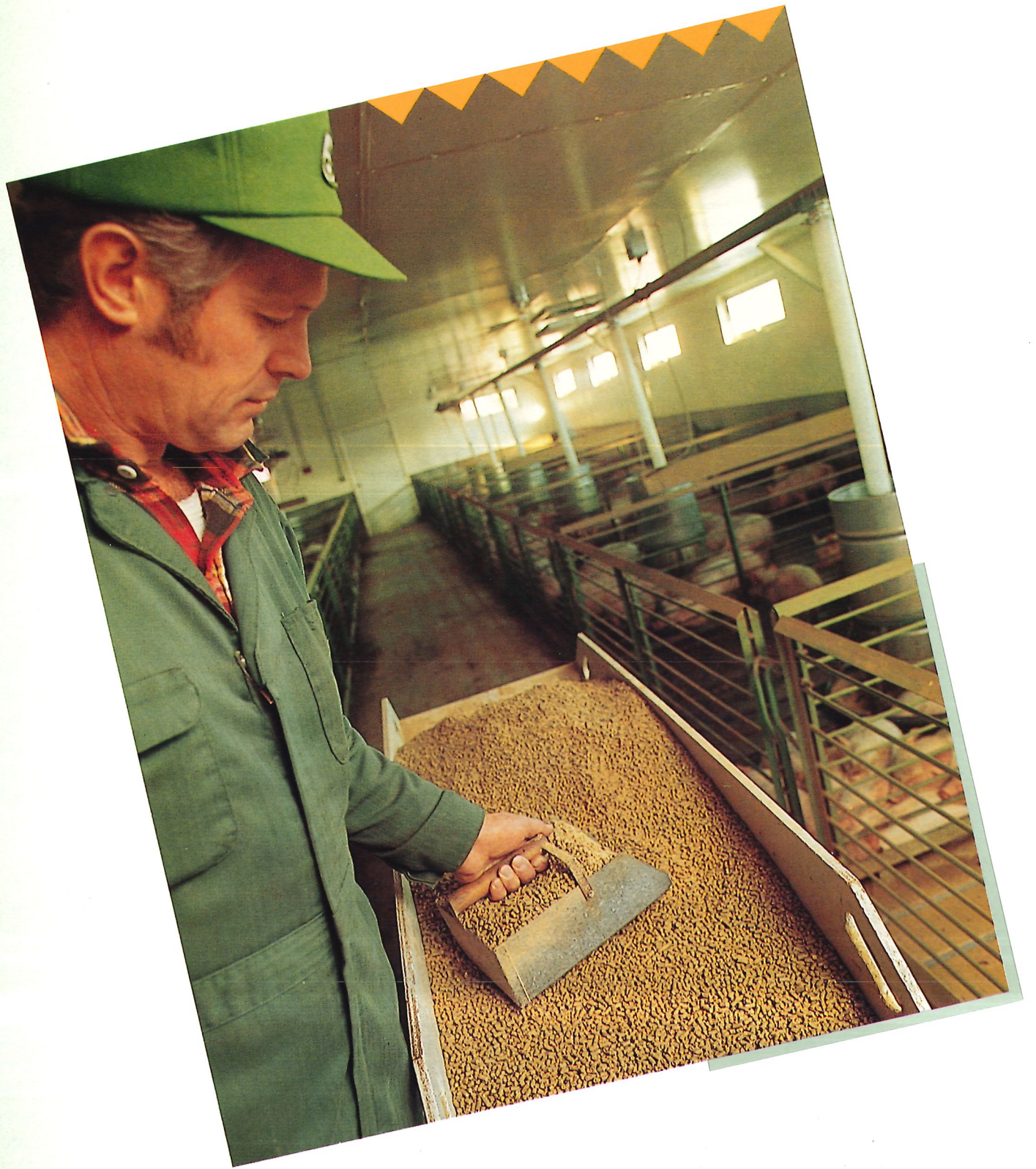
FACT:

Animal scientists, veterinarians and on-farm experience show animals kept in housing are no more likely to get sick than animals kept in the open. In fact, they're generally healthier because they are protected. However, farm animals do sometimes get sick. To prevent illness and to ensure that an animal remains healthy all of its life, farmers will take preventive measures, including the use of animal health products. These products are generally given to the animal in a scientifically formulated feed best suited to the animal's needs. This is the simplest way to make sure each animal gets the care indicated.

Animal health products include animal drugs and vaccines, in addition to vitamins, minerals and other nutrients the animal needs in a balanced diet. Not all animals are given the same treatment in all situations.

Animal drugs include antibiotics to prevent and treat animal disease, and most are not used in human medicine. There are antibiotics used in humans that are also used in animals. There is now an unresolved scientific debate over these uses. Since there is no conclusive scientific proof that the use of human antibiotics in animals—a practice going back 35 years—is a risk to human health, these products are used to prevent and treat illness in some animals, in addition to aiding growth.





MYTH:

Grain fed to livestock and poultry could be used to feed the hungry overseas.

FACT:

Grain fed to livestock and poultry is generally referred to as “feed grade.” It is not usually intended for human consumption and is not generally the same quality and nutrient value as grain used in human food production. Animals, in fact, are the most efficient converters of this lower quality grain and other grasses and forages into high-quality protein.

MYTH:

The average U.S. farm animal is fed whatever the farmer happens to have available, without regard to what the animal needs for good health.

FACT:

The average U.S. farm animal, from the standpoint of nutrition, eats better than the average U.S. citizen. There are more than a thousand professional livestock and poultry nutritionists in the U.S.—many are Ph.Ds—who spend much of their professional time determining the needs of each animal for each phase of the animal’s life cycle for about 40 basic nutrients. When nutritional research indicates how much of a given nutrient is needed in a given ration, both the feed manufacturer and the farmer who owns the livestock or poultry, have an economic incentive to provide animals with exactly the indicated amount of necessary nutrients for animal health. The result is a healthier animal. While most people don’t know how many calories they consume in a day, feed manufacturers and farmers see that each farm animal receives almost precisely the correct amount of such vital nutrients as minerals, vitamins, amino acids, etc.

Many of the ingredients used in animal rations are agricultural by-products of other industries, such as cotton, rice, flour milling, meat packing and alcohol production. Many of these ingredients—high in animal nutrition value—would have little or no value to man were they not used to feed animals. Some of these products would create significant disposal problems were they not used as animal feed ingredients and had to be dumped.



MEDICAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

M

Most of us are not aware that the farmer provides us with more than just a healthy, inexpensive diet. Animals raised for food are also invaluable in human medical treatments and in our every-day lives, by providing us with materials which make our lives easier and safer. Listed below, by contributing animal category, are just a few of myriad medical and social benefits provided to us by livestock production:



CATTLE:

MEDICAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

ADRENAL GLANDS:

Epinephrine is used to relieve some symptoms of hay fever, asthma and some allergies. It is also used as a heart stimulant in some crisis situations, and by dentists to prolong the effect of local anesthetics.

BLOOD:

Thrombin from cattle blood helps blood clotting, and is valuable in treating wounds to inaccessible parts of the body. It is also used in skin grafting.

LIVER:

Liver extract is sometimes combined with folic acid and injected to treat various types of anemia.

PANCREAS:

Perhaps the best known contribution, insulin derived from cattle pancreas is used to treat diabetes. Glucagon helps counteract insulin-shock.

Medical benefits derived from cattle by-products include rennet, epinephrine, thrombin, insulin, heparin, TSH, ACTH, cholesterol, estrogen, thyroid extract.

PRODUCT CONTRIBUTIONS USING CATTLE BY-PRODUCTS:

<i>Tires</i>	<i>Buttons</i>
<i>Antifreeze</i>	<i>China</i>
<i>Upholstery</i>	<i>Photographic film</i>
<i>Leather</i>	<i>Musical Instrument Components</i>
<i>Sports Equipment</i>	<i>such as strings</i>
<i>Surgical Sutures</i>	<i>Brushes</i>
<i>Soaps</i>	<i>Explosives</i>
<i>Cosmetics</i>	



SWINE:

MEDICAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

HEART:

Valves from young to full grown hogs are used in valve replacement surgery in humans, from infancy to old age. They are in some cases superior to mechanical valves because they don't stick and do not need the same level of anti-coagulant infusion. In the last 12 years, 250,000 lives have been saved through implantation of swine heart valves.

SKIN:

Due to its similarity to human skin, pigskin is used to treat massive burns and large accidental skin removal. Gelatin is used for capsules and pills.

THYROID:

Extracts are used to regulate the rate of metabolism in humans. Another extract is used to treat low calcium and phosphate levels and regulate heart beat.

PANCREAS:

Extracts are the source of insulin; even with synthetic insulin, there are an estimated 5 % of all diabetics allergic to all but insulin from hogs.

Medical products from hog production include cortisone, Norepinephrine, plasmin, blood fibrin, heart valves, estrogen, relaxin, insulin, burn dressings, pepsin and oxytocin.

PRODUCT CONTRIBUTIONS:

Fabric printing and dying

Glue

Buttons

China

Fertilizer

Glass

Water filters

Floor wax

Rubber

Crayons/chalk

Antifreeze

Matches

(The above medical/social information provided by Women Involved in Farm Economics and the California Farm Bureau Federation.)

