

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF ANIMAL  
INDUSTRY. FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1912**

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Annual Report of the commissioner of animal industry. For the year ending November 30, 1912  
by Massachusetts Dept. of Animal Industry

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**MASSACHUSETTS DEPT. OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**

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COMMISSIONER OF ANIMAL  
INDUSTRY. FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1912**



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

*Massachusetts* <sup>OF THE</sup> *Department*  
(COMMISSIONER) OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

1912.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1912.



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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,  
BOSTON, JAN. 8, 1913.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:—*

In accordance with the provisions of section 4, chapter 608, Acts of 1912, which act is entitled "An Act to abolish the Cattle Bureau of the State Board of Agriculture, and to create a Department of Animal Industry," I have the honor to present to the General Court the first report of the work accomplished by the new department for the balance of the fiscal year, viz., June 16 to November 30, inclusive, and also the figures showing the work done from Dec. 1, 1911, to June 15, 1912, under the old Cattle Bureau.

Before entering upon a classified review of that work, I deem it proper to introduce this initial report with a prefatory statement of a somewhat general nature that shall serve to acquaint the members of your honorable bodies with the scope and aims of the department, the results already secured by the policy established, and the ultimate objects believed by me to be possible of attainment.

On May 20, 1912, the bill establishing the Department of Animal Industry was signed by His Excellency the Governor, and on May 22, 1912, His Excellency the Governor nominated, and, under a suspension of its rules, the Honorable Council unanimously confirmed, Fred Freeland Walker of Burlington, who for nearly two years had been Chief of the Cattle Bureau, to be commissioner of the newly established Department of Animal Industry.

For the first time in the history of the State the animal industry was by statute distinctly recognized as a factor in the material prosperity of the Commonwealth. For the first time the Massachusetts department was placed on the plane established and maintained by the leading States in the Union. By the establishment of this act, which central-

ized authority and responsibility, supplemented by the appointment of a commissioner who would proceed along practical rather than theoretical lines, breeders of and dealers in cattle and horses, dairymen and farmers were assured of an opportunity to conduct their legitimate business without being needlessly and unreasonably persecuted.

The department is endeavoring, while rigidly enforcing the law, to exemplify the policy of "live and let live," to treat the average man as honest, to educate rather than coerce, to suggest rather than command; in short, to substitute instruction and persuasion for persecution and prosecution whenever possible.

The power granted to this department in relation to enforcing sanitary conditions in barns, stables or other buildings wherein cattle are housed has been exercised with discretion. In a large majority of cases reported, a suggestion has proved to be all that was necessary to secure correction and improvement. The response on the part of owners has been most gratifying to me, so satisfactory in fact that I feel the question of unsanitary farm buildings, where cattle are housed and milk is produced, is being rapidly solved. In my opinion there is no necessity for the several bills that are regularly presented to the Legislature year after year calling for special control of buildings where milk is produced. The work of inspecting such premises is required of this department by law. The department is clothed with full and unmistakable authority to act, and is daily exercising such authority. Unsanitary conditions in *all* barns are under constant surveillance, and the measures referred to, if enacted into law, would necessitate a duplication of inspection, all of which is in my opinion a division of responsibility, to be avoided whenever possible, and uncalled for.

Having been a dairyman for many years, I speak from the vantage ground of practical experience, and I know that the milk raiser of Massachusetts has been the victim of over-inspection in the past, that he has become embittered and despondent, and in many instances has been forced out of business. The diminished herds in Massachusetts and the increased importation of milk tell the story all too well, and



should serve as arguments against increasing the burden of the producer. I believe that the policy now in operation will restore confidence, add to the wealth of the State, and improve the quality of milk, and thus contribute to the public health.

To systematize the work of inspection, not only of cattle but of the buildings in which they were being housed, and to secure uniformity of methods, I caused the State to be divided into nine districts, for each of which an inspector is assigned from headquarters. The district agents control the work in their respective districts through the inspectors appointed by local authorities, subject to approval by me. The district agents are directly responsible to this department for faithful discharge of duty. The local men, who cover the entire State, are closely and constantly supervised by the district agents, who are instructed to hold their subordinates to a strict accountability for conditions in their respective localities. These district men are almost without exception veterinarians by profession, and men of scientific equipment supplemented by wide practical experience. They are doing their duty in a most satisfactory manner.

To promote a wider acquaintance with duties expected of them, and with existing conditions, and to formulate action that shall be uniform and in harmony with the policy of the department, I have from time to time called meetings of the district agents and local inspectors at central points in the several districts, for consultation, instruction and interchange of ideas. These district schools of instruction have proved most profitable, and have established an *esprit de corps* that is yielding returns, and must eventuate in an intelligent performance of duty and a betterment of conditions all over the State. The attendance at these meetings has been surprisingly large, the suggestions offered by the head of the department have been received with eager appreciation, and the discussion evoked has evidenced a widespread interest, and has brought results that have more than met expectations. The department throughout is working with a unity of purpose that is full of cheer and encouragement.

The Department of Animal Industry, an infant of a few

months, is yet in its experimental stage, but it is, I am convinced, facing the sunrise. Already the beneficial results of the departmental policy are tangible. I am confident that with encouragement and support, which must follow a campaign of education, it will be able to work out the problem of restoring the industry it is charged to defend and protect to its old-time prestige. I look with confidence to see cattle raising in Massachusetts again become a profitable industry; and Massachusetts farm lands, enriched at low cost with fertilizing material, yielding bountiful harvests of garden products and sweet-scented hay. I can see, if the present policy of friendly suggestion, backed by State authority, is followed, a plentiful supply of nutritious milk produced within State lines, and sent out from barns properly ventilated and lighted, and where the stock is comfortably and healthily housed; and when that time comes, not through algebraic formula of the theoretical bacteriologist, but by the application of New England common sense, the animal industry of the State will enter upon an era of prosperity. To that end the department is working with all its energies and resources.

Appended will be found comprehensive tabulated data of the daily work of the department's agents, as carefully compiled by the assistants in the office. The figures comprise the work for the entire year, including that done by the Cattle Bureau since its last report was made and prior to the establishment of the present department.

#### RABIES.

The following table shows the prevalence of rabies during the year ending Nov. 30, 1912:—

	Dogs.	Cattle.	Cats.	Horses.	Goats.	Pigs.
Killed or died with rabies. . . . .	90	6	1	2	1	-
Killed by owners or died in quarantine, not rabid. . . . .	47	1	2	-	1	-
Released from quarantine. . . . .	61	1	-	-	-	7
Animals still in quarantine. . . . .	39	-	-	1	-	-
Totals. . . . .	237	8	3	3	2	7
Grand total. . . . .	290 animals.					

There has been a decrease in the number of cases of rabies from that of last year. The greater number of cases occurred again this year in the Merrimac River valley, there being 51 cases out of a total of 100 which occurred in towns lying wholly or in part in this valley. Owing to this fact, muzzling orders were issued in Haverhill, Lawrence and Andover, where the principal outbreaks seem to have occurred, in an endeavor to prevent the further spread of the disease. A slight outbreak occurred in Swansea, having been caused by a dog which came over the line from Rhode Island.

During the year Dr. Langdon Frothingham has examined the brains of 45 dogs and 1 cow, of which 29 dogs and the cow proved to be positive cases of rabies, and 14 proved to be negative. Two heads of dogs suspected of being rabid were sent in for microscopical examination, one of which was in such bad condition that no diagnosis could be made, and in the other case the diagnosis was questionable.

The records show that no less than 32 persons were bitten by rabid animals, or so exposed by handling the same that it was deemed advisable to recommend the Pasteur treatment.

Although the number of cases has been somewhat smaller this year than last, the seriousness of this disease should be realized, and all dogs or other animals suspected of having the disease, or of having been exposed to an animal affected with rabies, should be immediately restrained or quarantined, and notice sent at once to this department.

In connection with this work the following Order No. 4 was issued during the year:—

ORDER No. 4.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, July 31, 1912.

*To All Persons whom it may concern:—*

Cattle Bureau Order No. 14 is hereby revoked.

Whereas the disease known as rabies, which is a contagious disease and is so recognized under the laws of this Commonwealth, prevails among dogs in certain sections of this Commonwealth, and whereas it has become necessary to adopt measures for the prevention of the spread of said contagious disease,

Now, therefore, acting under and by virtue of the authority