

# State Veterinarian Reports

## Second Biennial Report, State Live-Stock Commission, April 1890

### REPORT OF THE STATE VETERINARIAN.

*To the Live-Stock Sanitary Commission of the State of Kansas:*

GENTLEMEN — I have the honor to submit herewith the annual report of the State Veterinarian, which covers the year ending December 31st, 1890.

During the period which I have held the office of State Veterinarian (one year and ten months), about two thousand communications have been received. They relate to the following subjects: Texas fever, black-leg, farcy, glanders, and to cattle dying from feeding upon corn-stalks, etc. All letters requiring replies in writing have been promptly answered. Circulars, quarantine rules, and other printed matter, have been sent out as required. Copies of the letters of importance sent out from this office, have been kept.

I have visited sixty-four counties in the State, some of them as often as three or four times. Most of those visits were made at the request of the county sheriffs, who reported contagious diseases among domestic animals in their respective counties. Ninety-three horses have been killed, upon my pronouncing them glandered. Eleven mules have been killed and buried under similar circumstances. Nineteen mules and twenty-nine horses have died while in quarantine. Thirty-nine horses which were found to be glandered, but which the owners refused to destroy, have been placed in close quarantine. One hundred and eight animals have been placed in quarantine, on account of having been exposed to the disease (glanders). Eighteen cases of farcy have been dealt with, in the same manner as those that were glandered.

I wish to state here, that four-fifths of the cases of glanders and farcy reported to this office were from the counties bordering upon Nebraska, in the north, and upon the Indian Territory, in the south. The few cases which were reported from the more central part of the State were almost always traceable to some diseased animal which had been got from some traveling trader, who came from either Nebraska or from the Indian Territory.

I should, also, wish to state that the "field work" of this office could be much more efficiently and economically done, were a clerk allowed to the State Veterinarian, as the clerk could advise the State Veterinarian, by wire, to go from point to point, when his services were required, without returning to his office after each separate trip of inspection, to examine his mail and find out where to go next, as under existing order of things he is obliged to do.

#### GLANDERS AND FARCY.

Glanders and farcy are the most dangerous contagious diseases to which the equine species is subject, for the reason that the disease is readily communicable from the horse to man and from man to his fellow-beings. One man in this State died of glanders last summer. He took the disease from a horse owned and handled by himself. Some writers claim that glanders and farcy are highly infectious. My experience is, that unless glandered animals are kept in badly-ventilated and badly-drained stables, and healthy animals are crowded in with them, they are not very likely to take the disease by infection in the dry climate of this State. Of course, no sensible person would place an animal, known to be glandered, with healthy stock, as there is always danger of inoculation by the discharge from the nose of a glandered animal, becoming attached to the feed-box, hitching-post, etc., and virus being afterwards taken up by the healthy animal. Glanders, in its mild chronic form, is not always easily

diagnosed even by an expert. But when an animal has been exposed to this disease, and afterwards shows even negative symptoms of glanders, it is always safest and best to isolate such suspicious animal for several months, if it is not seen fit to destroy them. In my judgment, this latter course would be the proper course to follow. I have seen a case quite recently, in which a horse that had been herded with glandered stock for some time, but showed no symptoms at all of the disease himself, and was placed in quarantine ninety days on account of having been exposed to the disease. When the ninety days' quarantine expired, and he still appeared to be all right, he was allowed to go free. Two months later, however, he started to discharge from the nose; ulceration of the lining membrane of the nose took place, enlargement and induration of the sub-maxillary glands followed, and a clear case of sub-acute glanders was developed.

This shows how very cautious we should be in turning loose suspicious animals, or those which have been exposed to this dread disease. When ulceration of the lining membrane of the nostrils takes place, we should not hesitate at all in destroying the animal so affected, as this ulceration of the Schneiderian membrane is a patho-pneumonic symptom of glanders. That is a symptom which belongs to glanders only. So many able descriptions of glanders have been given by authors on veterinary science, that I do not see any necessity to take up space with an additional description here. As there is no successful treatment for this disease known, nothing need be said upon that subject.

#### FARCY.

I have found this disease amenable to treatment in its earlier stages, but it is a most dangerous experiment to try, as the virus of farcy will produce glanders in either the horse, mule, ass, or man, when they are inoculated with it. In my judgment the proper way to dispose of all such cases is to have the animal or animals so affected at once killed, buried, and the places where they had been kept thoroughly disinfected, and so stamp the disease out in this way.

#### HOG CHOLERA.

No official communications have been received by me concerning this disease. I have heard incidentally of a good many persons losing large numbers of hogs by the disease, but as I have not been consulted concerning the matter by those losing their hogs, I am unable to give the number of deaths, nor the data.

#### FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.

Three or four counties have from time to time reported this disease as attacking stock in their different vicinities, but investigation always proved that the disease did not exist in any form in the places so reported. The authorities at Hill City, Graham county, reported an outbreak of the disease among a herd of about six hundred head of cattle near that place. I went to that place and inspected the herd, and also two small herds in the same neighborhood, which were also reported as having the disease. I found, upon examination, that none of the animals reported diseased were in the slightest degree ailing from any cause. I was told that the rumor was started for malicious purposes, on account of the cattle being shipped into the county.

#### CONTAGIOUS PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

Norton county authorities reported an outbreak of this disease among a herd of about sixty head of cattle, at a place about twenty miles from Richfield, in that county. I went to the place and examined the stock which had been reported diseased, and found the cattle in apparent health. In order to satisfy some persons who appeared to be alarmed, I made an autopsy upon a two-year-old heifer, which was supplied by the parties interested. I found that this animal had indications of having had an attack of enteritis, but that the lungs were in a perfectly normal condition. I believe this State to be at present perfectly free from this disease.

#### BLACK-LEG.

No report has reached this office concerning this disease, during the past year. I have been asked by several persons for remedies for this disease, and, also, for preventive remedies. In all cases, I have given the information requested.

#### TEXAS FEVER.

As this branch of the department has been attended to by the Honorable Board of Live-Stock Sanitary Commission, it is not necessary for me to say much on the subject.

I was directed by your Board to visit the ranch of Wesley Best, in Chautauqua county, and examine his herd of cattle. I did so, and found several of his cattle sick with Texas fever. I made an autopsy upon one cow about six years old, and upon one calf about three months old. I found that both had died of Texas fever. I afterward made a post-mortem examination upon a Hereford bull, owned by Mr. Best, and found that the animal had died of the same disease (Texas fever). I also made an examination of a steer at what is called the "Gibson place." I found that he had died of Texas fever. I made an examination of several other herds by direction of your Board.

W. H. GOING, M.R.C.V.S.,  
*State Veterinarian*

### **Third Biennial Report, State Live-Stock Commission, April 1892**

#### **REPORT OF STATE VETERINARIAN.**

*To the Live-Stock Sanitary Commission of Kansas:*

Gentlemen — I have the honor to submit herewith the biennial report of the State Veterinarian, covering the time from the 31st of December, 1890, to the 31st of December, 1892. During this time about 2,500 communications have been received at this office. Most of those letters relate to diseases among domestic animals. Among the contagious diseases reported, were Texas fever among cattle, and farcy and glanders among horses and mules. One donkey was reported glandered. All communications have been promptly answered in writing, or given personal attention by visiting the locality where contagious disease was reported, inspecting the same, establishing quarantine where such was necessary, and recommending sanitary regulations, etc., for the prevention of the spread of disease. Quarantine regulations and rules have been sent to the different railroad companies doing business in the State, and also to the Live Stock Inspectors and to individuals, when asked for.

Copies of important letters sent out have been kept on file.

Upon the request of county sheriffs, and of responsible persons, or by orders given me by members of your honorable Board, I have made personal visits to 58 counties, in order to inspect stock reported suffering with malignant disease. Some of the counties I have been obliged to visit more than once.

Eighty-six horses and 40 mules, which I pronounced glandered after inspection, have been reported to me as having been killed and the carcasses buried or burned. In some cases when I found animals glandered, the owners refused to allow them to be destroyed. In those cases I placed a temporary quarantine upon the diseased animals, and reported the facts in the case to the President of your Board. Ninety-seven horses have been temporarily quarantined on account of having been exposed to either glandered or farcyed animals; and 18 mules have been quarantined for a short time for the same reason as above.

In making my last report, I stated that four-fifths of the cases of glanders and farcy reported to this office were from the counties bordering upon Nebraska, in the north, and upon the Indian Territory, in the south. The few cases which were reported from the more central part of the State were almost always traceable to some diseased animal which had been got from some traveling trader who came either from Nebraska or from the Indian Territory.

I should also wish to state that the " field-work " of this office could be much more efficiently and economically done were a clerk allowed to the State Veterinarian, as the clerk could advise the State Veterinarian by wire to go from point to point, when his services were required, without returning to his office after each separate trip of inspection to examine his mail and find out where to go next, as under the existing order of things he is obliged to do. •

After two more years of experience in this business, I found nothing to add to or take from the above.

**GLANDERS AND FARCY.**

Glanders and farcy being both malignant diseases, and due to the same micro- organism (*Bacillus mallei*), and differing only in location and degree of severity, should be handled with extreme caution, as the disease is readily communicated from the horse to man by inoculation, and from animal to animal by contagion, and by infection when the hygiene is defective. In the climate of this State it is the exception to find the disease spread by infection. I have met with cases where the disease had been communicated to man from glandered animals. In my last report, I gave a synopsis of the course to be pursued to avoid contagion, and where premises had been contaminated, recommended measures for the removal of the virus from places where diseased animals had been kept. As this report may reach persons who may not be able to procure the last one, I shall state fully in this article what I therein said on the subject.

"My experience is, that unless glandered animals are kept in badly ventilated and badly-drained stables, and healthy animals are crowded in with them, they are not very likely to take the disease by infection in the dry climate of this State. Of course, no sensible person would place an animal known to be glandered with healthy stock, as there is always danger of inoculation by the discharge from the nose of a glandered animal becoming attached to the feed box, hitching post, etc, and virus being afterwards taken up by the healthy animal.

"Glanders, in its mild, chronic form, is not always easily diagnosed even by an expert. But when an animal has been exposed to this disease, and afterwards shows even negative symptoms of glanders, it is always safest and best to isolate such suspicious animal for several months, if it is not seen fit to destroy it. In my judgment, this latter course would be the proper course to follow.

"I have seen a case, quite recently, in which a horse that had been herded with glandered stock for some time, but showed no symptoms at all of the disease himself, was placed in quarantine 90 days on account of having been exposed to the disease. When the 90 days' quarantine expired, and he still appeared to be all right, he was allowed to go free. Two months later, however, he started to discharge from the nose; ulceration of the lining membrane of the nose took place, enlargement and induration of the sub-maxillary glands followed, and a clear case of sub-acute glanders was developed. This shows how very cautious we should be in turning loose suspicious animals or those which have been exposed to this dread disease. When ulceration of the lining membrane of the nostrils takes place, we should not hesitate at all in destroying the animal so affected, as this ulceration of the Schneiderian membrane is a pathognomonic symptom of glanders. That is a symptom which belongs to glanders only. So many able descriptions of glanders have been given by authors on veterinary science, that I do not see any necessity to take up space with an additional description here. As there is no successful treatment for this disease known, nothing need be said upon the subject."

Farcy I have found to be amenable to treatment in the first stage of the disease, but I do not advise any person to make this experiment, as the risk of spreading the disease, or of the operator getting inoculated, is too great; of course, in case a very valuable animal was so affected, and strict precautions were observed, an effort might be made to save the animal. I will repeat, this is an experiment that no other than a professional man should undertake, on account of the danger attending it.

Contagious pleuro-pneumonia does not exist in the State at this time, nor has it existed during my term of office.

#### BLACKLEG.

This disease has appeared in several localities, and all persons who have requested advice have been furnished with information as to how to treat it when present, and the most effectual preventive measures to take for the benefit of those animals which might be attacked by the disease.

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#### *LIVE-STOCK SANITARY COMMISSION*

#### HOG CHOLERA

No cases of this nature have demanded attention. The disease appeared among hogs in some localities, but no report of the exact number lost has been received. I have not been requested to investigate any of the outbreaks of the disease that have occurred, owing to the fact that no appropriation has been made for the purpose of buying disinfectants, etc., and furnishing assistance to stamp out the disease.

The subject of an appropriation for the purpose of carrying out sanitary regulations will, no doubt, receive attention at your hands.

#### TEXAS FEVER.

I have given attention to this branch of the department when so directed by your Board, and in such cases have rendered a report of the result of such investigation to your chairman.

As the subject will receive due consideration at your hands, I shall make no further reference to it.

W. H. GOING, M. R. C. V. S., State Veterinarian.