

# USDA Vets Guard Area Livestock From Disease

By Dr. I. M. Saturen  
 Veterinarian Livestock Inspector  
 Animal Disease Eradication Division

Ag. Research Service, Lancaster Stock Yards

After being located in the same room on the second floor of the stockyards main office building as far back as most everyone around the yards remembers, the recent move to the corner room puts the former USBAI office in the spotlight.

Federal stockyards veterinary inspection has a long and important history, having been instrumental in maintaining a constant check on the health of animals passing thru the yards.

This inspection service provides an important daily cross-section of our livestock industry for signs of disease that can cause havoc for livestock producers and handlers.

A few old-timers still remember the problems experienced in Lancaster during the early 1900's with Foot & Mouth Disease. We have indeed been fortunate that more recent outbreaks

in Mexico and Canada did not reach us.

On the other hand we were not quite so lucky when Vesicular Exanthema spread like wildfire across the continent in the early 1950's.

The old federal Bureau of Animal Industry was reorganized in 1954 when the present Agricultural Research was formed to include both Animal and Plant research and disease regula-

tion. Now, former BAI functions are included in the three chief regulatory division: Meat Inspection Division, Animal Inspection and Quarantine Division and the widespread Animal Disease Eradication Division.

Stockyards inspection duties are included in the latter division.

Recently, a system of all disease reporting has been inaugurated to provide a regular annual, seasonal and monthly index of the incidence of all kinds of health problems in the various species for statistical purposes.

Thanks to the cooperation between State and Federal governments, a close supervision is applied to the large

numbers of Tuberculosis and Brucellosis reactor cattle that have been moved through stockyards, without being a source of contamination for the greater bulk of healthy livestock that stream through our Public Stockyards by railroad or truck transportation.

Interstate regulations can be quite complicated; especially, when different States have different requirements regarding imports or movement within their borders.

In order to assist shippers of livestock. The Animal Disease Eradication Division

office in the yards provides source of the latest data in respect to

Certificates of interstate shipments on file and certificates are issued for the species, according to requirements of the destination.

Finally, the ADI personnel are always ready to assist livestock handlers and give advice in respect to interstate requirements.

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