

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**FISCAL YEAR 1996-1997**



**The Honorable Roy Romer, Governor**

**Thomas A. Kourlis, Commissioner**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Fiscal Year 1996-1997**

***Roy Romer, Governor  
Thomas A. Kourlis, Commissioner  
Robert G. McLavey, Deputy Commissioner***

## **Introduction**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is committed to strengthening agriculture's future; providing consumer protection; promoting environmental quality and animal health; and ensuring equity and integrity in business and government.

One hundred thirteen employees at six primary locations and 137 field employees provide over 300 different regulatory, inspection, marketing, consumer protection and other services across Colorado. The agriculture department provides these services for .2% of the state's budget.

## **Organization**

The Colorado Agricultural Commission, a body of nine persons appointed by the Governor, advises, counsels and directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, also appointed by the Governor. The commission is comprised of individuals of both political parties from agricultural districts and represents a cross section of the state's agricultural community.

The department is organized into five divisions: Markets, Brand Inspection, Plant Industry, Inspection and Consumer Services and Animal Industry. Their programs are as follows:

### **Markets**

Market Orders  
International Marketing  
Domestic Marketing  
Business Development  
Market News

### **Plant Industry**

Biological Pest Control  
Phytosanitary Inspection and Certification  
Nursery Inspection and Registration  
Apiary Inspection and Investigation  
Pest Control Surveys  
Chemigation Management  
Groundwater Protection  
Seed Inspection and Certification  
Organic Certification  
Fruit / Vegetable Pesticide Residue Monitoring  
Weed-Free Forage Inspection and Certification  
Canola Field Registration  
Noxious Weed Management  
Late Blight Quarantine Enforcement  
Pesticide Product Registration  
Commercial Pesticide Applicator Licensing  
Commercial Pesticide Investigations

### **Inspection and Consumer Services**

Technical Services  
Field Programs  
Feed  
Egg  
Fertilizer  
Meat Inspection  
Farm Products  
Laboratory Services  
Measurement Standards  
Fruit and Vegetable Inspection

### **Animal Industry**

Veterinary Services  
Bureau of Animal Protection  
Brucellosis Lab  
Rodent/Predator Control  
Pet Animal Care Facilities

## **Brand Inspection Division**

Livestock Brand Inspection  
Alternative Livestock Facilities Licensing  
Livestock Market Licensing  
Slaughter Facility Inspection  
Lost or Stolen Livestock Investigation

## **Office of the Commissioner**

*Thomas A. Kourlis, Commissioner of Agriculture*  
*Robert G. McLavey, Deputy Commissioner*

Ongoing activities in the Commissioner's Office include the programs of the Colorado Agricultural Commission, Resource Analysis Section, Administrative Services, Public Information and Personnel. Hot issues for 1996-1997 have included trapping, weeds, public land grazing, drought, risk-based inspection, animal diseases, bees, the State Fair and customer service. The Commissioner's office assisted with the 1997 Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum and hosted the annual AgInsights meeting.

The Commissioner chaired a Predator Roundtable discussion group, resulting in new trapping rules that were the most restrictive in 13 western states. Amendment 14, the anti-trapping initiative, passed making it illegal to use any leghold trap, any instant kill body-gripping design trap, poison or snare in the state of Colorado with very few exceptions such as allowing health department officials to trap to protect human health or safety. Senate Bill 52 was then passed to clarify and implement Amendment 14. The department is now in the process of bringing all rules into compliance with Senate Bill 52 and writing procedures for customers to receive assistance.

The department continued its aggressive effort to control noxious weeds. The General Assembly provided substantial funding to the department to hire a full time weed coordinator and provide over \$200,000 to local governments to assist in weed control.

The department assisted livestock producers and resource conservationists with public grazing

land management. Multiple Resource Advisory Councils (MRACs), created to advise the Bureau of Land Management, met frequently throughout the year and adopted standards and guidelines for resource projection. The department assisted the MRACs in completing their tasks.

Assistance was also provided to the state's four Boards of District Grazing Advisors, charged with administering funds for rangeland improvements on BLM property. New rules were adopted to streamline the operation of the boards.

Drought in southern Colorado created difficulties for livestock producers in need of pasture and hay supplies. The department worked with the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Services Agency in obtaining federal disaster assistance for the affected counties.

The department continued its program to move its regulatory inspection programs toward a system designed to focus more on companies most in need of regulatory compliance assistance. This risk-based inspection system is anticipated to be fully implemented in several inspection programs by 1998.

Hot animal disease issues during 1996-1997 have included tuberculosis and jones disease in elk, pseudorabies in swine and brucellosis in dogs. Animal Industry has controlled the spread of those diseases and is currently working to control trichomoniasis in southern Colorado.

Researchers marked the declining bee population as a nation-wide problem and the department continues its investigations to determine the cause(s). The Plant Industry Division worked with Colorado State University, the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies to fund further research. The department also continues to encourage communication, cooperation and education among interdependent agricultural industries.

Legislation was adopted in 1997 that brings the Colorado State Fair under the Colorado Department of Agriculture as a distinct division.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner worked with the Governor's Office and the General Assembly in developing legislation to resolve the fair's financial difficulties and put in place a program to maintain the fair's capital facilities.

The Commissioner held 10 meetings across the state with agricultural producers to discuss topics of concern. The meetings, called *Ag Issue Forums*, were attended by approximately 300 individuals.

Employees department-wide were trained in methods to improve customer service. The training focused on recognizing opportunities for delivering satisfaction in government service. Methods of conflict management were also topics of instruction.

The sixth annual Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum was held on February 20, 1997 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. The theme of this year's forum was "Thriving in a Changing World: The New Economics of Food." Morning speakers gave a wake up call, asking who will feed the world of the future. Afternoon breakout sessions included International Marketing, Agriculture and Growth, Waste Management, Water Conservation and Biotechnology. Agriculture and Growth was the most popular afternoon session, with more people than the room could hold.

Speakers included Governor Roy Romer; Agriculture Commissioner Thomas A. Kourlis; Lester Brown, founder of the Worldwatch Institute; Dr. Will Carpenter, President of Carpenter Consultants; Warren Hammerbeck, life-long farmer and rancher; and Dr. Lowell Catlett, professor of agricultural economics and business at New Mexico State University. The Forum attracted approximately 460 people from agriculture, business and academia.

In conjunction with the Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum, Commissioner Kourlis convened the third annual meeting of AgInsights. AgInsights consists of a group of agricultural organizations and organizations closely affiliated

with the agricultural industry. The purpose of the meetings is to improve the level of communication among organizations within the industry to achieve greater success in conveying the message of the importance of ranching and farming in Colorado. At the 1997 meeting, the group reviewed accomplishments for the year which included the development of a logo; the establishment of an agricultural Speaker's Bureau to give information talks state-wide about the importance of Colorado agriculture; and the completion of a media tour.

## **Colorado Agricultural Commission**

The Colorado Agricultural Commission is a nine-member group of agricultural leaders, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, which is responsible for: making recommendations to the Commissioner, the Governor and the General Assembly regarding agricultural issues within the state; developing policies for preparing and enforcing rules and regulations related to agriculture; reviewing and approving all rules and regulations before release by the Commissioner or agriculture department's divisions; developing general policy for managing the agriculture department; and approving and monitoring the agriculture department's budget.

The Colorado Agricultural Commission held six meetings in fiscal year 1996-97. Mr. Dale DeJacom, an Adams County nursery producer, was elected Commission Chair, and Mr. Max Harper, a dairyman from Yuma, was elected as Vice Chair.

Brad Rock, a Weld County farmer and rancher, was newly appointed to the Commission. Glen Murray, a Brighton area farmer; Max Harper, a Yuma County dairyman; and Kelly Spitzer, a Prowers County grain merchant, have been reappointed to the Agricultural Commission.

## **Resource Analysis**

This two-person section analyzes the key issues and trends affecting Colorado agriculture and

develops and manages special programs at the direction of the Commissioner. The section continues to disseminate information on agricultural land conversion in Colorado through documents and presentations. In 1996, section staff worked with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to obtain \$1 million in federal funds to help buy agricultural easements from willing landowners. Four parcels of farm and ranch land totaling 2,200 acres were protected. An intern also published a 70-page report containing indices of conversion pressure and local commitment to agriculture, based upon 30 layers of data.

At the request of the Brand Board and the livestock industry, Resource Analysis prepared an analysis of the costs of the \$2.7 million Colorado livestock inspection program. Using regression analysis, average inspection costs for each type of livestock inspected were estimated. Program benefits were also analyzed. During this next year, the Brand Board may seek to redefine their services and fees.

In 1996-97, section staff also: helped plan and implement the 1997 Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum, which attracted 460 people; helped Colorado's green industry design studies to document its economic importance to the state; and began a systematic review of the Department's rules and regulations.

## **Administrative Services**

The Administrative Services Section continues to focus on customer service in accounting, budgeting, purchasing, data processing, and business support services provided to the divisions and the public.

Administrative Services' Information System staff have concentrated their effort and will complete the centralized demographic database at Inspection and Consumer Services this year. This task is the result of the methodology and data structure developed by information systems staff to provide a standard for integrating

licensing and management information. Demographic data from Egg inspection, Measurement Standards Licensing, Feed and Fertilizer Registration provide the foundation to eliminate redundancy while providing management and inspection staff with consistent information.

Funding for the facilities audit for the Department of Agriculture, including the State Fair property, was received this year. The study will be performed during the 1997-1998 fiscal year and will facilitate the department in management of controlled maintenance projects.

## **Division of Markets**

*Jim Rubingh, Division Director*

The Markets Division is responsible for developing new marketing opportunities for Colorado producers and processors as well as retaining existing markets for the full array of Colorado products. The division also develops promotional programs and materials, assists in expanding the state's food and agriculture processing industry, administers the Seal of Quality Program, and collects livestock and produce market news from around the state. The division provides staff assistance to the Colorado Agricultural Development Authority.

## **Marketing Orders Program**

Marketing orders are producer-funded programs which collect funds from the point of first sale of certain farm commodities. The funds are used for crop research, market development, as well as for promotion, advertising and education programs. These activities provide greater utilization of commodities and increased profitability for producers. In some cases, marketing orders provide for commodity inspection and grading in order to assure that only high-quality commodities reach the marketplace. Marketing orders generally work to solve marketing problems and conduct programs that would be impossible for individual producers to accomplish.

Colorado has marketing orders for seven commodities produced in the state covering apples, corn for grain, potatoes, dry edible beans, sweet corn, milk and wheat.

The department's responsibilities involve establishing, enforcing, and overseeing the administration of the marketing orders. In addition, the program serves to enforce the marketing order rules and regulations by conducting investigations, holding hearings, and reviewing audits of the orders. The agency reviewed budgets for the eight marketing orders and approved expenditures totaling over \$3 million.

## **International Marketing**

The goal in the international marketing program is to increase the export sales of Colorado grown and processed agricultural products. This section works with individual companies as well as in developing industry specific marketing efforts. International Marketing also provides access to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) programs. Beginning in the fall of 1996, we developed an agreement with the USDA FAS to have a FAS staff person work out of the Markets Division. This section also coordinates the agricultural access to the State of Colorado offices in Japan, Mexico and Great Britain.

International Marketing provides individual counseling ranging from market assessment utilizing research reports, computer data sources and other research, to assistance in obtaining "Branded Promotion" grants for overseas marketing through the USDA and assistance through Colorado's Agricultural International Trade Promotion Program (AITPP), which provides financial assistance for international promotions.

A key element of the section's international trade development effort is coordinating state participation in WUSATA, the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association. Through WUSATA, Colorado companies have access to international trade development funds, industry

and market promotions in overseas markets. The Colorado Department of Agriculture is currently managing two projects in Japan and two in Mexico. In Japan, Markets manages projects in food service and organic foods promotion. In Mexico, Markets manages a project to increase the exports of produce and a program to increase breedstock sales to Mexico. The Markets Division is also establishing a rancher exchange program with Mexico and is working to establish a Colorado International Livestock Cooperative.

International Marketing continues to build the resource library for international trade which provides marketing data for most international markets for food and agricultural products. The section is also active in recruiting trade teams to meet with Colorado companies at their plants or ranches. The Markets Division has the lead in a national effort funded by the USDA to establish a national standard for state databases for companies and exporters.

## **Domestic Marketing**

The mission of the domestic marketing program is to increase awareness and demand for Colorado food and agricultural products in local, regional and national markets.

The domestic marketing staff publishes and distributes five marketing directories for Colorado producers: the *Hay Directory*, the *Farm Fresh Directory*, the *Fresh and Processed Food Trade Directory* and the *Food and Beverage Gift Guide*. The Markets Division also offers a handbook, *Developing a Marketing Plan for your Food Product* and publishes a quarterly newsletter. The division is in the process of placing all publications on the Internet.

Ongoing marketing activities include *A Match Made in Colorado*, a joint marketing program with the ACF Culinaricians of Colorado that promotes the use of Colorado food products by the state's foodservice industry; the Seal of Quality program, a labeling and inspection program that differentiates super-grade apples;

the Centennial Farms program, which recognizes 100-year-old farms in the state; a low-cost focus group program; the "Gimme 5 Colorado" produce campaign, a statewide effort to increase public awareness of the importance of fruits and vegetables in the diet; and a public relations program, which informs the media and consumers when select Colorado crops come into season. As part of the AgInsights program, the Markets Division has developed the Colorado Agricultural Speakers Bureau, which provides speakers on agricultural issues for audiences throughout the state, and an agricultural awareness campaign. The division also administers a program to promote Colorado wines which is funded by the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board.

The Markets Division continues to serve as the lead agency for aquaculture development in the state. As of May 1997, Colorado has 38 licensed aquaculture facilities.

## **Business Development**

The purpose of the business development program is to encourage agricultural manufacturing in-state. Included in this effort is assistance to start-ups, existing business, and agricultural recruitment which is undertaken in conjunction with the Colorado Office of Business Development.

The Markets Division administers the *Agricultural Processing Feasibility Grant Program* which assists local governments and entrepreneurs in evaluating the potential for developing or expanding agricultural processing facilities. The program is funded by the Colorado Economic Development Commission. Private consultation, as well as written and group training is also provided for start-up food processors. Publications and programs for start-ups include: *From Growing to Processing: A Guide For Start-up Food Processors*, a workshop on *Starting a Food Processing Business*, and *Checklist for Start-Up Food Processors*, a concise listing of steps in developing a food processing business

Growth of existing business is encouraged through: the *Domestic Trade Show Assistance Program*, which provides partial funding for booth space at domestic food trade shows outside the state; Colorado sections at the *International Fancy Food & Confection Trade Shows*; the *Colorado Co-Pack Directory*, a listing of food companies which provide contract packing services; a workshop on *Marketing Your Food Product*, and facility visits to inform processors about available programs.

A new publication, *Public Finance for Colorado Agriculture*, is applicable for growers and processors, start-ups and existing businesses.

Agricultural recruitment is accomplished at trade shows, through call-ins, and through referral by the Colorado Office of Business Development.

Cooperative efforts continue to grow with agencies and associations which have a focus in-line with the division's business development program. Such groups include: the American Institute of Wine & Food-Colorado Section; Colorado Food Association; Colorado Office of Business Development; Colorado Small Business Development Centers; Colorado State University Cooperative Extension; and the Denver Enterprise Center, a commercial kitchen.

## **Market News**

Personnel of the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Markets Division attend livestock sales at the major sale yards around the state to report the movement and price of livestock exchanged in open trading. This information is made available to livestock producers. The staff also monitors and reports on hay, fresh produce and nursery marketing.

## **Brand Inspection Division** **J. G. Shoun, Brand Commissioner**

The Brand Inspection Division has a long history in Colorado beginning around 1865 in what was

then the Colorado Territory. Today, the division administers more than 35,000 livestock brands to identify ownership of cattle, sheep, mules, burros, horses, elk and fallow deer. Brand inspection is crucial to verify ownership in cases of strayed or stolen livestock, and animal health programs are strengthened by the ability to trace animals to their herd of origin.

The division is administered by the State Board of Stock Inspection comprised of five members, appointed by the Governor, representing all segments of the industry. The members of the board for the 1996-97 period are Mr. Dick Tanner of Yoder, Mr. Dean Davis of Lindon, Mr. Lee Spann of Gunnison, Ms. Linda Ingo of Ridgway, and Mr. Robert E. Bledsoe of Wray.

The division employs 65 brand inspectors located throughout the state, eight brand foremen, and nine administrative personnel, including Brand Commissioner J.G. Shoun. The annual budget for the division exceeds \$2.7 million and is completely funded by inspection fees levied to livestock owners and brand registration fees levied every five years.

The division is assigned five principal regulatory responsibilities: to record and administer livestock brands; inspect livestock and verify ownership before sale, transportation beyond 75 miles, or slaughter; inspect and license packing plants, livestock sale rings, and inspect all consignments before sale to verify ownership; license and inspect alternative livestock (elk and fallow deer) facilities; and prevent and return strayed or stolen livestock and investigate reports of lost or stolen livestock.

In addition, brand inspectors collect beef promotion and research funds. The division is also the trustee for all surety bonds issued to licensed markets and packing houses doing business in Colorado.

In 1996-97, division staff traveled in excess of 1.4 million miles and inspected approximately 4.7 million head of livestock. In addition, they identified ownership of lost, stolen, or strayed and questionably owned livestock valued at \$17

million. The division conducted 56,000 horse inspections and issued twice as many permanent horse travel permits than previous years.

The Brand Division has concentrated on educational programs in the past few years. The focus of the educational program is on teaching brand law and theft prevention to the public and law enforcement agencies. Twenty-one separate classes were given in 1996-97, all in different areas in Colorado.

## **Division of Plant Industry**

***John Gerhardt, Director***

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry performs a wide array of services to the public and engages in several important environmental and public health protection programs.

Beginning as the Bureau of Plant and Insect Control in 1937, the agency was under the direction of the State Entomologist. The division is organized into the Biological Pest Control, the Pesticide Section, and the Plant and Insect Section. The division's staff of 38 includes 12 field inspectors (10 of whom are cross-trained in multiple inspection and two are chemigation inspectors), six biological pest control specialists and the state weed coordinator.

## **Biological Pest Control**

In 1945, the Bureau of Plant and Insect Control developed the state's initial biological pest control program in Palisade, Colorado, at the Colorado Department of Agriculture Insectary. The Biological Pest Control program employees study, import, rear and release beneficial insects to control plant and insect pests.

Biological pest control provides an economical alternative to reliance on chemical pest control technology. Biological pest control decreases production costs, reduces a portion of the chemicals entering the environment and offers a more permanent pest control solution.



In 1996-97, the staff of the Biological Pest Control Section conducted 1,030 releases of 39 species of beneficial insects. This was an increase in activity of approximately 44% over fiscal year 1995 (1995's activity level was an increase of 27% over the previous year). The releases were designed to assist in the control of 15 weed species and six insect pests throughout the state.

## **Plant and Insect Section**

This section provides the following services:

- Inspect plants and plant products intended for export to provide certification required by receiving states and countries;
- Register sellers of nursery stock, providing inspection of that stock to aid in control of insects and diseases, and aiding consumers in purchasing high quality stock;
- Inspect apiaries for bee diseases, by request;
- Conduct pest surveys and work with private and public agencies to control certain pests;
- Administer and enforce the Colorado Chemigation Act to avoid pollution of groundwater sources;
- Register and inspect commercial seed dealers to assure truth in labeling of seed as to content and germination claims;
- Administer the organic production certification program to assure buyers of organically-grown produce that their produce conforms with state standards required before making such claims;
- Administer fruit and vegetable pesticide residue monitoring under contract with USDA;
- Administer request program for certification of weed free forage crops including hay and mulch crops.

- Register canola fields to avoid cross pollination of different types of rapeseed. The San Luis Valley is the only area subject to the registration program at this time.

In 1996-97, the Plant and Insect Section implemented two new programs: the Noxious Weed Management program and the Late Blight Quarantine Enforcement program.

This year, the Pesticide Section obtained a grant from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to establish a state noxious weed management program and hire a state weed coordinator. Subsequently, the Department has secured funding for the state weed coordinator position through the Colorado Legislature as well as \$225,000 for the State Noxious Weed Management Fund for the coming fiscal year.

The Noxious Weed Management program focuses on developing partnerships among public and private land managers to form local weed management areas, assisting local government weed managers to develop and implement effective weed management programs, developing and disseminating additional informational and financial resources to improve weed management efforts across the state, and raising public awareness of the negative impacts of noxious weeds.

During the coming year, the program will improve regulatory mechanisms to limit the spread of noxious weeds through seed and other plant materials, develop a mapping/monitoring system for the state to target more effective weed management efforts, assist all counties and municipalities in the development and implementation of local weed management programs, assess the extent of federal cooperation with local weed control efforts in counties with significant federal holdings, and distribute grants to innovative weed management projects across the state.

In the Late Blight Quarantine Enforcement program, the division inspected all loads of seed potatoes transported into the San Luis Valley in the spring of 1997.

The section issued an estimated 2,400 phytosanitary inspection certificates on plant products for international export, valued at approximately \$20 million. Inspectors conducted 1,150 inspections of nurseries and greenhouses and issued approximately 1,625 registrations to sellers of nursery stock. An estimated 9,000 stop sales orders were issued on nursery stock.

Chemigation permits issued totaled 3,393 in 1996-97. Approximately 600 inspections of seed dealers were conducted, and an estimated 300 cease and desist orders were issued for violations of labeling. The Plant and Insect Section registered approximately 1,000 seed sellers and custom seed conditioners and certified 136 organic growers.

The Fruit and Vegetable Pesticide Residue Monitoring program identifies possible contaminants in the food system. A total of 296 samples were taken in 1996-97.

Under the Weed-Free Certification program, a total of 244 field inspections were made on 6,538 acres of forage and mulch crops, mostly hay, for 99 producers.

## **Pesticide Section**

The Pesticide Section regulates pesticide products, pest control devices, pesticide applicators and takes the lead in protecting groundwater quality from contamination by agricultural chemicals. The Pesticide Section services include: ensuring proper labeling, packaging, display, formulation, and effectiveness of pesticide products; handling special local needs pesticide registrations and emergency exemption requests for pesticides; ensuring competency of commercial pesticide applicators, and under certain circumstances, limited commercial and public applicators; and ensuring the protection of groundwater and the environment from impairment or degradation due to the improper use of agricultural chemicals while allowing for their proper and correct use. In 1996-97, approximately 9,102 pesticide products were registered in Colorado; approximately 560 applicators were tested for

competency, approximately 715 commercial pesticide application firms were licensed and 108 limited commercial and public applicators were registered. Approximately 2,611 applicators were licensed as qualified supervisors or certified operators. Approximately 56 complaints of misuse of pesticides or other violations of the Pesticide Applicators' and Pesticide Act were investigated; and administrative actions were finalized in approximately 21 cases, ranging from letters of warning to license revocations or suspensions, civil fines and injunctions.

To ensure groundwater quality, the section works to coordinate the efforts of federal, state and local agencies while providing education and public outreach. The Pesticide Section wrote four fact sheets addressing homeowners' use of agricultural chemicals which are now available. An additional water quality education specialist was hired this year to specifically address the needs of the South Platte communities and growers. Presentations to industry, professional organizations and others are ongoing to inform and seek input.

A Citizens' Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from the general public, producers and agribusiness, has been instrumental in providing involvement in determining program priorities, program development and program implementation.

Groundwater was monitored in the Urban Front Range corridor and along the South Platte alluvial aquifer between Brighton and Greeley in 1996. Seventy-two (72) wells were sampled in the urban area and 87 wells were sampled in Weld County, with numerous determinations being performed on each.

The Pesticide Section developed and published *Universal Best Management Practices* and interest in adapting those practices to local conditions has been expressed throughout the state. Committees in the San Luis Valley, Front Range/South Platte and the Uncompaghre Valley on the Western Slope have modified the best management practices for nutrient and

irrigation management to fit local conditions. The San Luis Valley committee has completed pesticide best management practices for two specific crops, small grains and potatoes, to meet their local conditions. A committee is working on the localization process in the lower South Platte area. Work on the general information portion of the State Management Plan for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues.

## **Inspection and Consumer Services Division**

***Ronald Turner, Director***

The Division of Inspection and Consumer Services consists of five sections: Technical Services, Farm Products, Laboratory Services, Measurement Standards and Fruit and Vegetable Inspection. The division employs approximately 95 individuals in a variety of inspection programs designed to assure fairness, quality, safety, and financial soundness in commercial transactions.

Under the director, the Facility Operations program oversees two state-owned buildings and two leased properties for Fruit & Vegetable Inspection. The Facility Operations program has one goal in mind - to make sure that the buildings maintain an environment of safety and security for the employees.

## **Technical Services Section**

The division's Technical Services/Field Programs Section is responsible for field inspections, testing and/or sampling for the following programs: Measurement Standards (small devices), Feed, Fertilizer, Egg, and Meat Inspection. Each inspector in the section has been trained to perform inspections in all five program areas. Twelve inspectors, strategically located throughout the state, perform the various inspections required for each program. Inspectors are empowered to enforce the laws and regulations relating to each program.

In addition to field inspections, the Technical Services Section is responsible for the administration of the feed, fertilizer, egg, and meat inspection statutes.

The Feed program registers and selectively samples commercial animal feeds throughout the state. In 1996-97, 850 companies registered 14,100 products. These numbers reflect an increase of 75 companies and 3,000 products over last year. Program employees collected 6,304 feed samples. Inspection (tonnage) fees were collected on 1,459,737 tons of feed. Under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 18 medicated feed mills were also inspected.

The Egg inspection program assures compliance pertaining to quality and labeling standards for eggs at the retail and wholesale level. In 1996-97, 1,820 retail licenses and 87 wholesale licenses were issued. At these licensed locations, 351,603 dozen eggs were inspected and 29,122 dozen, or 8.3%, were rejected. The department continues to work with the industry to improve the quality of eggs on the market. New rules, being implemented this year will greatly assist the department and the industry in these efforts.

The Fertilizer program registers and selectively samples fertilizers, soil conditioners and related products to determine nutrient content and to assure labeling accuracy in accordance with state laws. In 1996-97, the department registered 335 companies and 2,786 products. The Fertilizer program also inspects anhydrous ammonia tanks and assists in safety training in the use of this potentially dangerous product.

The Meat Inspection program licenses and inspects 101 meat processors and 29 food plan operations. In addition, the agency protects the public from unsanitary or fraudulent practices in meat processing and bulk meat sales.

## **Farm Products Section**

The Farm Products Section is responsible for the enforcement of statutes licensing and regulating those who buy and/or store agricultural products

produced in Colorado, or owned by Colorado residents. The agency assures that dealers and state-licensed warehouses are bonded and adequately capitalized. The section licensed over 1,300 firms and holds surety bonds in excess of \$100,000,000.

The section investigates complaints by dealers, producers and owners against dealers operating in Colorado. The Farm Products Section issues cease and desist orders and/or other regulatory sanctions in the event a firm appears to be financially unable to meet its commitments. In addition, the section conducts investigations of complaints regarding timely payment or non-payment for farm products purchased and seeks remedies for losses including bond demands, stipulated licensing and civil and criminal prosecution.

Farm Products tests and verifies the accuracy of commercial testing equipment used in the grain industry such as moisture meters and protein analyzers.

## **Laboratory Services Section**

The Laboratory Services section analyzes animal feed, fertilizer and pesticide samples to make sure all registered feeds and pet foods are free of contamination and conform to the manufacturer's labels for nutrients. The lab analyzes pesticides to assure that they meet manufacturers' guarantees and claims for label consistency. Under contract with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the lab analyzes pesticide residue samples to aid in the investigation of possible misuse or misapplication.

The lab also analyzes a limited number of egg samples for pesticide residues and examines a limited number of meat samples for bacterial contamination and to assure that they meet manufacturers' claims for label consistency.

The department's groundwater lab continued to grow this past year. In cooperation with the State Health Department, who picks up groundwater samples, the lab is in year three of

a five to eight year monitoring program of water wells throughout the state to find out if there are any problems with pesticide and nitrate contamination. The lab analyzed approximately 140 water samples from July 1996 through February 1997. These samples were analyzed using four different methods to test for 30 different pesticides, as well as for nitrate. The lab staff is preparing for the summer season when sampling will resume.

In 1996-97, the section conducted 28,000 different analyses on 6,500 samples.

## **Measurement Standards Section**

Measurement Standards licenses all weighing and measuring devices in commercial use in Colorado and certifies public scales. The State Metrology Laboratory maintains Colorado's official mass length and volume standards, and provides calibration of mass, frequency, length, volume and moisture in grain for public and private agencies.

The Metrology Laboratory calibrated 5,212 mass standards, performed 193 other tests, and certified 893 tuning forks (used to calibrate radar speed detectors). Production is down in the metrology laboratory because it was stripped bare for three weeks in November and December to replace old equipment. Much of January and part of February was devoted to establishing parameters for the new mass comparators.

Measurement Standards inspects and tests packages for truth in labeling and the accuracy of measuring devices used commercially. More than 26,000 small weighing devices were tested in 1996-97, and of those, 12.6% were out of compliance. Inspectors examined 50,419 packages and found 11.4% short. Of these 50,419 packages, 25,460 packages were inspected and tested for price verification. The section's large scale testing units tested and inspected 4,494 scales (a 14.3% decrease), while rejecting 51.6% of the scales tested. The decrease was due to down time on three large test units, 593 hours between the three trucks.

## **Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Section**

The Fruit and Vegetable Inspection program is a cooperative effort by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Colorado Department of Agriculture to assure consumers of high quality Colorado produce. The program operates under federal standards, rules and regulations to provide official inspection, grading, and certification of produce quality, condition, size and other pertinent factors of fresh fruits and vegetables grown in the state.

Mandatory produce inspection is required by statute to promote quality standards which depict certain Colorado produce as desirable products in the marketplace. Non-mandatory inspections are conducted on other commodities for shippers which wish to market an inspected product. Inspection certificates are issued by the state to certify grade and condition of the product at the time of inspection.

In 1996-97, the section inspected an estimated 20,800,000 hundredweight (cwt.) of potatoes and 67,700 bushels of peaches, resulting in the issuance of approximately 25,000 certificates of mandatory inspection for the commodities under mandatory inspection. Other fruits and vegetables inspected totaled 598,000 cwt. resulting in 500 certificates issued for non-mandatory commodities.

## **Division of Animal Industry**

***Jerry J. Bohlender, DVM, Director***

The Division of Animal Industry is responsible for animal health and disease control activities in Colorado. The division works in close cooperation with the livestock industry and veterinary medical organizations, as well as other state and federal agencies, to protect the health, welfare, and marketability of Colorado livestock. The Division is composed of five different sections: Veterinary, Bureau of Animal Protection, Brucellosis Lab, Pet Care and Rodent Control. The division has 20 employees.

## **Veterinary Section**

The Veterinary Section is responsible for monitoring and controlling brucellosis and other contagious diseases in livestock, captive alternative livestock and in other animals which can infect livestock and/or captive alternative livestock. The staff concentrates on diseases that are a threat to public health, are not easily controlled by individual livestock owners, and would significantly impact the more than \$3 billion livestock economy in Colorado. Disease surveillance programs at slaughter plants and at livestock concentration points are conducted in cooperation with the USDA. The division controls diseases through inspections, vaccinations, treatments, and other activities.

Colorado has been a *Brucellosis Free State* since January of 1995. Colorado achieved this Brucellosis Free State Status by not having any brucellosis infected cattle herds in the state. Free status is maintained by active surveillance at slaughter to assure the absence of brucellosis infected herds. Colorado's participation in the National Brucellosis Eradication Program is significant in light of the 1999 target date for eradication of the disease in the United States. Nationwide, only 34 specific locations remain under quarantine for brucellosis.

Colorado also participates in the National Swine Pseudorabies Eradication program. Colorado attained Stage V (free) status on April 1, 1996. Stage V status requires that swine slaughter surveillance be accomplished along with appropriate epidemiology and disease containment, if needed. Colorado's Stage V status is reviewed annually by the USDA, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services. Free status in both brucellosis and pseudorabies economically benefits producers because a lower level of testing is required; and livestock is more marketable to other states and countries.

An "Emergency Preparedness Program" is being developed in response to the increasing risk of a catastrophic disaster which involves animals. This program will include protocols which are to

be followed in the event of an emergency involving animal disease or environmental disasters. The Emergency Preparedness Program will be integrated into the Colorado State Emergency Plan. Accredited veterinary practitioners offer training in foreign animal diseases, and recruit state brand inspectors to monitor disease in livestock they inspect. Other state agencies have also been recruited to help in the event of an emergency.

To assure sanitation for disease control and clear labels, the Veterinary Section licenses and inspects establishments which process, handle and/or transport inedible meat products for pet foods.

## **Bureau of Animal Protection**

In 1996-1997, the 105 commissioned officers working in the Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP) investigated approximately 310 complaints of animal neglect and cruelty across the state. Brand inspectors, some law enforcement officials and non-profit humane association officials assist with investigations. The Bureau of Animal Protection also conducts training courses with the assistance of law enforcement officials.

## **Brucellosis Laboratory**

The State-Federal Brucellosis Laboratory provides support for livestock disease identification, control, and prevention programs. In 1996-97, nearly 300,000 serological and other tests for livestock diseases were performed on samples received from packing plants, private veterinarians, state and federal field personnel and others. These tests were performed for disease surveillance, interstate movement, and to qualify animals for export to other countries. Lab staff also trains public livestock market veterinarians in test procedures and confirms testing of livestock at markets.

## **Rodent/Predator Control Section**

In Colorado, three million acres of private lands are damaged to some degree by prairie dogs,

gophers, and other rodents. The Animal Industry Division's Rodent/Predator Control Section provides training, services, and supplies to private citizens and local, state, and federal officials to control vertebrate pests. The section assists producers in controlling livestock predator losses through cooperative agreements with federal, state and local agencies and associations. A pilot prairie dog control program using community service labor was successful and will be expanded.

The Division is currently working on a number of levels to increase efficiency in predator control. With the sheep and lamb industry alone suffering \$2.2 million in losses in 1994 from predators, the agriculture department is working on changing regulatory, contractual and inter-agency agreements to increase efficiency.

In 1996-97 the Rodent/Predator Control Section maintained its level of assistance to individuals through telephone and on-site assistance.

## **Pet Animal Care Facilities Section**

Since early 1995, any person who is operating a pet animal facility that engages in selling, transferring, adopting, breeding, boarding, training, grooming, sheltering or rescuing dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, ferrets, reptiles or fish may need to be licensed with the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

The Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) gives the Colorado Department of Agriculture the responsibility to license and discipline all pet care facilities with more than 24 pets. The Pet Animal Care Facilities Section is committed to making sure care facilities meet minimum standards for physical facilities, sanitation, ventilation, lighting, heating, cooling, humidity, spatial and enclosure requirements; nutrition, humane care, medical treatment; methods of operation and record keeping. PACFA is funded by license fees. In 1996 - 97, Pet Care Facilities staff inspected 1,250 facilities, issued 1,123 facility licenses, denied three licenses and issued a number of cease and desist orders.

# HOW TO CONTACT

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*(All Telephone numbers are Area Code 303 except where noted)*

### **Office of the Commissioner**

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000, Lakewood, CO 80215

Commissioner of Agriculture, Thomas A. Kourlis .....	239-4100
Public Information .....	239-4190
Resource Analysis .....	239-4112
Administrative Services .....	239-4126
Personnel .....	239-4100

### **Division of Animal Industry**

700 Kipling Street, Suite 1000, Lakewood, CO 80215

State Veterinarian, Dr. Jerry Bohlender .....	239-4161
Bureau of Animal Protection .....	239-4158
Rodent/Predator Control Section .....	239-4157
Pet Animal Care Facilities .....	239-4116

### **Division of Stock Inspection**

4701 Marion Street, Denver, CO 80216

Brand Commissioner, J. G. Shoun .....	294-0895
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### **Division of Markets**

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000, Lakewood, CO 80215

Director, Jim Rubingh .....	239-4114
Livestock Market News (Greeley) .....	(970) 353-9750
Fruit & Vegetable Market News .....	294-7623

### **Division of Inspection and Consumer Services**

2331 West 31st. Avenue, Denver, CO 80211

Director, Ronald Turner .....	477-0076
Technical Services Section .....	477-0086
Farm Products Section .....	477-0054
Fruit & Vegetable Section .....	477-0076
Measurement Standards 3125 Wyandot St., Denver, CO 80211 .....	477-4220

### **Division of Plant Industry**

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000, Lakewood, CO 80215

Director, John Gerhardt .....	239-4140
Plant and Insect Section .....	239-4142
Pesticide Section .....	239-4145
Biological Pest Control (Insectary) P.O. Box 400, Palisade, CO 81526 .....	(970) 464-7916