

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Fiscal Year 1997-1998**

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

## **Colorado Agriculture**

- There are 24,500 farms and ranches in Colorado, accounting for half of the state's acres.
- Agriculture provides for over 86,000 jobs, 6.3% of the state's total, bringing in over \$12 billion to Colorado's economy.
- Agriculture cash receipts alone total \$4 billion, with 66% accredited to livestock
- Colorado farmers and ranchers help feed the world by exporting over \$1 billion annually. Japan, South Korea, Canada and Mexico receive the largest share of Colorado food products (\$547 million).
- Colorado's top ten farm and ranch products, in terms of production in millions are: cattle and calves; wheat; corn; dairy products; hogs and pigs; hay; greenhouse/nursery; potatoes; poultry and eggs; and sheep and lambs.
- Colorado agriculture is more than just food. Colorado farmers and ranchers also contribute to the creation of products related to manufacturing, health care, education, recreation, transportation, construction and personal care. That includes detergents, x-ray film, bandages, crayons, paper, piano keys, footballs, shoes, plastics, hydraulic brake fluid, ball bearings, tires, insulation, linoleum, soaps, cosmetics, shaving cream to perfume.
- Colorado agriculture helps feed the nation and the world, provide wildlife habitat, protect the environment and fuel the state economy.

\* *Statistics provided courtesy of the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. Information on jobs taken from the Colorado State University report, Colorado's Farm and Food System: Its Contribution to the State's Economy in 1992.*

## **The Colorado Department of Agriculture**

### **Mission**

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.

### **Organization**

One hundred thirteen employees at 11 locations and 137 field employees provide over 300 different regulatory, inspection, marketing, consumer protection and other services across Colorado. The Colorado State Fair employs 28 people. The agriculture department provides these 300+ services with .2% of the state's budget.

Under the direction of Commissioner of Agriculture Tom Kourlis, the Colorado Department of Agriculture is proud to serve you through six divisions: Markets, Brand Inspection, Plant Industry, Inspection and Consumer Services, Animal Industry and the Colorado State Fair.

- ▶ **The Markets Division** helps Colorado food and agricultural companies sell their products in local, regional,

national and international markets.

- ▶ **The Brand Inspection Division** registers, inspects and verifies more than 37,000 livestock brands; and licenses livestock sale barns, packing plants and alternative livestock farms. They also conduct lost or stolen livestock investigations and return livestock to their rightful owners.
- ▶ **The Plant Industry Division** provides organic certification; nursery stock inspection; produce, plant and seed export certificates; seed inspection and certification; weed free forage certification, bee inspection and investigations; backflow prevention equipment permits and inspections; commercial pesticide applicator testing, licensing and investigations; pesticide product record inspections and label registration; groundwater protection regulation; and biological pest control.
- ▶ **The Inspection and Consumer Services Division** provides retail egg inspection and licensing; verification of animal feed and fertilizer labels through sampling and analyzing ingredients; custom meat processing facility inspection; weighing and measuring device certification; agricultural commodity dealer, handler and warehouse bonding and licensing; and, fruit and vegetable grading and inspection.
- ▶ **The Animal Industry Division** provides livestock disease prevention, control and lab services; rodent and predator control services; pet shop and kennel inspection and licensing; and animal cruelty investigations.
- ▶ **The Colorado State Fair's** goal today has remained the same as it was in 1901 - to enlighten, instruct and astonish. The fair highlights agriculture, crops, livestock, canning, baking, needlework, flowers, art and, more recently, science, industry and education. The fair provides exciting shows and personalities, elaborate fireworks, and spectacular family events.

There are four independent authorities under the department's umbrella: the Colorado State Fair Authority, the Colorado Horse Development Board, the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board, and the Colorado Agricultural Development Authority.

#### **The Colorado State Fair Authority**

The Colorado State Fair Authority (Authority) directs and supervises the Colorado State Fair and Industrial Exposition. Eleven members govern the Authority, ten appointed by the Governor, with consent of the Senate. The Commissioner of Agriculture, or his or her designee is the eleventh member of the Authority.

#### **The Colorado Horse Development Board**

The Colorado Horse Development Board (Horse Board), representing all types of horse interests and breeds, works to promote the horse industry and educate people on the health care and welfare of horses in the state. One of their primary projects this year was to conduct a survey to determine how many horses there are in Colorado and determine the economic impact the horse industry has in the state. The Horse Board is governed by 14 members, all appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

#### **The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board**

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (Wine Board) researches grape and wine production, and promotes Colorado wines in Colorado and across the United States. The Wine Board is governed by ten board members, all appointed by the Governor.

### The Colorado Agricultural Development Authority

The Colorado Agricultural Development Authority's (CADA) mission is to encourage the investment of private capital in the agricultural sector through the use of public financing in order to make low-interest loans available to agricultural producers for specific uses. Seven board members govern CADA: three appointed by the President of the State Senate, three by the Speaker of the House, and one by the Governor. The Commissioner of Agriculture also serves on the board as a non-voting member.

### The Colorado Agricultural Commission

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. Individuals from agricultural districts, from both political parties, participate in the Colorado Agricultural Commission and represent a cross section of the state's agricultural community.

### Budget

| <b>Colorado Department of Agriculture FY 1997-98 Budget Appropriations</b> |             |               |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Division and Program</b>  | <b>Code</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
| <b>Commissioners Office</b>  |             |               |
| Commissioners Office   | 1001        | 851,211       |
| Ag Commission  | 1002        | 5,599         |
| Resource Analysis  | 1003        | 125,116       |
| Ag Statistics  | 1005        | 92,124        |
| Administrative Services  | 1101        | 846,071       |
| <b>Animal Industry Division</b>  |             |               |
| Animal Administration  | 1201        | 114,606       |
| Bureau of Animal Protection  | 1202        | 110,651       |
| Animal Cruelty   | 1214        | 97,797        |
| Rodent Control   | 1204        | 80,182        |
| Livestock Disease Section  | 1205        | 710,117       |
| Diseased Livestock Section   | 1207        | 75,000        |
| Veterinary Vaccine Services  | 1211        | 71,306        |
| Pet Care Section   | 1212        | 267,440       |
| Cervidae Disease   | 1213        | 239,000       |
| Predatory Animal Control   | 2001        | 48,854        |
| Rodent Revolving Fund  | 2004        | 52,613        |
| <b>Brands Division</b>   |             |               |
| Brand Inspection Administration  | 1301        | 620,956       |
| Brand Field Program  | 1302        | 2,460,981     |
| Alternative Livestock  | 1303        | 32,822        |
| <b>Inspection and Consumer Services Division</b>                           |             |               |
| ICS Administration   | 1401        | 158,646       |
| ICS Facilities   | 1402        | 136,125       |
| Technical Services   | 1403        | 302,924       |

|  |         |           |
|--|---------|-----------|
| Field Programs                             | 1405    | 760,034   |
| Laboratory Services                        | 1406    | 689,465   |
| Medicated Feed Sampling and Testing        | 1410    | 6,763     |
| Egg Inspection Program                     | 1413    | 12,153    |
| Farm Products Section                      | 1416    | 454,387   |
| Measurement Standards Section              | 1423    | 856,189   |
| Mandatory Fruit & Vegetable Inspection     | 1424    | 2,066,101 |
| Non-Mandatory Fruit & Vegetable Inspection | 1425    | 83,498    |
| <b>Markets</b>                             |         |           |
| Market Development                         | 1501    | 627,062   |
| Ag Development                             | 1502    | 10,183    |
| Aquaculture                                | 1504    | 49,382    |
| Domestic Trade                             | 1506    | 10,000    |
| Wine Board                                 | 1507    | 328,751   |
| International Marketing                    | 1508    | 1,519     |
| Seal of Quality                            | 1509    | 3,000     |
| AgInsights Survey                          | 1510    | 7,488     |
| AITPP Travel                               | 1511    | 40,750    |
| Business Economic Development              | 1512    | 5,938     |
| Colorado Barn Again                        | 1515    | 3,000     |
| Produce Conferences                        | 1521    | 3,882     |
| Horse Development Board                    | 1523    | 175,000   |
| <b>Plant Industry</b>                      |         |           |
| Plant Administration Services              | 1601    | 137,641   |
| Insectary                                  | 1602    | 446,053   |
| Noxious Weed Management Program            | 1603    | 285,334   |
| Federal Weed Program                       | 1604    | 7,177     |
| Greenhouse/Seed Program                    | 1605    | 319,893   |
| Nursery Inspection                         | 1606    | 172,728   |
| Chemigation                                | 1607    | 186,839   |
| Organic Certification                      | 1608    | 45,375    |
| Bee Investigations                         | 1609    | 1,068     |
| Pesticide Registration                     | 1610    | 718,792   |
| Pesticide Applicator Certification         | 1611-13 | 457,588   |
| Pesticide Applicator Enforcement           | 1614    | 84,393    |
| Phyosanitary Inspections                   | 1616    | 82,788    |
| Insect Damage Control                      | 1618    | 19,531    |
| Groundwater Control                        | 1620-21 | 608,596   |
| Food Pesticide Monitoring                  | 1622    | 45,000    |
| Weed Free Forage Certification Program     | 1623    | 63,393    |
| Seed Cash Program                          | 1624    | 64,530    |
| Food Pesticide Data Program                | 1626    | 50,478    |
| Pesticide Biochemical                      | 1627    | 35,927    |
| Pesticide Federal Enforcement              | 1629    | 43,724    |
| Pesticide Federal Recordkeeping            | 1631    | 124,279   |

|   |      |            |
|---|------|------------|
| Pesticide Applicator Federal Certification Program  | 1633 | 7,492      |
| Inspector Training Grant  | 1636 | 19,877     |
| Pesticide Usage Survey  | 1637 | 114,239    |
| Pesticide Monitoring Enforcement  | 1639 | 5,894      |
| Biological Pest Control   | 1641 | 11,034     |
|   |      |            |
| Total Appropriated for the Department   |      | 17,366,124 |
| Other Funding Sources   |      | 488,225    |
| Total Department Funding  |      | 17,854,349 |
| Colorado State Fair Appropriation   |      | 14,952,012 |
| Total Department/State Fair*  |      | 32,806,361 |
|   |      |            |
| *These figures are budget estimates for the fiscal year 1997-98.<br>They include all funding sources, including federal grants that are not appropriated. |      |            |

**Locations:**

- Lakewood, 700 Kipling Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Commissioner's Office; Plant Industry Division and Markets Division
- Lakewood, 690 Kipling Street, #202, Animal Industry Division
- West Denver, 2331 W. 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Inspection and Consumer Services Division
- West Denver, 3125 Wyandot Street, Measurement Standards Section, Inspection and Consumer Services Division
- National Western Stock Show Complex, 4701 Marion Street #201, Brand Inspection Division
- San Luis Valley, Monte Vista, 201 U.S. Post Office Building, Fruit and Vegetable Inspectors, Inspection and Consumer Services Division, and Multiple Inspector and Chemigation Inspector, Plant Industry Division
- Western Slope, 75037 8/10ths Road in Palisade, Plant Industry Division Insectary and Multiple Inspector
- Brush, 28601 US Highway 34, Brand Inspection Division
- Greeley, 711 O Street, Brand Inspection Division
- La Junta, 30450 East Highway 50, Brand Inspection Division
- Ft. Collins, 113 NW Frontage Road, Brand Inspection Division

**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 the 1997-1998 year included: water quality, food safety, bee losses, disaster response, animal diseases, animal cruelty, trapping, range standards and guidelines, a wolf hybrid study group, risk-based inspection, the Food Quality Protection Act, noxious weed control, the Colorado State Fair, pricing and scanning inaccuracy, efficiency and Colorado Peak Performance. Other Commissioner's office activities include the 1998 Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum and hosting the forth-annual AgInsights meeting.

### **Water Quality**

Commissioner Kourlis and Director of Policy and Communication Jim Miller worked with many to develop legislation to protect groundwater quality while preserving opportunities for Colorado's animal feeding operations. The legislative session closed without putting additional regulations in place and the department will continue working to develop regulations that appropriately protect the environment.

The department also assisted in securing wastewater treatment for two new food processing facilities in the San Luis Valley.

### **Food Safety**

Assistant State Veterinarian received a \$50,000 grant from the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) for Colorado Cattle Feeders Quality Assurance program to look at food safety as part of quality assurance. Commissioner's office staff worked with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to disseminate information in Colorado on E-Coli 0157:H7. The public information office has also joined with the Partnership for Food Safety Education program to continually educate the public about safe food handling.

### **Bee Losses**

Agriculture department investigators are striving to determine the cause(s) of bee kills and prevent further losses. Colorado State University's (CSU) independent research is still on-going. To date, CSU researcher Dr. Frank Peairs reports finding tracheal mites in many samples. Pollen samples are still being analyzed. The department continues to encourage communication, cooperation and education among interdependent agricultural industries.

### **Disaster Response**

This fiscal year, more than 26,000 cattle, swine, sheep, horses and other animals died as a result of the "Blizzard of '97." The Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner's office and Animal Industry Division worked with state agencies and counties to coordinate and communicate available assistance. Governor Romer declared a state of emergency allowing the Colorado Department of Agriculture to arrange for four days of helicopter hay drops. Department brand inspectors worked countless hours to assist ranchers in verifying and documenting dead livestock; locating and returning lost livestock.

The Assistant State Veterinarian applied for a grant from USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to assist with animal burial. USDA APHIS, western regional office, veterinary services, granted the department's request giving \$25,000 which paid for pulling animals from waterways and reimbursed six counties for 51% of the animal burial expenses they submitted.

The Public Information office then sent out a 68-page disaster resource notebook to approximately 70 county offices in hopes of assisting them in the future. The Colorado State Veterinarian has appointed an Animal Emergency Task Force to develop a statewide animal emergency management plan.

### **Animal Diseases**

Hot animal disease issues during 1997-98 have included scrapie in sheep, pseudorabies in swine, brucellosis in dogs, chronic wasting disease in elk, vesicular stomatitis in cattle and Johnes disease in domestic livestock. The Animal Industry Division has monitored and controlled the spread of these and other diseases. The State Veterinarian's office has also created a Colorado Chronic Wasting Disease Advisory Committee that has continued to develop strategies for research, surveillance, media coverage and herd certification.

The Animal Industry Division transformed their local brucellosis laboratory into the Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory. The new lab tests blood and tissue samples for a wide variety of animal diseases and is equipped with a broader mission, vision and service area.

### **Animal Cruelty**

It has been another big year for animal cruelty complaints. The department's Bureau of Animal Protection

investigated approximately 331 complaints of animal neglect and cruelty across the state. With the increase in the number of horse owners in the state, the Bureau continues to educate people on how much feed animals need and how to care for them.

### **Trapping**

This year, the department completed the *Amendments to the Rules Pertaining to Depredating Predator Animal Control*. These rules incorporate Colorado Constitution Article XVIII, Section 13 and Senate Bill 97-052 into the restrictions pertaining to state employees and owners of agricultural products or resources and their families, employees, agents and identified designees for the control of depredating animals. The department has been working closely with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and now has an agreement in place with them for cooperative practical application and enforcement of these rules. The Commissioner of Agriculture hosted six "Ag Issue Forums" with citizens across the state to hear their concerns about current agricultural issues and clear up confusion about predator control.

### **Range Standards and Guidelines**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture assisted the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s Multiple Resource Advisory Councils (MRACs) in the process of developing standards for rangeland health and guidelines for livestock grazing. The state BLM director approved those standards and guidelines this year.

### **Wolf Hybrid Study Group**

The Commissioner of Agriculture facilitated the Canine and Feline Hybrid Study Group who put together recommendations for the Legislature on hybrid breeding and selling regulations. The study group recommended changes in the present Dangerous Dog Law (C.R.S. 18-9-204.5) to address the threat that wolf hybrids may pose to the public, livestock and other animal life in the state. The group also recommended not regulating feline hybrids, instead focusing on educational efforts to expand consumer awareness.

### **Risk-Based Inspection**

Virtually all of the programs in the Inspection and Consumer Services Division and the Plant Industry Division are in the process of implementing risk-based inspection programs. These programs will devote more resources to regulating and assisting higher-risk companies in complying with state laws.

### **The Food Quality Protection Act**

The department has been working with national, state and local agencies and organizations to, under the Food Quality Protection Act, ensure both food safety and food production viability. The Plant Industry Division has been actively involved in writing recommendations for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), mitigating impacts of the Act and working to provide options and alternatives. The department's Insectary has been assisting with pesticide-alternatives research and insect applications.

### **Noxious Weed Control**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture awarded grants ranging from \$1,300 to \$43,000 to 18 community projects to assist them in fighting noxious weeds. The department, with the Colorado Weed Management Association and the Colorado Noxious Weed Management Team, hosted a weed summit for executives to learn more about the growing impacts of weed invasions and make plans to stop them.

### **The Colorado State Fair**

1997-98 has been a year of transition for Colorado's Fair. The fair made changes in management, board members, advertising and public relations, financial reporting, contracts, policies and procedures, building maintenance and repair, and year-round event planning and hosting. The agriculture department successfully brought the Fair into the department as a division, incorporating them into the state personnel and purchasing systems. The fair started 1997 with a brand new State Fair Board, providing new leadership and direction.

### **Pricing and Scanning Accuracy**

The department's Measurement Standards Section made 518 inspections of stores and found the posted or marked price can be up to \$100 over or \$66 under the prices charged at the register. Each department store not charging the posted or marked price on more than 10% of the items tested was also fined up to \$200.00. The agriculture department issued \$12,300 in fines and asked all of the stores to charge their posted prices. Measurement Standards Section staff met with store managers to provide guidance and training in pricing integrity.

### **Efficiency**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is always striving to become more efficient, providing more for less. This year, the department reviewed and evaluated all of its rules and regulations. The department has 53 sets of rules and regulations. The department administers 44 and is taking steps to repeal nine that are obsolete. Nearly one-third of the department's rules and regulations were industry-requested or driven.

The department developed a new feedlot brand inspection and certification program. Brand inspectors checked brands when cattle entered a feedlot, when they were sold and when they were sent to slaughter at a cost of 38 cents/head. Now, brand inspectors do not inspect cattle when sent from a feedlot to slaughter. Colorado feedlots can now register with the Brand Inspection Division to have brand inspectors inspect all animals coming into the feedlot without a current brand certificate. The feedlot can then issue direct-to-slaughter permits as needed at a cost of 23 cents/head. The Brand Inspection Division will audit feedlots three times a year.

The department has been examining the process for crisis and emergency pesticide registration to make sure it is responsive to industry needs.

Commissioner Kourlis worked with the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee and the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers on an historic agreement. Under the agreement, the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee will manage both organizations to improve cooperation, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Commissioner's office staff has been engaged in continuing efforts to increase efficiency in the handling of mail, telephone calls, routine correspondence, internal communication, interruptions, filing, and assignment tracking. The Commissioner's office now has:

- ▶ A mail distribution system, with folders to designate priority;
- ▶ The front desk reception phone now has a link to the Governor's Advocacy hotline and the public information line to make sure people can reach a live person during business hours;
- ▶ A system to more quickly respond to and track the time it takes to respond to incoming letters and information requests;
- ▶ Internal e-mail to make internal communication more efficient and convenient;
- ▶ Internet e-mail to make external communication more efficient and convenient;
- ▶ More information available on the department web site, to better serve its customers and decrease printing and mailing costs;
- ▶ A system to assist each other in managing interruptions;
- ▶ More readily accessible files;
- ▶ A system to track when assignments are completed.



### **Colorado Peak Performance**

The department formed a Colorado Peak Performance (CPP) Steering Committee to develop and evaluate performance systems and plans to reward employees for performance under the new guidelines. The team distributed a summary of Colorado Peak Performance, has interviewed employees asking how they would like to be rewarded; and has surveyed employees, asking questions such as, "How will measurable standards be set for fully competent and outstanding performers?" The team plans to design and conduct the first practice-run of CPP, including mock payments in 98-99.

### **Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum**

The Commissioner's office assisted in making the 1998 Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum, *"The Science, Ethics and Economics of Biotechnology in Agriculture,"* a reality on February 18, 1998 in Denver. Four hundred people came to explore and discuss biotechnology as both a powerful tool and an important responsibility.

In the morning, Dr. Robert Fraley, President of the Ceregen Division of Monsanto talked about plant biotechnology. Dr. Charlotte Farin, professor of animal science at North Carolina State University, talked about animal biotechnology. Dr. Bernie Rollin, director of bio-ethical planning, talked about the ethics and social implications of biotechnology. Dr. Lowell Catlett, professor of agricultural economics and business, talked about attitudes toward biotechnology, and a guest speaker talked about biotechnology and international trade issues. In the afternoon breakout sessions, participants discussed regulating biotechnology; the science and marketing of animal biotechnology; the ethics and social implications of biotechnology; consumer attitudes (including food safety) and market perspectives; and issues in the global market.

In conjunction with the Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum, Commissioner Kourlis convened the forth-annual meeting of AgInsights. AgInsights is made up 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 1998 meeting, the group discussed methods for increasing the visibility of Colorado agriculture, the legislation team gave an update, the media team gave an update and everyone discussed developing partnerships for the future.

### **Colorado Agricultural Commission**

The Colorado Agricultural Commission is a group of nine agricultural leaders appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, who are 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 seven meetings in fiscal year 1997-98.

### **Resource Analysis**

This two-person section analyzes 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, focusing on landowner-oriented approaches to agricultural land preservation. Section staff is assisting the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with developing criteria to review applications for \$18 million in federal funds in order to help buy agricultural easements from willing landowners.

The section completed a systematic review of the department's rules and regulations, and issued a 50-page report

in March. Nine sets of obsolete rules were identified, and are in the process of being removed or repealed. The Section has begun an analysis of the benefits and costs of the department's Insectary in Palisade.

In 1997-98, section staff also helped plan and implement the 1998 Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum, which attracted more than 400 people. Section staff is also assisting the State Land Board in reviewing 130 nominations of parcels to the 300,000-acre Stewardship Land Trust.

## **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.

The Risk Based Inspection Program is in the final stages of implementation and completion of the project is planned for June 30, 1998. This program integrates demographic, licensing, registration and inspection information into a single database that provides field inspection staff immediate access. Data will be input by field inspection staff on a daily basis and downloaded to the main database. This will allow for improved scheduling and concentration on those businesses most at risk of non-compliance with rules and regulations.

The facilities audit was completed in March of 1998. This audit identifies capital construction and controlled maintenance needs at each of the facilities the department owns or leases, and will aid in future years' budget requests for facilities maintenance and improvements.

The Administrative Services Section successfully sought and received a new budget initiative for a manager of information technology and contractual funding for the rewrite of four licensing and registration system programs to begin in July of 1998.

The General Support Services Division of Purchasing and the agriculture department's Administrative Services Section staff provided training in purchasing procedures to ensure compliance with rules. They also provided training on how to read and understand accounting reports.

## **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 also oversees eight market orders, is responsible for administration of the Wine Industry Development Board, licenses all of the state's aquaculture producers and provides staff for the Colorado Agricultural Development Authority.

## **Marketing Orders Program**

Marketing orders are producer-funded programs. Funds are collected from the point of first sale of certain farm commodities. Those funds are then 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 eight 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. An agreement with the USDA FAS allows one FAS staff person to work in the agriculture department's Markets Division. This section also coordinates 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. International Marketing also assists 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, the Markets Division manages projects in food service and organic food promotion. In Mexico, the Markets Division 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 has established a Colorado International Livestock Cooperative. With cooperation from the International Trade Office, the U.S. Export Assistance Center, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Markets Division will be opening an International Assistance Office in Montrose starting in May of 1998.

The International Marketing section continues to build the resource library for international trade to provide marketing data for most international markets, for food and agricultural products. The section is also active in meeting with 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 Culinarians 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 (another Seal of Quality Program in 1998 will be developed in conjunction with the Colorado Cattle Feeders); 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 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. We are also developing a statue to honor Colorado farmers and ranchers. 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 1998, Colorado has 40 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 undertaken in conjunction with the Colorado Office of Business Development.

The Markets Division administers the *Agricultural Processing Feasibility Grant Program* to assist local governments and entrepreneurs in evaluating the potential for developing or expanding agricultural processing facilities. The Colorado Economic Development Commission funds this program. 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 publication, *Public Finance for Colorado Agriculture*, informs growers and processors about grant and loan programs that may be beneficial to them.

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

## **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 37,000 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 during the 1997-98 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 \$3 million and is completely funded by 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 packinghouses doing business in Colorado.

In 1997-98, the division personnel traveled in excess of 1.4 million miles and inspected approximately 5.1 million head of livestock. In addition, they identified ownership of lost, stolen, or strayed and questionably owned livestock valued at over \$17 million. The division conducted 56,000 horse inspections and issued permanent horse travel permits.

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. Eighteen separate classes were given in 1997-98, all in different areas of 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 Colorado Department of Agriculture Plant Industry Division is organized into the Biological Pest Control, the Plant and Insect Section and the Pesticide Section. The division's staff of 40 includes 13 field inspectors (11 of whom are cross-trained in multiple inspection and two are chemigation inspectors), six biological pest control specialists and one 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 1997-98, the staff of the Biological Pest Control Section conducted 736 releases of 42 species of beneficial insects. These activities were conducted throughout the state and involved private landowners as well as state and federally owned land. The releases were designed to assist in the suppression of 16 weed species and six insect pests.

## **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 organically-grown produce conforms with state standards;
- Administer fruit and vegetable pesticide residue monitoring under contract with USDA; and
- 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);
- Implement noxious weed program activities including distribution of grant money allocated by the State Legislature for use by counties, and numerous other activities performed by the state weed coordinator; and;
- Enforce the late blight quarantine by inspecting and sampling truckloads of potatoes coming into the San Luis Valley.

The section issued an estimated 2,400 phytosanitary inspection certificates on plant products for international export, valued at approximately \$20 million. Inspectors conducted 1,050 inspections of nurseries and greenhouses and issued approximately 1,650 registrations to sellers of nursery stock. An estimated 10,000 stop sale orders were issued on nursery stock.

Chemigation permits issued totaled 3,272 in 1997-98. 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 139 organic growers.

The Fruit and Vegetable Pesticide Residue Monitoring program identifies possible contaminants in the food system. A total of 402 samples were taken in 1997-98.

Under the Weed-Free Certification program, a total of 318 field inspections were made on 10,537 acres of forage and mulch crops, mostly hay, for 130 producers.

A total of 18 weed management grants from the noxious weed management fund, in the amount of \$225,000, were distributed to qualifying applicants, the majority of which were county weed management programs.

In the Potato Late Blight Quarantine Enforcement program, the division inspected 10 loads of seed potatoes transported into the San Luis Valley in the spring of 1998.

## **Pesticide Section**

The Pesticide Section regulates pesticide products, pest control devices, pesticide applicators, and groundwater quality. 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 1997-98, approximately 9,925 pesticide products were registered in Colorado; approximately 684 applicators were tested for competency; approximately 724 commercial pesticide application firms were licensed and 109 limited commercial and public applicators were registered; approximately 2,593 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 20 complaints ranging from letters of warning to license suspensions, civil fines, assurances of discontinuance, injunctions, and license revocations.

To ensure groundwater quality, the section coordinates the efforts of federal, state and local agencies with the emphasis on public education, outreach and monitoring. Plant Industry Division staff continue to give presentations to industry, professional organizations and interested groups on an on-going basis to inform and seek input. A citizens' advisory committee consisting of representatives of the general public, producers and agribusiness, has been instrumental in providing involvement in determining program priorities, program development and program implementation. In 1997-98 the groundwater protection program: did a cost/benefit analysis on the implementation of best management practices and made fact sheets available which incorporated these economic considerations; conducted a statewide survey to determine whether or not best management practices are being adopted; developed best management practices for barley production; set out four demonstration fields in the South Platte River basin; and began a groundwater sensitivity study. The program focused its monitoring efforts in the Ogallala aquifer and in the lower South Platte alluvial aquifer.

## **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 Section is responsible for field inspections, testing and/or sampling for the following programs: Measurement Standards (small devices), Feed, Fertilizer, Anhydrous Ammonia, Egg, and Meat Inspection. Each inspector in the section has been trained to perform inspections in all six 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, anhydrous ammonia, egg, and meat inspection statutes.

The Feed Program registers and selectively samples commercial animal feeds throughout the state. In 1997-98, 850 companies registered 14,100 products. Program employees collected 3,240 samples of these products. 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 Program assures compliance pertaining to quality and labeling standards for eggs at the retail and wholesale level. In 1997-98, 2,248 retail licenses and 92 wholesale licenses were issued. At these licensed locations, 351,603 dozens of eggs were inspected and 29,122 dozens, 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 1997-98, the department registered 306 companies and 2,634 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 custom meat processors and 29 food plan operations. The agency protects the public from unsanitary or fraudulent practices in meat processing and bulk meat sales. This year, the department signed a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture to inspect 65 meat-processing facilities the USDA formerly inspected. In the past, there were some meat processing facilities that both the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Colorado Department of Agriculture Meat Inspection Program inspected. Under the cooperative agreement, meat-processing facilities are only inspected by one agency instead of two.

### **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 section makes sure 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, licensing changes, 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 manufacturers' 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, examines a limited number of meat samples for bacterial contamination and assures that those products meet manufacturers' claims for label consistency.

The department's groundwater lab continued to grow this past year. In cooperation with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, who picks up groundwater samples, the lab is in year four 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 170 water samples from July 1997 through May 1998. These samples were analyzed using four different methods for 30 different pesticides, as well as for nitrate. The lab staff is preparing for the summer season when sampling will resume.

In 1997-98, the section conducted 17,000 different analyses on 4,000 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 7,222 mass standards, performed 130 other tests, and certified 699 tuning forks (used to calibrate radar speed detectors).

Measurement Standards inspects and tests packages for truth in labeling and the accuracy of measuring devices used commercially. More than 23,000 small weighing devices were tested in 1997-98, and of those, 9.6% were out of compliance. Inspectors examined 56,000 packages and found 15.5% short. The section performed a price verification study from October 1, 1997 to March 1, 1998. During this study, staff visited 518 retail outlets, inspecting more than 32,198 items. We found that 5.39% of the items were priced incorrectly, and some outlets

had over 70% of their packages incorrectly priced. Inspectors issued 101 violations and assessed \$12,300.00 in fines.

The section's large scale testing units tested and inspected 6,032 scales (a 34% increase over last year), while rejecting 44.3% of the scales tested. The large trucks had a total of 761.5 hours of down time for repairs. Of these hours, three trucks accounted for 76.1% or 579.5 hours. The Measurement Standards Section lost two engines and Fleet Management denied repairs to one truck. The other truck was repaired and is on the road.

Measurement Standards, in conjunction with the FDA, the National Institute for Standards and Technology and other states tested the net fill of milk cartons delivered to schools. National results are not available yet, but Colorado packagers did well.

## **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. Non-mandatory inspections are conducted on other commodities for shippers who 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 1997-98, the section inspected an estimated 20,200,000 hundredweight (cwt.) of potatoes, resulting in the issuance of approximately 25,000 certificates on commodities under mandatory inspection. Other fruits and vegetables inspected totaled 295,000 cwt. resulting in 250 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: Livestock Disease, Bureau of Animal Protection, Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Lab, Pet Care and Rodent Control. The division has 20 employees.

## **Livestock Disease Section**

The Livestock Disease Section is responsible for monitoring and controlling contagious infectious diseases in livestock and 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 ensure 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 8 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. The section has established a Johne's disease certification advisory committee to assist with a producer-driven Johne's disease control and eventual eradication certification program.

Recent chronic wasting disease diagnosis of captive cervidae in neighboring western states has prompted the enactment of an emergency rule which requires alternative livestock producers to submit cervidae heads for chronic wasting disease examination from all elk that have died naturally.

An "Emergency Preparedness Program" is being developed in response to the increasing risk of a catastrophic disaster involving animals. This program will include protocols to be followed in the event of an animal disease or environmental emergency. The Emergency Preparedness Program will be integrated into the Colorado State Emergency Plan.

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

### **Bureau of Animal Protection**

In 1997-1998, the 99 commissioned officers working in the Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP) investigated approximately 331 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.

### **Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL)**

The Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL) provides accurate, timely, efficient laboratory services and logistical support to various regulatory programs, and veterinary practitioners. The laboratory also provides a means of conducting animal disease diagnosis and surveillance activities that facilitate the movement and marketing of livestock.

In 1997-98, RMRAHL performed approximately 225,000 tests for various livestock diseases. These tests assist in disease surveillance, animal health programs, and qualifying livestock for intrastate, interstate, and international movement. Laboratory personnel also train livestock market veterinarians in test procedures and provide confirmatory tests for the livestock markets. The Animal Health Lab will offer Mycobacterium paratuberculosis (Johne's Disease) and Porcine Reproductive & Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) testing to its customers in 1998.

Increasing importance is being placed on herd health, emergency preparedness, livestock pre-harvest practices, global trade, zoonotic diseases and food safety. The Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory is positioned to provide laboratory support for these important issues.

### **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 Animal Industry Division is currently working on a number of levels to increase efficiency in predator control. With the sheep and lamb industry alone suffering \$2.94 million in losses in 1997 as a result of predators, the agriculture department continues to work on changing regulatory, contractual and interagency agreements to increase efficiency.

In 1997-98 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 inspect, 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; and methods of operation and record keeping. PACFA is funded by license fees. In 1997-98, Pet Care Facilities staff inspected 1,300 facilities, issued 1,139 facility licenses, denied six licenses and issued a number of cease and desist orders.

### **Colorado State Fair**

*Ed Kruse, General Manager*

The Colorado State Fair & Exposition is making a successful transition as an authority outside of state government to a division within a state agency. While the transition continues, much of the work is completed. For example, the fair has classified state fair positions and filled positions through the testing process. Also, the accounting department has changed from the authority accounting system to COFRS (Colorado Financial Reporting System). The fair is currently in the process of writing new policies and procedures to meet state needs.

The summer plans to be an exciting time at the Colorado State Fair. Other than the fair, 1998's off-season fair events will include the National Street Rod Association, the Southeast Area Square Dance Council, and the International Holiday Ramblers Rally. To date, the fair has hosted graduations from the University of Southern Colorado, and Pueblo Community college. In addition, the fair continues to host a variety of horse shows and livestock events.

In May of 1998, the Colorado State Fair has entered into an agreement with the Western Professional Hockey League (WPHL). Thirty-five hockey games will be played at the event center beginning in 1998 or 1999. The agreement provides that the WPHL make the necessary improvements for hockey in the event center, including the addition of an ice surface.

The State Fair, itself, will run from August 22 - September 2. Big name entertainment will be top-draw. Entertainers such as Foreigner, Lynyrd Skynrd, Leann Rimes/Bryan White, Kenny Loggins, Clint Black, and the

Steve Miller Band will perform in the Event Center. There will also be free entertainment in a number of venues on the fairgrounds. And, as always, the fair will offer rodeos, horse shows, the Junior Livestock Sale, and Fiesta Day activities.