

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Fiscal Year 1998-1999**

*Bill Owens, Governor
Don Ament, Commissioner
Robert G. McLavey, Deputy Commissioner*

Colorado Agriculture

- There are 29,500 farms and ranches on 32.5 million acres - half of the state. Colorado agriculture helps feed the nation and the world, provide wildlife habitat, protect the environment and fuel the state economy.
- 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 are over \$4.4 billion, with 69% accredited to livestock
- Colorado farmers and ranchers help feed the world by exporting over \$1 billion annually. Japan, Canada, Mexico and Korea receive the largest share of Colorado food products.
- Colorado's top ten farm and ranch products, in terms of production in millions are: cattle and calves; corn; wheat; dairy products; hogs and pigs; hay; greenhouse/nursery; sheep and lambs; potatoes; and sugar beets.
- 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.

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

Two hundred and fifty employees provide over 300 different regulatory, inspection, marketing, consumer protection and other services across Colorado for .2% of the state's budget.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is proud to serve you through the Commissioner's office and 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; noxious weed management; 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; animal cruelty investigations, rodent and predator control services; and pet shop and kennel inspection and licensing.
- ▶ **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 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, 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 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.

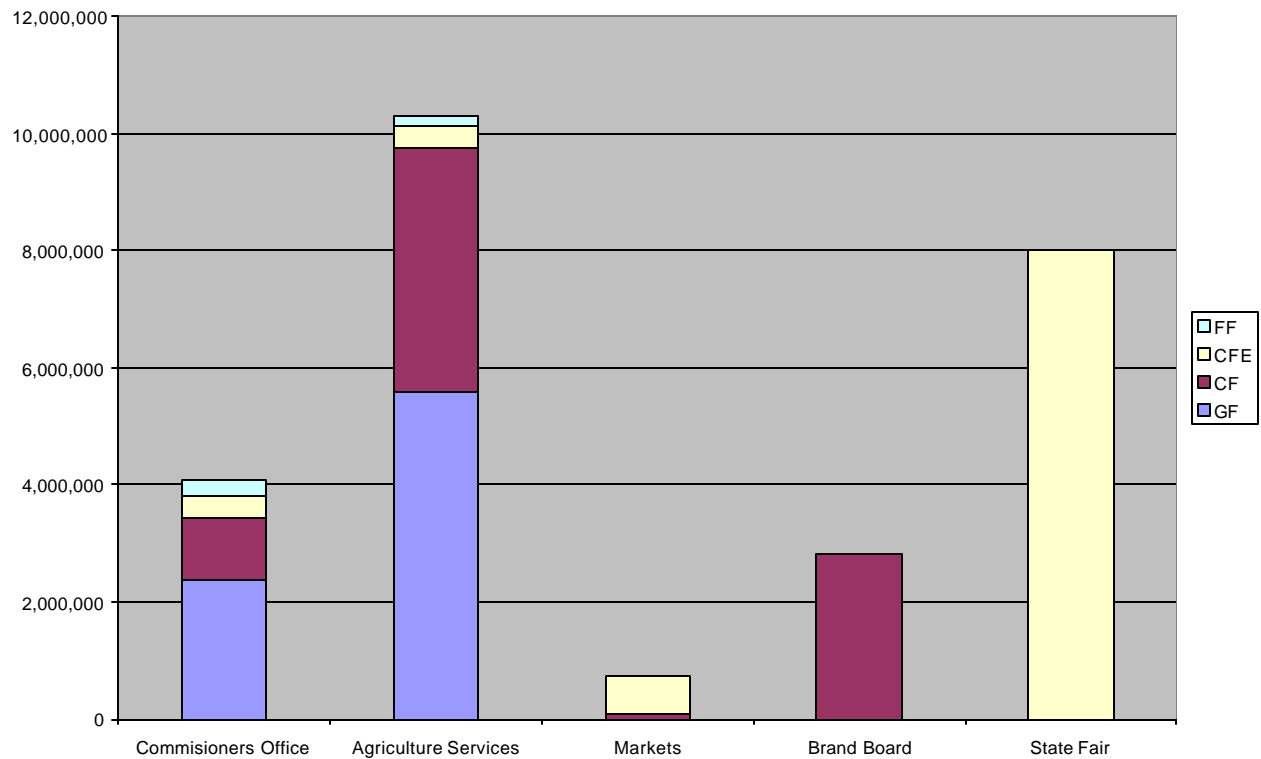
The Colorado Agricultural Development Authority

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.

Budget

	Commissioner's Office	Agriculture Services	Markets	Brand Board	State Fair
General Fund (GF)	2,360,185	5,591,361			
Cash Fund (CF)	1,091,226	4,176,196	81,458	2,828,343	
Cash Fund Exempt (CFE)	349,230	362,373	671,213		8,000,000
Federal Funds (FF)	277,930	163,886			

1999 Department of Agriculture Budget



The Commissioner's office includes the Colorado Agricultural Commission, Resource Analysis Section, Administrative Services, Public Information and Human Resources. Agriculture Services includes the Inspection and Consumer Services Division, the Plant Industry Division and the Animal Industry Division.

Office of the Commissioner

Don Ament, 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 Human Resources.

This year, Colorado had a change in Governor and in Commissioner of Agriculture. Commissioner's office staff spent time copying and compiling the records of the previous administration for central filing, answering transition team questions, compiling information and writing summaries to prepare the new administration, moving furniture and adapting. Commissioner Ament met with many agencies, organizations and individuals across the state including the Bureau of Land management, the USDA Farm Service Agency, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Hot issues for the 1998-1999 year included: regulation of swine production, state land stewardship trust, world trade, public lands grazing, the Food Quality Protection Act, animal diseases, animal cruelty, noxious weed management, risk-based inspection, pricing and scanning accuracy, information technology and Colorado Peak Performance. Other Commissioner's office activities include the 1999 Colorado Agricultural Outlook Forum and hosting the fifth-annual meeting.

Regulation of Swine Production

The Commissioner's Office spent considerable time monitoring Ballot Initiative 14 and the development of regulations following its passage. The Initiative imposed strict odor and water quality requirements on most of the state's larger hog production facilities. The regulations, developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) air and water quality control divisions, were put into effect March 1, and enforcement of the regulations became effective July 1. Many hog producers have found the odor control regulations to be particularly onerous because of the statute's requirement that anaerobic lagoons be covered in some fashion to reduce ammonia volatilization. The regulations also impose very strict odor emissions at the property line and at the nearest residence, business, or other odor "receptor". The department will continue to work with CDPHE and hog producers to facilitate compliance with the regulations without the need for crippling financial outlays.

State Land Stewardship Trust

The Commissioner's Resource Analysis Section headed an intensive review of 130 nominated parcels for inclusion in the new Stewardship Trust put into effect by ballot initiative in 1996. The trust will comprise three million acres of state land administered by the State Land Board to protect those lands' natural values, such as archeological, scenic, open space or plant and animal habitat. The department worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Colorado Soil Conservation Board. The team reviewed each proposal to determine the soils' erosion potential, the parcel's potential for development for other uses, its agricultural productivity, wildlife habitat, and other factors. Each parcel was then ranked according to the criteria and an assessment of the potential loss of the identified natural values of the parcel. A report was submitted to the State Land Board with the team's recommendations.

World Trade

The department hosted a World Trade Forum in Denver that enabled 19 national and state agricultural organizations to present their views to top federal trade officials on the upcoming World Trade Organization negotiations. The forum's listening panel included a representative of the U.S. Trade Representative and the director of USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service. The testimony presented to the panel suggested how the WTO agreement could more equitably treat U.S. agricultural producers in the world market. The department's Markets Division organized the event.

Public Lands Grazing

In 1999, the department concluded an effort to assist a northwest Colorado rancher and the Bureau of Land Management in developing a grazing system that would protect and enhance the range resource while enabling the rancher to remain financially viable. The process, begun in late 1997, is known as a Section 8 Review and is provided for in the principal federal grazing statute. The review brought together the permittee and the federal agency along with a panel of range resource specialists and ranchers knowledgeable with the area's environment to review the range conditions and the landscape. The team issued its report in late 1998 and early 1999.

Food Quality Protection Act

The department has begun an intensive effort to assure food product safety while maintaining the ability of farmers and ranchers to obtain effective and affordable crop protection chemicals. The department will work throughout the next year to urge the Environmental Protection Agency and federal lawmakers to ensure that implementation of the FQPA does not result in negligent decisions that eliminate the availability of proven pesticides.

Animal Diseases

Hot animal disease issues during 1997-98 have included vesicular stomatitis (VSV) in horses, chronic wasting disease in elk and scrapie in sheep. The Animal Industry Division Livestock Disease Section has monitored and controlled the spread of these and other diseases. The division has also led the way in forming new partnerships to do more with less.

For the third year, Colorado was awarded "the VSV Capitol" title by having the highest number of cases in the nation. This year, the Animal Industry Division commissioned 63 veterinary practitioners to monitor infected animals for healing and quarantine release at a cost of one tenth of either the 1995 or 1997 outbreaks. International and state trading partners were very supportive of this new procedure and other states have expressed interest in modeling their programs after this one.

The section worked with the sheep and wool industry to write the strictest scrapie-prevention and tracking rules in the nation to date. They also worked with the alternative livestock industry to amend the alternative livestock health regulations to allow the importation of domesticated elk or fallow deer into Colorado only from herds with known tuberculosis status and to incorporate federal standards.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory developed several new tests, including DNA testing capability.

Animal Cruelty

It has been another big year for animal cruelty complaints. The department's Bureau of Animal Protection investigated approximately 324 complaints of animal neglect and cruelty across the state. With the increase in the number of animal owners in the state, the Bureau continues to educate people on how to care for them.

Noxious Weed Management

The department distributed \$225,000 in weed grants to 22 local, regional, and statewide projects. Collectively, recipients matched the state's dollars with approximately \$1,152,943.60 (5.12:1 matching ratio). Grants ranged from \$800 to \$25,000. The State Weed Coordinator facilitated the development of a statewide strategic plan to help focus Colorado's noxious weed management efforts at every level on public and private lands. The result of this plan will be a more coordinated, efficient and successful weed management effort involving numerous public and private partners throughout the state. The coordinator also continues to increase weed awareness through educational materials and events.

Risk-Based Inspection

Virtually all of the programs in the Inspection and Consumer Services Division and the Plant Industry Division

have now been converted to risk-based inspection programs and minor adaptations are in progress. These programs will devote more resources to regulating and assisting higher-risk companies in complying with state laws.

Pricing and Scanning Accuracy

Multiple inspectors performed 38,111 price verifications and errors up to 50% were not unusual. Inspectors examined 55,000 packages for short measure and found 18.5% to be in error. Inspectors assessed \$50,664.00 in fines. Because the Measurement Standards Section doesn't have enough inspectors to keep the growing number of stores in line, they developed a retail training program, working with stores to test themselves in price verification, accurate packaging and weighing. As part of this program, the Measurement Standards Section presented four of Colorado's top grocery stores with certificates of excellence for accurate packaging, labeling and scanning.

Information Technology

It's been a big year for technological advances in the department. The department now has internal and Internet email. The Animal Industry Division and the Inspection and Consumers Services buildings have been connected to the network and the department is in the process of connecting remote sites in Monte Vista, Palisade and Denver.

They have acquired new servers, put in some new database systems, standardized the operating system and office suite products, and standardized programming in Visual Basic, Microsoft Access and Microsoft Sequel Server. To ensure Y2K compliance, they have tested over 165 desktop and laptop computers for hardware compliance and are in the process of fixing and testing more than 47 different applications, while ensuring all embedded systems will be operational.

Colorado Peak Performance

The department's Colorado Peak Performance (CPP) steering committee has three teams: allocation, non-cash awards, performance management and evaluation. The team members came from all divisions and all classifications and worked to gather information and develop guidelines for measuring performance and distributing performance-based pay. The allocation team has an allocation plan in place. The non-cash team surveyed employees and generated a list of non-monetary options. The performance management and evaluation team created the performance agreement with four parts: minimum professional standards, job class performance factors, individual performance factors and team performance factors. The steering committee is in the process of developing dispute resolution information and a guidance manual.

All divisions completed initial training with John Nobil of Hein and Associates and Ken Doby of the Colorado Department of Personnel General Support Services. The department is running a pilot test of the program from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000. Employees have been rewriting their position descriptions to accurately reflect the work they do and working with their supervisors to jointly develop performance agreements. The program will be formally implemented on July 1, 2000 with first payouts July 1, 2001.

Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum

The Commissioner's office assisted in making the 1999 Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum, *The Changing Structure of Agriculture*, a reality on February 10, 1999 in Denver. More than 400 people came to explore and discuss the changing environment in which agriculture must operate. In the morning, Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, professor of agricultural economics from Kansas State University, reviewed the 1996 Farm Bill and options for change. Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez, USDA Undersecretary of Agriculture for Research, Education and Economics, discussed post-industrial agriculture and the importance of education and information. Dr. J. B. Penn, Senior Vice President for the Sparks Company, analyzed agriculture's prospects from an international perspective. Mr. Dan Manternach, president of Professional Farmers of America, concluded the day with *The Seven Megatrends of Agriculture*. Governor Bill Owens addressed the forum at lunch. Six afternoon breakout sessions covered these topics: international trade, agriculture and the internet, rural telecommunications, access to capital, salinity and water management, and legislative issues.

In conjunction with the Governor's Agricultural Outlook Forum, Commissioner Ament convened the fifth-annual meeting of AgInsights. AgInsights is a group made up of organizations and individuals committed to building a strong future for Colorado Agriculture. From 15-25 agricultural organizations participate in quarterly meetings where they discuss their concerns with other groups and determine what they can do as a whole to resolve those issues. There are two primary subcommittees: legislation and media.

At the 1999 meeting, the whole group discussed issues such as confined animal feeding operations, endangered species, sales tax exemption for farm equipment, growth issues and water supply. The legislation team gave an update, the media team gave an update on agriculture promotions and everyone discussed future partnerships.

Colorado Agricultural Commission

The Colorado Agricultural Commission is a group of nine agricultural leaders appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. The Commission 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 divisions; developing general policy for managing the agriculture department; and approving and monitoring the agriculture department's budget.

The commission held six meetings in fiscal year 1998-99 and publicly took a position on several issues that were important to agriculture such as protecting water for agriculture and assisting rural counties that want to maintain a viable hog industry in Colorado.

At a recent joint meeting between the Agriculture Commission and the Wildlife Commission, they discussed issues that the two commissions can work together to further both wildlife management and agriculture producers such as alternative livestock and chronic wasting disease, predator control and game damage, and endangered species.

Commission members, previous to March were: Max Harper, a dairyman from Yuma, CO; Glen Murray, primarily a corn farmer from Brighton, CO; Brad Rock, a farmer and cattle feeder from Hudson, CO; Kelly Spitzer, a grain marketer and family farmer; Penny Lewis, a cattle rancher near Kremmling, CO; Bruce Talbott, a fruit grower from Palisade, CO; Ron Clark, a wheat farmer from Matheson, CO; and Dale DeJacamo, the owner and operator of James Nursery in Northeast Denver. The last three members were not appointed to another term, and David Ford, a potato farmer from Center, CO died in a plane crash.

In March, 1999, Governor Owens appointed four new members to the Commission. They are: Bob Briggs, executive director of the Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association, Westminster, CO; Steven Ela, a fruit grower from Hotchkiss, CO; John Salazar, El Rancho Salazar operator in Manassa, CO; and Dan Webster, a cattle feeder in Greeley, CO. Penny Lewis from Kremmling was reappointed for a second four-year term.

Resource Analysis

This 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 assisted 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.

In 1998-99, section staff coordinated the 1999 Colorado Agricultural Outlook Forum, which attracted more than 400 people. Section staff assisted the State Land Board in reviewing 130 parcels of state land nominated for the 300,000-acre Stewardship Land Trust. The review included extensive analysis of the impacts of proposed nominations upon agricultural producers with state leases. Section staff prepared a report containing estimates of net irrigation requirements by crop for each county in the state. Staff also assisted in the planning and implementation of the Colorado Peak Performance Plan for the department.

Administrative Services

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

A new information technology manager was hired through a budget initiative this past fiscal year. The information technology manager and staff have: coordinated and implemented email throughout the department; written two licensing and registration programs, while contracting for an additional four licensing and registration systems; successfully implemented the risk-based management system; updated the department internet site and created the department intranet site; and identified and are repairing Y2K compliance issues.

The Administrative Services Section successfully requested new budget initiatives addressing a four-year computer replacement cycle, additional contract dollars for three licensing and registration programs, and a new computer infrastructure for the Brand Inspection Division.

The 1998 facilities audit continues to assist the department in identifying capital construction and controlled maintenance needs. The Administrative Services Section supports the department in facilitating capital construction and controlled maintenance requests and will continue to seek the proper resources for upkeep of department facilities.

The Administrative Services Section will continue to work with and train department staff in purchasing procedures, thereby ensuring state purchasing rules compliance. Additionally, this section will provide good, accurate information to the executive and legislative branches and meet fiscal deadlines.

Public Information

The public information office provides the public and the media information about, and access to, the services and activities of the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The Public Information Officer (PIO) works in six main areas: media communication, publications, Commissioner's office web site communication, citizen's advocate, agriculture promotion through participation in AgInsights, and promotion of the Colorado Agricultural Outlook Forum and other events.

This year, the PIO wrote and sent out 120 press releases, created and distributed the 70-page Colorado Department of Agriculture *AgriPages* directory, created and distributed a state public information contact list; and compiled the department's monthly employee newsletter and the annual report. The officer compiled and produced a veterinary services newsletter, a Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) program newsletter, the PACFA brochure and the noxious weed management program brochure. The officer is in the process of completing the Ag Commission brochure, the department's general services brochure and media training. The officer created centralized uniform mailing list databases for media, agricultural organizations, CSU Cooperative Extension agents, legislature agriculture committee members, agriculture boards and commissions, that everyone in the department can use. The PIO also compiled the animal emergency database. The PIO created a Commissioner's office web site with sections on the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, Staff, Public Information and Human Resources and hosted a training session on Microsoft Frontpage. The officer created

handouts outlining the department's services, and providing information on Colorado agriculture. The office also answered over 4,000 information calls and requests.

The officer is active on the AgInsights media team and this year the officer produced materials for National Ag Week, assisted in promotion of an agriculture statute; and participated on teams to update the Speaker's Bureau slide show, to host a legislative luncheon and tour, and to build an AgInsights web site. The officer is in charge of public relations and marketing for the Colorado Agricultural Outlook Forum and this year organized and moderated the forum breakout session called *Agriculture and the Internet*. Over 400 people attended the forum.

Human Resources

Human Resources mission is to provide a full range of human resource services to all internal and external customers to insure that the department of agriculture hires and retains quality, satisfied employees.

Human Resources directs and administers the following for the department: recruitment and selection, classification, benefits, leave, retirements, data input into the state employee database, workers' compensation, short term disability, consultation, risk management. Human Resources is committed to effectiveness and efficiency and has developed an employee database, spreadsheets, improved the filing system for employee records, and eliminated or enhanced other daily work processes.

This year, Human Resources recruited for, tested and filled 20 vacant positions. Job classes filled include multiple inspectors, brand inspector, budget analyst, information technology manager, program assistants, and administrative assistants. Vacancies were filled in all divisions of the department. In addition, Human Resources created and filled temporary positions to provide seasonal assistance for brands and fruit and vegetable inspections.

The Human Resources Administrator is actively involved with the department's Colorado Peak Performance (CPP) steering committee and is facilitating the activities to assure the department's successful entry into CPP in July 2000. The department is on track and began pilot testing its performance evaluation document in April.

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.

Market Orders

Market orders are created and can be discontinued only when growers petition the Commissioner of Agriculture. When the majority of producers vote for the creation of the market order, the Commissioner of Agriculture formally creates and oversees it, including approving the market order's budget. The first commodity handler collects market order funds and turns them over to the board. Each commodity has its own board, composed of producers who determine how those funds should be used – on research, promotion and/or education. Market order funds cannot be used for political purposes, including lobbying. Most market order funds are totally or partially refundable, allowing producers to request refunds within 30 days.

Market orders provide greater utilization of commodities and increased profitability for producers. In some cases, market orders provide for commodity inspection and grading in order to assure that only high-quality commodities reach the marketplace. Market orders generally work to solve marketing problems and conduct programs that would be impossible for individual producers to accomplish.

There are eight active market orders in the state for apples, corn for grain, potatoes (2), dry edible beans, sweet corn, milk and wheat, representing 15,000 farms and over \$1 billion in sales.

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

This year, the division created a market order taskforce to evaluate whether or not market orders are fulfilling producers' needs in research, promotion and advertising, education, quality inspection and fair competition.

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. This section also coordinates agricultural access to the State of Colorado offices in Japan and Mexico.

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 one project in Japan, one in the European Union (EU) and one in Mexico. In Japan, the Markets Division manages a food service project; in the EU, an organic products project; and in Mexico, a project to increase the exports of breedstock sales. 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 assists in staffing an International Assistance Office in Montrose.

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 has made most of their publications available 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 with the Colorado Livestock; the centennial farms program which recognizes 100-year-old farms in the state; 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 consumers when select Colorado crops come into season.

As part of AgInsights, the Markets Division developed the Colorado Agricultural Speakers Bureau, which provides speakers on agricultural issues for audiences throughout the state, and an agriculture awareness campaign. Aginsights has also been working with a local sculptor to create statues 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 1999, 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 available grant and loan programs.

Cooperative efforts continue to grow with agencies and associations that have a focus in line with the division's business development program. Partnerships 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 1998-99 period are Mr. Dick Tanner of Yoder, Mr. Dean Davis of Lindon, Mr. Lee Spann of Gunnison, Ms. Linda Ingo of Ridgway, and Mr. Roger Hickert of Akron.

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, as well as Colorado Horse Development Authority horse promotion funds. The division is also the trustee for all surety bonds issued to licensed markets and packinghouses doing business in Colorado.

In 1998-99, 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 Inspection 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. Seventeen classes were given in 1998-99, 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 Section

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. Biological pest control program employees study, import, rear and release beneficial insects to control plant and insect pests. Biological pest control decreases production costs, reduces a portion of the chemicals entering the environment and offers a more permanent pest control solution.

In 1998-1999, the staff of the Biological Pest Control Section made releases of 43 species of beneficial insects that were designed to assist in the suppression of 17 weed species and six insect pests. A total of 174 post-release surveys were conducted which revealed 18 of the natural enemies are now established in Colorado. These activities were conducted throughout the state on private and public land.

Plant and Insect Section

This section provides the following services:

- Inspect plants and plant products intended for export to provide phytosanitary 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 Certification program to assure buyers that organically-grown produce conforms with state standards;
- Administer fruit and vegetable pesticide residue monitoring under contract with USDA;
- Administer request program for certification of weed-free 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 management program activities including distribution of grant money; 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 \$28 million. Inspectors conducted 1,200 inspections of nurseries and greenhouses and issued approximately 1,800 registrations to sellers of nursery stock. An estimated 10,000 stop sale orders were issued on nursery stock.

Chemigation permits issued totaled 3,277 in 1998-99. Approximately 650 inspections of seed dealers were conducted, and an estimated 250 cease and desist orders were issued for labeling violations. The Plant and Insect Section registered approximately 900 seed sellers and custom seed conditioners and certified 172 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 1998-99.

Under the weed-free certification program, a total of 358 field inspections were made on 17,746 acres of forage and mulch crops, mostly hay, for 151 producers.

In the potato late blight quarantine enforcement program, the division inspected 26 loads of seed potatoes transported into the San Luis Valley in the spring of 1999.

Noxious Weed Management

As the second full-year for the department's noxious weed management program, 1998-1999 was a productive year. At the local level, the department worked closely with Custer, Grand, and Cheyenne Counties as well as an eight county region of the upper Arkansas River watershed to develop or enhance the capacity of local weed management programs. In addition, the department helped to organize, coordinate, and lead initial efforts to manage two new noxious weed invaders, yellow starthistle and orange hawkweed, which threaten to spread and become more well-established within the state.

The noxious weed management program also completed a survey required by the Colorado Noxious Weed Act and prepared a report for the Colorado General Assembly which detailed its findings and recommendations regarding state and federal agency performance.

The department also reviewed 42 applications to the Colorado noxious weed management fund that requested a total of \$615,082 in assistance and offered to provide a total match of \$2,929,313.20 (4.76:1 overall matching ratio). After careful review, the department distributed \$225,000 to 22 projects of local, regional, and statewide importance. Collectively, recipients matched the state's dollars with approximately \$1,152,943.60 (5.12:1 matching ratio). Awarded grants ranged from \$800 to \$25,000.

On a broader level, the department launched several new projects that will continue to develop well into the next fiscal year(s). In order to provide additional resources to public weed management professionals as well as many of Colorado's landowners, the department has collaborated with Colorado State Parks to create and distribute a handbook that will help landowners and managers to develop and implement effective noxious weed management plans. The handbook will be completed in the coming fiscal year and distributed statewide to private landowners as well as state and federal land management agencies.

The department's program has also convened and facilitated two statewide planning efforts. While one is presently investigating the need to develop a statewide mapping and weed management information system, the other continues to develop a strategic plan to help focus Colorado's weed management efforts at every level on both public and private lands. The result of the development and implementation of this strategic plan will be a more

coordinated, efficient, and successful weed management effort, which involves numerous public and private partners throughout the state.

Pesticide Section

The Pesticide Section regulates pesticide products, pest control devices, pesticide applicators, and groundwater quality. Pesticide Section services include: ensuring proper labeling, packaging, displaying, 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, 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.

In 1998-99, approximately 11,461 pesticide products were registered in Colorado; approximately 357 applicators were tested for competency. Approximately 719 commercial pesticide application firms were licensed and 125 limited commercial and public applicators were registered. Approximately 2,638 applicators were licensed as qualified supervisors or certified operators. Approximately 37 complaints of misuse of pesticides or other violations of the Pesticide Applicators' and Pesticide Act were investigated; and administrative actions were finalized in approximately 14 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. Presentations to industry, professional organizations and interested groups are ongoing 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 1998-99 the groundwater protection program inspected a total of 16 mixing/loading pads and 40 secondary containment sites; continued an aggressive education program in the South Platte Basin, focusing primarily on crediting nitrogen in irrigation water and nutrient management planning; completed two fact sheets on irrigation management and water quality best management practices (BMP's). The groundwater protection program also finished a study that determined groundwater sensitivity throughout the state and produced an eight-page fact sheet; focused its monitoring efforts on a regional groundwater quality baseline study for the Western Slope of Colorado and continued its long-term monitoring in the South Platte; produced a report on the Ogallala Aquifer based on the previous season's sampling.

Inspection and Consumer Services Division

Ronald Turner, Director

The Inspection and Consumer Services Division 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.

The facility operations program oversees two state-owned buildings and two leased properties for fruit and vegetable Inspection. The facility operations program has one goal in mind - to make sure that the buildings maintain a safe and secure environment 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 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.

The feed program registers and selectively samples commercial animal feeds throughout the state. In 1998-99, 880 companies registered over 16,000 products. Program employees collected 3,900 samples of feed products. Inspection (tonnage) fees were collected on 1,745,676 tons of feed. Under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), 18 medicated feed mills were also inspected. Under the current cooperative agreement with the USFDA, inspections are also being conducted to ensure compliance with the "BSE-Rule." The "BSE-Rule" bans the feeding of certain mammalian proteins to ruminant animals.

The feed law has been revised through a cooperative effort of the department and the feed industry. The changes have been passed by the General Assembly. The new law will eliminate the requirement that individual products be registered, replacing it with a company registration. This change will lessen the regulatory burden on the feed industry and still maintain sufficient regulatory oversight to protect Colorado consumers.

The egg program assures compliance pertaining to quality and labeling standards for eggs at the retail and wholesale level. In 1998-99, 2,350 retail licenses and 90 wholesale licenses were issued. At these licensed locations, eggs are inspected for food safety and quality. The department continues to work with the industry to improve the quality of eggs on the market. An egg quality assurance program is currently being studied by the department and the egg industry .

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 1998-99, the department registered 306 companies and 2,634 products. The fertilizer program also inspects 4,500 anhydrous ammonia tanks and assists in safety training in the use of this potentially dangerous product.

The meat inspection program licensed 82 custom meat processors and 12 food plan operations. This program also inspects 101 meat processors to protect the public from unsanitary or fraudulent practices in meat processing and in bulk meat sales. This year, the program adopted new rules to further protect the public from door-to-door meat vendors who may employ unethical sales practices.

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 1,400 firms and holds surety bonds in excess of \$105,000,000. The section coordinates with the USDA Farm Service Agency and Commodity Credit Corporation to assure that Colorado grain producers can participate in the government grain loan programs.

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, 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.

The Farm Products Section created a grain storage taskforce to prevent, prepare for and address grain and livestock problems in Colorado. They have discussed grain storage problems, genetically modified corn regulations, loan deficiency payment program guidelines and the loan environment for grain and livestock producers. Representatives from the Colorado Agricultural Commission, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, the Colorado Cooperative Council, the Colorado Corn Administrative Committee, the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee, the Colorado Grain and Feed Association, the Colorado Livestock Association, the Colorado Farm Bureau, the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Independent Bankers of Colorado and USDA Farm Service Agency are on the taskforce.

Laboratory Services Section

The Laboratory Services Section analyzes animal feeds and fertilizer samples to ensure they conform to the manufacturers' label claims for nutrients, medications and other ingredients. The laboratory also analyzes pesticide concentrates to check for compliance with the manufacturers' label claims. The laboratory participates in a cooperative grant program with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to analyze pesticide residue samples. Department inspectors collect these samples as part of investigations into cases of possible pesticide misuse or misapplication of pesticide products by commercially licensed applicators. The laboratory has a microbiology section, which can examine food destined for human consumption for contamination by harmful bacteria, in addition to checking animal feeds for antibiotics.

Our groundwater testing section continues to work in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Colorado State University to analyze groundwater samples from around the state. These samples are analyzed for pesticide and nitrate contamination. The lab analyzed 186 water samples, for a total of 4300 different constituents, from July, 1998 through May, 1999.

By the conclusion of the fiscal year, the entire laboratory will have performed a total of approximately 20,000 different analyses on some 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 test packages for truth in labeling and the accuracy of measuring devices used commercially. More than 28,000 small weighing devices were tested in 1998-99, and of those, 11.0% were out of compliance. Multiple inspectors also performed 38,111 price verifications, errors up to 50% were not unusual. Inspectors examined 55,000 packages for short measure and found 18.5% to be in error. Inspectors assessed \$50,664.00 in fines.

The section's large scale testing units tested and inspected 3,789 scales (a 30% increase over last year), while rejecting 45.5% of the scales tested.

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. Inspection certificates are issued by the state to certify grade and condition of the product at the time of inspection.

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.

In 1998-99, the section inspected an estimated 21,200,000-hundredweight (cwt.) of potatoes, resulting in the issuance of approximately 31,000 certificates on commodities under mandatory inspection. Other fruits and vegetables inspected totaled 315,000 cwt. resulting in 270 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, rodent control and pet care. The division has 19 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.

The division assisted the Colorado Livestock Association in the development of a beef quality assurance program to assist producers in providing a safe and excellent product to all customers. Good management practices including handling of feed, correct animal medication procedures, record keeping, sanitation of facilities and more have been developed for distribution. Following producer education and certification, an audit process is being developed to check the certified facilities. Division personnel secured federal funds to assist with the program development and provided assistance in developing educational seminars. They continue to provide input on the audit team.

This year, the section, with the industry, took strong preventative measures to protect Colorado's domesticated deer and elk populations from chronic wasting disease, a nervous system disease causing holes in the brain. The Colorado Department of Agriculture passed rules in April requiring all domesticated deer and elk producers to submit samples from any sick or dying deer or elk to Colorado State University for lab analysis to determine if that animal tests positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). To date, there have been no positive cases.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife found chronic wasting disease in approximately five percent of free-roaming deer and less than one percent in free-roaming elk in two small geographic areas in Northcentral Colorado. The agriculture department examines all resident domesticated herd inventories, making sure that free-roaming deer or

elk are not incorporated. All deer and elk with CWD in other states have been quarantined and cannot be transported into Colorado. All resident and imported domesticated deer and elk are tattooed, tested for other diseases, then tagged with an official USDA tag. Again, any animal testing positive is not allowed in the state. The department also requires all domesticated deer and elk to have health certificates and entry permits to track their movement.

July 10th, Colorado Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian Dr. Jerry Bohlender participated on a panel at Colorado State University to provide information to CSU Cooperative Extension agents, Division of Wildlife employees and others on chronic wasting disease. Other members of the panel included Division of Wildlife Veterinarian Mike Miller, CSU Pathologist Dan Gould and CSU Specialist in Food and Nutrition Melissa Bardsley. From Wyoming, University of Wyoming Extension Specialist Suzanne Pelican and Veterinarian Dr. Beth Williams were on the panel.

In May, the Colorado Department of Agriculture conducted a training session for accredited veterinarians on collecting samples for chronic wasting disease testing. The department has been working with USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and other veterinarians to plan a series of educational presentations for domesticated elk and deer veterinarians on chronic wasting disease.

Last October, the Colorado Department of Agriculture formed the Interstate Forum on CWD, made up of livestock, wildlife and veterinary officials from Colorado and Wyoming in order to proactively diagnose, control, prevent the spread of and hopefully eradicate the disease. Forum members include representatives from: USDA Veterinary Services, Colorado State University, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Game & Fish, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Cattlefeeders Association, Colorado Wool Growers Association, United Sportsmen's Council, Colorado Elk and Game Breeders Association, Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

The section formed a livestock emergency preparedness team to develop standard operating procedures in the event of a livestock emergency. The team includes representatives from the Department of Clinical Sciences at Colorado State University; epidemiology at Colorado State University; United States Department of Agriculture; Large Animal Commission for the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association; and the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The emergency preparedness program will be integrated into the Colorado State Emergency Plan. The section also created a livestock emergency contact database and plans to put that database on the web.

The health regulation changes in the Alternative Livestock Act are now in effect. These amendments, written in cooperation with the alternative livestock industry, allow the importation of domesticated elk or fallow deer into Colorado only from herds with known tuberculosis status. They also change the per head assessment fee to allocate money to an indemnity fund to partially reimburse elk or fallow deer owners if their animals have to be destroyed due to disease.

The scrapie rules are also now in effect, to prevent breeding sheep from scrapie-infected flocks from coming into Colorado. These rules, written in cooperation with The Colorado Wool Growers Association and the Colorado Sheep and Wool Authority, require the owner to certify, on the animals' health certificates that the sheep have not come from a scrapie-infected flock. Health certificates are checked at all public livestock sales. These are the strictest rules to date in the U.S. and several states have expressed interest in modeling their rules after these.

This year, the department is pleased to announce that after five years of record-keeping and individual animal tracking, the Gredig family's flock of sheep in Basalt, Colorado has been certified under the USDA national voluntary scrapie flock certification program. The Gredig's flock joins just 17 other certified flocks in the nation.

Colorado has been a brucellosis-free state since January of 1995 and a pseudorabies-free state since April of 1996. 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.

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 1998-1999, the 111 commissioned officers working in the Bureau of Animal Protection investigated approximately 324 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 1998-99, the RMRAHL performed approximately 205,000 tests for various livestock diseases. These tests assist in disease surveillance, animal health programs, and the qualification of livestock for intrastate, interstate, and international movement. Laboratory personnel also train livestock market veterinarians in test procedures and provide confirmatory tests.

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

In addition, to better serve its customers, RMRAHL has recently expanded its *mycobacterium paratuberculosis* (Johne's Disease) testing capabilities. Newly added Johne's assays are: serum/milk enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID), complement-fixation (CF), culture, and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Also, three serological tests for vesicular stomatitis virus (Indiana and New Jersey strains) were added.

Rodent/Predator Control Section

According to the latest Colorado Agricultural Statistics *Vertebrate Rodent Infestation Survey*, 5.7 million acres of Colorado farm and ranch land 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.

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, space and enclosure requirements; nutrition, humane care, medical treatment; and methods of operation and record keeping. PACFA is funded by license fees. In 1998-99, Pet Care Facilities staff completed over 1,300 inspections, issued 1,170 licenses and denied five licenses. They also issued several cease and desist orders and levied several fines and penalties.

Colorado State Fair

Ed Kruse, Manager

Increases in attendance, concert ticket sales, carnival rides, concession income, and commercial booth space all helped to make the 126th annual Colorado State Fair a great success. The fair's annual livestock auction, benefiting 4-H and FFA youth, set a record by grossing over \$250,000 to help with education costs for these most deserving future agriculture industry leaders.

To further enhance the educational youth activities at the fair, organizers have rearranged the youth livestock show schedule. This new schedule makes exhibiting at the fair easier and minimizes conflicts with school activities. With all of the market animal exhibits and the 4-H horse show on the grounds, there will be a strong opening weekend and a great youth event.

The 1999 Colorado State Fair will run from August 21st - September 6th with a top-draw concert series in the events center, eight rodeo performances in the grandstand, monster truck shows, horse shows, livestock shows, the junior livestock sale and the annual Fiesta Day celebration.

Summer events at the fair include horse shows, the Avion Travelcade, monster truck shows, the Rocky Mountain Street Rod Nationals, and WCW Wrestling! The event center also hosts annual graduation ceremonies for the Pueblo area Community College, University and Public School District.