

Kansas State Agricultural College

EXPERIMENT STATION

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Historical Document
Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station

Suppressing Hog-Cholera

Hog-cholera has been unusually prevalent and fatal in Kansas this year. The loss to the farmers from this source this year will probably exceed a million dollars. The Kansas State Agricultural College is procuring anti-hog-cholera serum according to the government method, and is now ready to distribute it to the farmers of the State as fast as produced. The protective power of this serum has been thoroughly tested by the veterinarians of the College and an officer of the United States Department of Agriculture.

With the present facilities the College will be able to produce 100,000 doses of serum during the year, if this amount is required to hold this disease in check. A larger output will be possible if the demands from the farmers indicate the necessity of it.

By the use of this serum an outbreak of cholera may be almost immediately checked and practically all hogs in a herd not affected saved and the spread of the disease to neighboring herds and communities prevented.

If the farmers will avail themselves of this opportunity and use the serum, this disease ought to be brought quickly within control and the stupendous loss already referred to prevented.

The Veterinary Department of the College is now issuing a copiously illustrated bulletin dealing with the entire subject of hog-cholera and pointing out how it may be prevented and its spread checked.

To produce this 100,000 doses of serum at the College, it is necessary to kill with cholera in the College pens more than a thousand hogs. These healthy hogs are purchased and given the disease especially for the purpose. To prepare a hog to furnish this serum requires that the blood of five of these hogs very seriously ill with cholera be injected into his system. Moreover, the labor required to produce the serum of high protective power and free from other diseases requires the closest supervision and the employment of the most exact scientific methods. Two experts of the Veterinary Department of the College give their entire time to this work, besides the services of several high-priced laborers, all under the direction of Doctor Schoenleber, head of the Veterinary Department.

HOW TO SECURE THE SERUM.

There are two uses to which this serum may be put: First, to stop the disease in a herd that is already infected; second, to render a healthy herd immune, which is advisable when the cholera is in the immediate vicinity and when there is danger of it becoming infected.

In the case of an outbreak of cholera, the owner of the herd should immediately report the fact to the State Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner, Hon. J. H. Mercer, Topeka. He will immediately cause an investigation to be made, by a competent veterinarian, and in case cholera is found will proceed at once to isolate and vaccinate those not yet affected with the disease and disinfect the premises, the College supplying the serum.

In case a farmer desires to have his hogs vaccinated before the disease appears and with a view to preventing the disease, he should apply to Dr. F. S. Schoenleber, at the Agricultural College, Manhattan, for the serum and for instructions as to the method of its application. In this case the germs of cholera itself are introduced into the hogs at the same time that the serum is injected. By this means the hogs are made immune for life. If serum alone were introduced, the immunity would last only a few weeks. The College supplies both this serum and the blood containing the cholera germs, and to make this double injection the services of a competent veterinarian are required.

The College has no funds with which to do this work, except those appropriated to other purposes, and must therefore charge for this serum the actual cost of production, which, for the present time, in the absence of extended experience, is put at one and one-half cents per cubic centimeter. The dose for an average-sized hog is about twenty cubic centimeters, or ten teaspoonfuls; that for a small pig, about ten cubic centimeters.

Any farmer interested in this matter may secure a copy of the bulletin on this subject, giving full details for the production of the serum, its value and its use, and suggestions in regard to the prevention of spread of the disease, upon request to the College. Or any further information in regard to this serum will be furnished upon application to the Veterinary Department of the College.

During the State Farmers Institute at Manhattan, December 27 to January 1, Doctor Schoenleber will make a demonstration of the use of this serum to the thousand or more farmers who will attend this convention at the College. The following week the Kansas State Veterinary Medical Association meets in Manhattan, and a more detailed demonstration of its application and value will be made. Doctor Schoenleber will explain its value and use at the State Improved Live Stock Breeders Association, which meets in connection with the State Board of Agriculture at Topeka early in January.

Approved:

E. D. H. WEBSTER,
Director.

MANHATTAN, KAN., Dec. 20, 1909.

F. S. SCHOENLEBER,
Veterinarian.