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MS 167

Searl, Richard (1919-1989)

Descriptive summary

creator: Searl, Richard (1919-1989)
title: Papers
extent: 0.84 linear feet (2 document boxes)
collection number: MS 167
repository: Special Collections Department, Iowa State University.

Administrative information

access: Open for research
publication rights: Consult Head, Special Collections Department
preferred citation: Richard Searl Papers, MS 167, Special Collections Department, Iowa State University Library.
Biographical note

The first outbreak of hog cholera was officially recorded in Ohio in 1833, though there were reports of its existence in Indiana in 1830. From that time until the declaration on January 31, 1978 that the U.S. was hog cholera-free, many millions of dollars were lost in the hog industry due to the disease. As early as 1880, losses were estimated at $10 to $25 million annually. Even with vaccination, hog cholera outbreaks persisted, and in 1956, principles for eradication were set out by the U.S. Livestock Sanitary Commission. The following year, Livestock Conservation, Inc. appointed a steering committee to develop plans for industry participation in the eradication effort. Federal funding for a cooperative federal-state program began in 1963. In 1964, goals set by Livestock Conservation, Inc., and endorsed by other groups called for an elimination of outbreaks by 1969, and a cholera-free nation by 1972. Unfortunately, though much progress had been made by 1972, a large outbreak beginning in the southeast resulted in the declaration of a national emergency. Outbreaks continued with decreasing frequency, and the last case was reported August 1, 1976.

In the course of the fight against the hog cholera virus, controversy developed over the use of modified live virus vaccines and killed vaccines (Crystal Violet). Many attributed hog cholera outbreaks to the use of these vaccines and a ban on their use was put into effect in 1969. Much of the material in this collection relates to this controversy.

Richard Searl spent thirteen years as a practicing veterinarian in southwest Iowa and later became a veterinary consultant for Fort Dodge Laboratories. He served on the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association's Hog Cholera Eradication Committee as well as the Iowa Hog Cholera Eradication Committee. In the course of the fight against the hog cholera virus, controversy developed over the use of modified live virus vaccines and killed vaccines. Many attributed hog cholera outbreaks to the use of these vaccines and a ban on their use was put into effect in 1969.

Collection Description

The materials in this collection resulted from Searl's involvement with the fight against hog cholera (especially the controversy over vaccines) and include Congressional testimony, correspondence, memoranda, publications, and reports. Correspondents include W. J. Mendenhall, Keith Myers, and D. A. Peterson.

The collection contains the following series: Congressional Testimony, Committees, Correspondence, Meetings, News Clippings, Notes, Presentations, Procedures, Publications, Reports, and Statistics.
SEE ALSO:

The Department of Special Collections holds a number of collections with materials relating to hog cholera. These are listed below. There are also pamphlets, cataloged in the Rare Book Collection, which can be located using the subject heading, "Hog Cholera." An especially useful book, *Hog Cholera and its Eradication: a Review of the U.S. Experience* can be found in both the Rare Book Collection and the General Collection, call number SF973.H63x.
## Container list: Congressional Testimony

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Testimony regarding hog cholera eradication, hog cholera vaccines, and indemnity programs</td>
<td>1970, n.d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Container list: Committees

1. **Box 1 Folder 2** Midwest Veterinary Practitioners Hog Cholera Eradication Committee. File includes a news release, reports, and minutes of the first meeting. 1967, n.d.
2. **Box 1 Folder 3** National Hog Cholera Committee of Livestock Conservation, Inc. Includes minutes and reports of meetings. 1960-1969
3. **Box 1 Folder 4** National Hog Cholera Committee of Livestock Conservation, Inc. Proceedings. 1965, 1967
4. **Box 1 Folder 5** National Hog Cholera Committee of Livestock Conservation, Inc. Progress Reports 1965, 1967
5. **Box 1 Folder 6** USDA National Hog Cholera Eradication Committee. News release and reports 1963-1969

## Container list: Correspondence

1. **Box 1 Folder 7** American Veterinary Medical Association 1968-1969
2. **Box 1 Folder 8** Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association 1969
3. **Box 1 Folder 9** Indiana Veterinary Medical Association 1969
4. **Box 1 Folder 10** Iowa Veterinary Medical Association 1967-1969
5. **Box 1 Folder 11** Nebraska Hog Cholera Eradication Program. 1967-1968, n.d.
**Container list: Meetings**

1 14 Summary of a workshop on hog cholera vaccines held in Sioux City, Iowa. Ca. 1965

1 15 Notes taken at U.S. Animal Health Association Hog Cholera Committee meeting held in Columbus, Ohio. June 13, 1969.

**Container list: News clippings**


1 17 News clippings regarding hog cholera 1967

1 18 News clippings regarding hog cholera 1968-1978

1 19 News clippings regarding hog cholera n.d.

**Container list: Notes**

1 20 Notes on cost of the Hog Cholera Eradication Program. n.d.

1 21 Notes on hog cholera eradication report published in the National Hog Farmer. 1968

1 22 Notes on hog cholera outbreaks and relationships to vaccine use. ca. 1969, n.d.


**Container list: Presentations**


2 1 Stiles, George C. "Transportation," regarding movement of livestock 1969

2 2 Yeager, Charles. Presentation made by hog producer at a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin. After cholera was discovered in some of his livestock, 5,681 of Yeager's feeder pigs were killed under Phase III of the Hog Cholera Eradication Program 1969
Container list: Procedures

2  3 "Depopulation Procedures." n.d.
2  4 "Guidelines for Voluntary Supervised Swine Herds." 1969. These guidelines were designed to limit the spread of hog cholera.

Container list: Publications

2  7 Iowa Department of Agriculture. *Hog Cholera Eradication Program Summaries.* 1966.

Container list: Reports


Container list: Statistics

2  17 Statistics regarding hog cholera eradication in Georgia 1964-1968
2  18 Statistics 1964-1969