Louisiana is blessed with perhaps the world's finest soil... a rich, loamy alluvial soil that will grow almost every crop that can be produced in the Western Hemisphere.

Furthermore, the state has a climate that is perpetually mild, and this feature, together with abundant yearly rainfall, gives Louisiana a distinct advantage from the standpoint of agricultural activities.

The nation looks to Louisiana for a large portion of its cotton, corn, strawberries, soybeans, peppers, pecans, cucumbers and other vegetables.

It is the nation's largest producer of sugar cane, rice, sweet potatoes and shallots (green onions).

Louisiana's fruit and nut crops range from citrus fruits, to pears, plums, peaches, figs and many delicious wild fruits which are also gathered in commercial quantities.

Among the state's agricultural specialties are perique tobacco, of which Louisiana is the world's only supplier, Easter lily bulbs, tung nuts, anduffer, off which valuable industrial oils are extracted.

The Department stands ready to assist and cooperate in any endeavor which has as its purpose the further advancement and development of agriculture. We invite suggestions that will make the functions of the Department, and its various divisions, boards and commissions, more effective and efficient.

DAVE L. PEABODY
Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Immigration

The Anhydrous Ammonia Commission works constantly with industry and agriculture to develop and enforce safe methods of storing and handling this source of agricultural nitrogen.

Experimental ammonia applicator being field tested.
WEEKLY MARKET BULLETIN

The Weekly Market Bulletin continues to increase in popularity, not only with the citizens of Louisiana, but many in neighboring states. The mailing list for the Bulletin numbered approximately 162,000 two years ago; at the present time approximately 107,000 copies are being mailed weekly. Names are added to the mailing list only on request, and the mailing list is revised daily.

The number of advertisements we receive for the Bulletin from all sections of the state has increased and is continuing to increase from month to month. The Bulletin assists many Louisianians to sell thousands of dollars worth of farm products annually. Offerings for sale listed only for Louisiana patrons, but we carry "want" advertisements from all states which assist Louisiana farmers in selling their products.

The Market Bulletin room from which over 100,000 copies of the Bulletin are mailed out weekly.

ACCOUNTING AND PERSONNEL DIVISION

It is the duty of the Accounting and Personnel Division to see that all appropriations and funds of the Department are expended correctly and that adequate records are maintained on expenditures, collection of revenues, payrolls and other Civil Service personnel actions and purchasing of supplies and equipment.

Staff of Accounting Division.
AGRICULTURE CHEMISTRY

The Division of Agricultural Chemistry is responsible for maintaining the quality of fertilizers, feeds, and insecticides sold in Louisiana.

These commodities are of basic importance in agriculture. Adulteration or misrepresentation could cause serious loss to the farmer. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine quality of such materials without chemical analysis. The division's inspectors make continuous checks on all retail and wholesale outlets in the state. Samples of each kind of feed, fertilizer, and insecticide sold in the state are chemically analyzed to insure that there is no adulteration or deception.

Analyzing Insecticides.

DIVISION OF ENTOMOLOGY

The Division of Entomology is constantly on the alert for the protection and conservation of Louisiana's agricultural and horticultural plants and plant products from the ravages and damage of major plant pests. The duties of this Division are varied and are mandatory by legislative acts, the purpose of which are: (1) To prevent the introduction into and spread within Louisiana of injurious plant pests; (2) To eradicate such pests when found within Louisiana; (3) To keep the channels of commerce open to agricultural and horticultural plants and plant products from Louisiana; (4) To provide better seed stock by making available a seed and plant certification program; (5) To prevent fraud in professional horticultural, floricultural, landscape, entomological, pathological and tree surgery work; (6) To prevent fraud in professional pest control.

Spraying sweet potato kiln and empty crates with DDT to control sweet potato weevils.
One of the most bounteous returns on the Louisiana taxpayers' dollars has been provided by the many Agricultural Fairs and Festivals.

By fostering the spirit of competition, each farmer has tried to outdo his neighbor and so has advanced tremendously the state's agriculture in the last few years.

The Department of Agriculture serves to coordinate the Fairs which are intended to improve the quality of livestock, sugar cane, yams, rice, shrimp, dairy and other products of our soil.

Considerable out-of-state interest has been focused upon Louisiana through the colorful pageantry of the Festivals.

The progress of our youth, particularly in the 4-H and FFA Clubs, has been stimulated, and our youngsters are taking more and more prizes in out-of-state contests each year.

Commissioner Dave L. Pearce inspects prize winning exhibits at one of Louisiana's many fairs.

The Board maintains a livestock diagnostic laboratory in Baton Rouge, with branch laboratories in Ruston and Natchitoches, to assist in the diagnosis of the many diseases.

One of the most important programs of the Board is the brucellosis eradication program under which the State and Federal Governments pay the practicing veterinarians on a per head basis to do brucellosis testing and vaccination, and cattle owners are indemnified for all reactors slaughtered under the provisions of the program.

Other disease control programs carried out by the Livestock Sanitary Board, include the auction barn program under which practicing veterinarians enforce necessary health requirements; the poultry improvement program for the control of poultry diseases; the swine garbage feeding program to prevent swine cholera; and hog cholera; the sheep scab program under which all sheep in the State are dipped annually to prevent sheep scabies; and the tuberculosis eradication program.
THE LIVESTOCK BRAND COMMISSION

This commission is the protective agency of the livestock industry of the state. A state wide recording system in which brands are recorded has been set up and these brands are published in the official state brand book. These records are used in the conviction of livestock thieves and in the determination of ownership of estrayed animals.

Checking brand on livestock going through one of the Auction Sales of Louisiana.

LIVESTOCK LOAN PROGRAM

The Livestock Loan Program is designed to provide financial assistance to Future Farmers of America and 4-H Club members for the purpose of carrying out livestock and poultry production projects. The Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized by law to underwrite or guarantee, the repayment of 25% of any insured loan due within four years after date and made by any recognized lending institution.

With a total of 20,600 FFA and 4-H members in Louisiana, there is an increasing demand from these farm youths for financing of livestock projects. With the cooperation of local banks many of these farm youths are now engaged in successful projects, aided by advice of vocational agriculture teachers, extension personnel, and district supervisors of the Agriculture Department.

Commissioner Pearce admires a lop calf. Thousands of animals like this are being raised by farm youths in the state as a result of the Junior Livestock Loan Program.

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THE MARKET COMMISSION

This commission is in charge of assembling and releasing farm market news and other information in order that producers, shippers, and consumers may keep informed on quantities of farm products available as well as their market value.

The commission is also responsible for conducting an extensive inspection service on fresh produce and dairy and poultry products. Other activities of this division of the Department of Agriculture include services in the proper packaging and displaying of our farm products and assistance to farmers and shippers in locating markets for farm products.

Department Representatives check quality of many products offered for sale in the State.

MILK TESTING DIVISION

The Division of Milk Testing provides services for a rapidly expanding dairy industry by the regulation of the purchase of milk by milk plants from producers on a butterfat and weight basis; by regulating the classification of milk and payment to producers for milk on a utilization basis; by keeping posted and current suitable security, such as surety bonds, to assure producers of payment for milk should a plant be unable to pay; and by other service projects carried on in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Department Employees drawing milk sample in order to determine butterfat content.
SEED COMMISSION

The Seed Commission is in charge of the enforcement of the Louisiana State Seed Law. It does service seed testing for farmers and seedsmen in Louisiana, official seed testing for law enforcement purposes, and the testing of seed samples for seed certification.

1. Examining seeds for purity, which includes kind, variety, inert matter, weeds, and moisture content.
2. Testing seeds according to the prescribed official proceedings for germination percentage and hard seed percentage.

STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM

The Louisiana State Exhibit Museum is located at Shreveport and has the distinction of being the outstanding museum of its kind in America. Located at the Museum are artistic scenes depicting the various natural resources of the State. The public is invited to visit these exhibits which are open to inspection at all times.
SWEET POTATO ADVERTISING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Louisiana Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission was created to expand the market and increase the consumption of sweet potatoes by acquainting the general public with the health-giving qualities, and the food value of the sweet potatoes grown in Louisiana.

The Commission operates as a division of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, with the Commissioner of Agriculture as an ex-officio member.

Commissioner Pearce joins in the annual fall festival of "The Yambilee"—Louisiana Sweet Potato Festival.

WAREHOUSE COMMISSION

Rice, the second largest agricultural crop in Louisiana, is stored in bonded warehouses licensed and supervised by the Louisiana State Warehouse Commission. Value of rice stored during the 1954-1955 season was $113,380,046.00. Cotton and other agricultural products are also stored under the Commission's supervision with the total value of all commodities stored being $217,774,714.00 last year. Negotiable warehouse receipts issued to farmers and mills by bonded warehousemen are used as collateral on bank loans, making it possible for them to finance their business in an advantageous and orderly manner.

Rice stored in a state regulated farmers' warehouse.

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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Division of Weights and Measures is one of the newer divisions in the Department of Agriculture and Immigration. The tremendous increase in the cost of commodities sold over scales and in pre-packaged containers in stores, plus all other heavy duty scales throughout the state such as those at livestock auction barns, sugar mills, rice mills and dryers, compresses and cotton gins, and scales used by industries and manufacturers has resulted in both the buying and selling public becoming more interested in accurate quantity determinations.

The advent of the self-service grocery and super food stores has brought about a situation in which about 85% of all commodities are sold pre-packaged. This in itself has been a problem since our inspectors, besides testing and inspecting scales as to their accuracy checked over 131,000 pieces of packaged goods in 1953.

Confiscated scales being held for legal evidence.

IMMIGRATION DIVISION

COTTON CLASSING

Immigration Division is the department of the state government which supplies information to individuals desiring to become American citizens. This Department issues free of charge a bulletin entitled Guide for Aliens Desiring American Citizenship. The Department further answers thousands of letters annually which request general information on the State and provides samples of common Louisiana products.

For several years the Federal Government has operated a free cotton classing service and the State Department of Agriculture has cooperated to make this service more readily available to Louisiana producers. Offices rendering this service are located at Alexandria and Winnsboro at this time.