

business, that our incomes are very much correlated with the income of the farmers and ranchers. We wonder what will happen to our incomes in the next year, two years, three years? I know it makes a difference to AABP's planning when we think about veterinarians maybe having reduced incomes. But more important, this morning with this distinguished group of speakers to appear before you, I think we should be asking them and hoping they will give us some answers as to the future needs of practicing veterinarians. I'd like to be optimistic, but I think we'd better be realistic and face the facts—are we go-

ing to have as many cattle in the future and as many cattle owners? Are we going to need as many bovine practitioners? And what will be our role? Probably more important, if someone can tell us, are there more services that a veterinarian is qualified to render the cattle industry than he is now servicing? How can we extend our image and make our role more important to the cattle industry and the whole food and energy crisis? So, I look forward to seeing these speakers and hearing them, and I'll certainly be visiting many of you later in the session.

Thank you.

## Welcome to Ohio!

### Mr. Gene Abercrombie, Director Ohio Department of Agriculture

Thank you very much, Vern, Dr. Cropsey, and all you wonderful people who represent the AABP.

As I told Vern out in the hall, noting the list printed in your program I have the privilege of welcoming many fine groups to Ohio, but this is the first time I ever greeted a group twenty minutes before the program started! It's a real pleasure to be with you for a few minutes this morning, and my, what a wonderful program you have! I envy you. The gentleman who will follow me is, in my opinion, one of the finest speakers I've ever been privileged to hear. I've enjoyed working with him so much over the years and you're going to enjoy him, too. He is followed by Dr. Jacobson and other of our good, fine Ohio people. The Congressman from Missouri will fire you up, and then, Dr. Harry Goldstein of whom we're very, very proud. I'm privileged to work with Harry every day. He's our state veterinarian, has received the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Award as the Outstanding Regulatory Official of the U.S., and has also received the Distinguished Service Award from USDA. We're real proud of our state veterinarian as we are of being the home of your president-elect, Dr. Vern Tharp. Vern and I have a

little bit in common in that we came from down in the hills of Perry County about two or three counties south and east of here, and neither one of us realized how poor we were until we got away from down there and heard about it! We're very proud of Ohio. You know, we are one of the most populous states in this great country of ours - number five. We have about 11 million people. We have four cities of 100,000—more than any state of the Union. We're a very wealthy state—the fifth wealthiest. We send the fifth most dollars to Washington, and we're dead last in what we get back! We have a highway system in Ohio so complicated that at no town in our counties can you be more than 19 miles from a county seat. We rank very high industrially—second or third in the nation, and, yet, I'm sure Dean Kogman will tell you the same thing, we're very proud that agriculture is still the No. 1 industry in Ohio. By USDA definition we have about 117,000 farms. I think that, practically, this is a little high. It should be more like 111-112,000.

By 1973 income from farming itself, and, unless the Dean changes my figures, is 2.32 billion dollars. We are not the highest state in the Union, but we're one of the highest. We rank in the top 10 in 13 of the major agricultural commodities. We are very proud of our agriculture in Ohio, and certainly we are very proud of the large animal veterinarians that service our farmers in Ohio. I don't know what we would do without them. I was a professional farm manager before joining the Governor and his cabinet and I know the problems that we had in certain areas finding people like yourselves. Lord knows, we need more of you, and I'm so happy to see you all together. I hope you have a wonderful, wonderful convention.

**We can't offer you the sunshine of Florida or sunny California, but we can certainly offer you a world of Buckeye hospitality. I wish you a very pleasant and informative convention, and please leave some good information here. We can always use a little more in Ohio.**

**Welcome. Thank you so much for having me.**



*Southern Ohio Farm Community. (Photo by Ed Young)*