



OFFICES OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

February 13, 1973

JOHN C. DANFORTH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OPINION LETTER NO. 82

Mr. James B. Boillot
Commissioner of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Post Office Box 630
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Mr. Boillot:

This is in response to your request for a legal opinion as to the authority of the Commissioner of Agriculture to reorganize the internal structure of the Department of Agriculture in a manner which in the judgment of the Commission would enable the Department of Agriculture to better perform its statutory duties. It is our understanding that this reorganization does not purport to be a delegation of the Commissioner's statutory duties to "assistants" or "deputies," but rather a reorganization of the staff of the Missouri Department of Agriculture which operates under the Commissioner's direction and control.

The legislature has placed the Commissioner in charge of the Department of Agriculture. Section 261.010, RSMo 1969. The Commissioner has been authorized to appoint all employees necessary at salaries fixed by law for the administration of all laws under his charge as a consolidated department conducted on an economical business basis. Section 261.040, RSMo 1969. This grant of power is sufficient to enable the Commissioner to organize the Department of Agriculture in the manner he feels would best enable the Department to carry out the duties imposed upon it by law.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Danforth".

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General