New Assistant Directors

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

In September, the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. H. D. Evans, announced the appointment of two new Assistant Directors in the Department of Agriculture.

They are Mr. T. E. McDowell and Mr. J. Craig, replacing Mr. S. T. Smith, who was recently appointed Deputy Director, and Mr. G. H. Burvill, who retired.

Both officers will assist with professional administration of the Department. Mr. McDowell, formerly Chief of the Wheat and Sheep Division, will be mainly concerned with advisory services, training, co-ordination of research and extension, and liaison with other organisations.

Mr. Craig, who was Assistant Chief of the Animal Division, brings an extensive knowledge of the State’s animal industries to the Department’s central administration. He will be largely concerned with general policy investigations and aspects of legislation and regulation.

Mr. McDowell joined the Department in 1949, after graduating in agricultural science from the University of Western Australia. He spent several years at the Wongan Hills and Esperance Research Stations, where he was closely involved in light land development research. For the next 12 years he was an agricultural adviser in the Katanning and Narrogin districts, becoming well known to farmers throughout the Great Southern.

In 1964 he was selected for an agricultural extension Diploma course at Queensland University, and on his return to Western Australia was appointed co-ordinator of the Wheat and Sheep Division’s advisory services. Later he was appointed Assistant Chief of the Division, and has been Chief since September, 1969.

Mr. Craig graduated as a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons from Glasgow Veterinary College in 1943 and for the following three years served in the Middle East and Italy with the British Army, rising to the rank of major in the Veterinary Corps. He joined the Department of Agriculture in 1947 and became one of the Department’s best-known veterinary officers.

He has taken an important part in campaigns to eradicate tuberculosis in cattle and footrot in sheep and has also been concerned with work on pesticide residue problems. He has supervised the Department’s field veterinary services for some years.