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APPENDIX IV

Graduates in Rural and Urban Veterinary Schools

Peaks and valleys developed in veterinary school enrollment and graduation numbers in rural and urban schools. At Penn in Philadelphia, the decline in enrollment and graduation numbers was striking during World War I. Vacillations in the economy and war were having much the same impact as they had in the colleges in rural Iowa, Ohio, and Kansas.

The first enrollment decline in the 1890s was tied to an unprecedented decline in horse values; it was more severe in Iowa and led to discussions of closing the school. Because of the “panic of the ’90s,” no veterinary student graduated in 1896. The depression in 1912–1913 was thought by C. H. Stange to be due to increased requirements for admission, but it was more likely associated with the transient recession in 1910–1911. The small peak in 1918 was caused by the closing of several private veterinary schools during and after World War I, and the valley in 1920–1926 was due to the aftermath of the war and the resulting agricultural depression. (See graph that follows.)
Number of veterinary school graduates from rural Iowa and urban Pennsylvania from 1880 to 1941.

Numbers declined in three periods: the 1890s, 1914–1916, and the 1920s.