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ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF STATE FARMS USSR

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

The People's Commissariat of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms USSR (Narkomat Sovkhozov SSSR) was separated from the People's Commissariat of Agriculture USSR on 1 October 1932, and established as an all-union people's commissariat. This commissariat was reorganized as a union-republic people's commissariat by the Stalin Constitution in 1936. (1) On 15 March 1946, all people's commissariats became ministries, and the People's Commissariat of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms USSR became the Ministry of State Farms USSR, retaining its union-republic status.

The most recent complete information available concerning the organizational structure and functions of the present Ministry of State Farms USSR is embodied in a statute confirmed by the government of the USSR on 23 March 1938. The confirmation was accompanied by a decree extending the cost-accounting system for main administrations of productive people's Commissariats to the main administrations of the People's Commissariat of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms USSR. The texts of the statute and decree follow.

Statute on the Structure of the People's Commissariat of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms USSR, 1938 (2)

1. The People's Commissariat of Grain and Animal Husbandry State Farms USSR (hereinafter referred to as USSR commissariat) has jurisdiction over grain, dairy, meat, swine-raising, livestock-raising, sheep-raising, and reindeer-raising sovkhozes. This jurisdiction is exercised directly with regard to sovkhozes of union subordination and indirectly -- through republic commissariats -- with regard to sovkhozes of republic subordination.

2. The USSR commissariat is headed by a People's Commissar.

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3. The People's Commissar, by Article 72 of the Stalin Constitution, is invested with jurisdiction over all activities of the USSR commissariat and branches of the economy subordinate to it.

4. The People's Commissar, by Article 73 of the Stalin Constitution, is invested with the authority to issue orders and instructions within the limits of his competence, and in confirmation and implementation of existing laws, decrees, and regulations of the Council of People's Commissars USSR. He will also check on their execution.

5. The People's Commissar will intercept and alter any orders or instructions issued by republic commissariats which conflict with laws and decrees of the government of the USSR, with approved plans, or with directives of the USSR commissariat.

6. The USSR commissariat organizes the work of sovkhoses so as to convert them into model large-scale socialist agricultural units utilizing the latest scientific agricultural techniques. Therefore:

a. There are sovkhoses directly subordinate to the USSR commissariat in the principal agricultural districts of the country.

b. The USSR commissariat supervises and controls the work of republic commissariats, and provides them with technical advice and assistance.

c. The USSR commissariat draws up collective plans for sovkhoses of both union and republic subordination, and presents them to the government of the USSR for confirmation; confirms plans submitted to it by sovkhoses of union and republic subordination; and supervises the execution of approved plans.

d. The USSR commissariat works out agrotechnical, zootechnical, and veterinary rules and procedures, as well as rules to be observed in sovkhoses of union and republic subordination regarding the utilization of agricultural machinery.

e. The USSR commissariat establishes the system of labor organization, work norms, and wage payments to be observed in sovkhoses of union and republic subordination, and supervises the development of the Stakhanovite movement.

f. The USSR commissariat allocates material funds and organizes material and technical supply for sovkhoses of union and republic subordination.

g. The USSR commissariat works out construction projects and supervises capital construction in sovkhoses of union and republic subordination.

h. The USSR commissariat appoints chiefs of main administrations, trusts, sovkhoses, and other organizations of union subordination and their deputies; confirms appointments of chiefs and deputy chiefs of administrations of republic subordination, and the special list of directors of large sovkhoses of republic subordination; trains cadres with advanced and intermediate qualifications; and supervises those higher educational institutions and tekhnikums within its direct jurisdiction, and provides methodological leadership in similar institutions of republic subordination.

i. The USSR commissariat supervises the financial affairs of sovkhoses of union and republic subordination.

7. The following main administrations are established for the supervision of sovkhoses of republic subordination through republic commissariats and the trusts and for the direct supervision of sovkhoses of union subordination. These main administrations will operate on the basis of the cost-accounting system:

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Main Administration of Grain Sovkhozes of Ukraine and Crimea
 Main Administration of Grain Sovkhozes of the South
 Main Administration of Grain Sovkhozes of the Volga Region and Siberia
 Main Administration of Meat-Producing Sovkhozes
 Main Administration of Milk-Producing Sovkhozes
 Main Administration of Swine-Raising Sovkhozes
 Main Administration of Sheep-Raising Sovkhozes
 Main Administration of Livestock-Breeding Sovkhozes
 Main Veterinary Administration
 Main Administration of Educational Establishments
 Political Administration

8. The Main Administrations of the USSR commissariat are directly subordinate to the People's Commissar.

9. Each main administration is headed by a chief who is responsible for economic and technical supervision of sovkhozes, enterprises, and organizations subordinate to the main administration. Directives from chiefs of the main administrations to chiefs of the various administrations of republic commissariats are valid unless they conflict with or are countermanded by orders and instructions issued by the People's Commissar of the republic commissariats concerned.

10. The following divisions, sectors, and groups are established in each main administration of the USSR commissariat:

Production-Management Divisions (the number of these is dictated by the number and territorial distribution of sovkhozes, enterprises, and organizations subordinated to the main administration concerned):

Division of Capital Construction
 Cadre Sector
 Planning Sector
 Mechanical Repair Group
 Bookkeeping Division
 Statistics and Accounting Sector
 Workers Cadres Sector
 Wage-Payment Sector, and others

In addition, main administrations of grain sovkhozes contain zootechnical groups, and main administrations of animal husbandry sovkhozes contain agrotechnical groups.

11. The functions of the production-management divisions consist of assistance and supervision of sovkhozes subordinate to the main administration in the fulfillment of production norms, repair of agricultural machinery, and fulfillment of deliveries of grain, meat, milk, wool, etc., to the state.

A staff of dispatchers is established in each production-management division for the implementation of these functions. These dispatchers work in close contact with the six or seven sovkhozes assigned them. They assist and supervise sovkhozes in the fulfillment of production plans, and in the observation of agrotechnical, zootechnical, and veterinary rules as applied to sowing and reaping of grains and grasses, repair work, fuel procurement, and care of livestock.

12. The mechanical-repair groups are charged with the organization and supervision of repair bases in the sovkhozes, and control over utilization of machinery. These functions are implemented both directly and through dispatchers.

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The zootechnical groups of the main administrations are charged with the supervision of matters pertaining to livestock in the sovkhozes, such as the observation of zootechnical and veterinary rules concerning pasturing, sheltering, and feeding of livestock. This function is implemented both directly and through dispatchers.

The agrotechnical groups of the main administrations are charged with the organization of matters pertaining to field cultivation in the sovkhozes, and control over the observation of agrotechnical rules. This function is implemented both directly and through dispatchers.

13. The main administrations concerned with animal husbandry sovkhozes have, in addition to those divisions, etc., listed above, technical divisions. These technical divisions are charged with the solution of questions of a technical nature in animal husbandry sovkhozes, such as the establishment of technical regulations and norms, and the establishment of the fodder base.

The technical divisions work out livestock-breeding plans, rules for cross-breeding and improving stocks, regulations for artificial insemination of livestock, zootechnical and veterinary rules, regulations for pasturing, sheltering, and feeding of livestock, feeding norms, and rules for preparing and processing fodder.

The technical divisions work out crop-rotation plans, pasture rotation and agrotechnical rules, and regulations concerning the establishment of a stable fodder base.

The technical divisions work out rules for the technical utilization and repair of agricultural machinery, mechanization of the productive processes in animal husbandry (automatic milking, electrical shearing, etc.), mechanization of water supply, cartage of fodder, procurement of manure, and utilization of water and wind-driven installations.

14. The divisions for capital construction within the main administrations are charged with the supervision of fulfillment of construction plans on time, the rendering of operational assistance to construction work, the working out of capital construction plans and plans for procurement of construction materials, as well as the organization of production of local construction materials in the sovkhozes.

15. In addition to the above-listed divisions, etc., of the main administrations, there are coordinating divisions which maintain contact with corresponding administrations of republic commissariats. These coordinating divisions render their republic level counterparts organizational and technical aid, and pass on to them the experience and attainments of the best sovkhozes. They also work out questions pertaining to production techniques as they concern sovkhozes of republic subordination, and supervise and confirm plans of corresponding administrations on the republic level.

16. The Main Veterinary Administration supervises observation of the USSR Veterinary Code, and other veterinary-sanitation regulations and measures by republic commissariats and by main administrations of the USSR commissariat. This administration assists in control of epizootics by periodic tours of the sovkhozes, and supervises and presents for confirmation, by the People's Commissar, plans for veterinary measures drawn for sovkhozes of union and republic subordination. The Main Veterinary Administration has within its jurisdiction veterinary laboratories which service sovkhozes of both union and republic subordination.

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17. There is an Inspection and Control Group directly responsible to the People's Commissar. The Inspection and Control Group checks fulfillment of party and government decrees concerning sovkhoses and orders and instructions of the People's Commissar by republic commissariats, and by main administrations, divisions, sectors, trusts, and other organizations subordinate to the USSR commissariat.

18. The following divisions and sectors are included in the composition of the USSR commissariat:

a. Technical Division for Grain Sovkhoses. -- This division performs the following functions: develops rules and procedures for working the soil, sowing, field work, combating insect pests, and harvesting in the sovkhoses; establishes norms and techniques for the application of fertilizers; implements variety adaptation and selection work; supervises crop rotation; develops rules for storing and stockpiling seed grain; mechanizes all productive processes in field cultivation; implements rules and norms for utilization and repair of agricultural machinery, procurement of spare parts, fuel, etc.; and develops animal husbandry as an auxiliary branch of activity in grain sovkhoses.

The Technical Division for Grain Sovkhoses renders aid to corresponding administrations of republic commissariats in matters pertaining to the improvement of grain-cultivation techniques.

b. Planning Sector. -- This sector works out current and future construction and production plans for sovkhoses of both union and republic subordination, and presents them to the People's Commissar for confirmation.

c. Finance Sector. -- This sector draws up aggregate financial plans for sovkhoses of both union and republic subordination, presents them to the People's Commissar for confirmation, controls their fulfillment, and supervises the financial activities of main administrations.

d. Central Bookkeeping Office. -- This office performs bookkeeping and auditing work for the USSR commissariat.

e. Personnel Sector. -- This sector draws up proposals for the People's Commissar concerning the appointment of officials, controls assignment of positions to those individuals who have been graduated from higher educational institutions, and carries out checks on officials, agronomists, engineers, zootechnicians, and veterinarians within the system of the USSR commissariat and republic commissariats.

f. Cadre Sector. -- This sector supervises the recruitment of workers, holds labor turnover to a minimum, deals with questions related to salaries and wages, checks on observation of safety rules by enterprises, institutions, and organizations within the jurisdiction of the USSR commissariat, checks on proper work organization, increase of labor productivity, and development of the Stakhanovite movement in sovkhoses and enterprises, and works out training techniques for unskilled labor cadres.

g. Reports and Economics Sector. -- This sector draws up statistical accounts and reports concerning operational work in sovkhoses of union and republic subordination.

h. Mobilization Division.

i. Fuel Inspection. -- This office checks on sovkhos petroleum supplies and their utilization, handles allocation of petroleum products to sovkhoses according to established priorities, supervises storage of petroleum products, controls expenditures for petroleum products, etc.

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j. Bureau for Inventions. -- This bureau reviews the most important inventions, presents them to the People's Commissar for approval, controls incultation of new inventions and technical perfections, and assigns credit and payment to inventors.

k. Sector for Capital Construction. -- This sector controls fulfillment of capital construction plans within the system of the USSR commissariat and works out projects, estimates, and composite plans for such construction and presents them for confirmation to the People's Commissar.

l. Procurement and Supply Sector. -- This sector organizes delivery of products to the state and their realization according to established plans, works out delivery sequences, controls fulfillment of delivery plans by date and quality, and supervises paper work connected with these deliveries.

- m. Juridical Division and Arbitration Board.
- n. Transport and Communications Division.
- o. Bureau of Complaints.
- p. Administration for Administrative Affairs.
- q. Secretariat of the People's Commissar.

19. The following organizations are directly subordinate to the USSR commissariat by virtue of their special functions:

- a. State Trust of Reindeer Sovkhoz.
- b. State Trust for Sovkhoz Machinery Repair.
- c. Office for Procurement and Production of Sovkhoz Construction Materials.
- d. Office for Land Management, Field and Forest Melioration, and Water Supply Work in Sovkhoz.
- e. Office for Sovkhoz Supplies.
- f. Office for Sovkhoz Motor Vehicles.
- g. Sovkhoznaya Gazeta (ministerial newspaper).

20. A Technical Council exists within the system of the USSR commissariat. This council advises the People's Commissar concerning technical questions related to seed selection and livestock breeding, and provides expert opinion on technical projects and estimates presented the People's Commissar for confirmation. The council further supervises the work of scientific-research institutes within the jurisdiction of the USSR commissariat, and organizes the implementation of scientific production techniques in sovkhozes through these institutes and through the All-Union Agricultural Academy imeni Lenin.

21. A Council exists within the system of the USSR commissariat. The Council meets once every 2 months to process reports concerning the most important phases of sovkhoz work.

22. The aktivs of the USSR commissariat meet under its auspices once a month for discussion of such problems as the best utilization of experience possessed by lower-echelon workers, skilled workers, and Stakhanovites, and the development and refinement of self-criticism. Aktivs in main administrations, divisions, sectors, trusts, and sovkhozes are likewise periodically assembled to process and discuss reports concerning the most important decisions of party, government, and the principal officials of the USSR commissariat.

Decree of Council of People's Commissars on Organization of Sovkhoz Into Trusts (1938) (3)

Sovkhoz within the USSR commissariat are hereby organized into the following trusts:

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1. State Trust of Grain Sovkhozes of Nikolayev Oblast (office at Kherson, 34 sovkhozes).
2. State Trust of Grain Sovkhozes of Krasnodar Kray (office at Krasnodar, 16 sovkhozes).
3. State Trust of Grain Sovkhozes of Rostov Oblast (office at Rostov, 13 sovkhozes).
4. State Trust of Grain Sovkhozes of Novosibirsk Oblast (office at Barnaul, 11 sovkhozes).
5. State Trust of Meat Sovkhozes of Stalingrad and Rostov Oblasts and Kalmyk ASSR (office at Rostov-na-Donu, 22 sovkhozes).
6. State Trust of Meat Sovkhozes of West Kazakhstan Oblast (office at Ural'sk, 21 sovkhozes).
7. State Trust of Dairy Sovkhozes of Chelyabinsk and Sverdlovsk Oblasts (office at Chelyabinsk, 12 sovkhozes).
8. State Trust of Dairy Sovkhozes of Omsk Oblast (office at Omsk, 19 sovkhozes).
9. State Trust of Dairy Sovkhozes of Novosibirsk Oblast and Altay Kray (office at Novosibirsk, 28 sovkhozes).
10. State Trust of Swine-Raising Sovkhozes of Saratov Oblast (office at Saratov, 16 sovkhozes).
11. State Trust of Swine-Raising Sovkhozes of Rostov Oblast and Krasnodar Kray (office at Rostov, 25 sovkhozes).
12. State Trust of Swine-Raising Sovkhozes of Chelyabinsk and Omsk Oblasts (office at Omsk, 15 sovkhozes).
13. State Trust of Swine-Raising Sovkhozes of Khar'kov, Poltava, and Donet Oblasts (office at Artemovsk, 22 sovkhozes).
14. State Trust of Swine-Raising Sovkhozes of Nikolayev Oblast (office at Nikolayev, 9 sovkhozes).
15. State Trust of Karakul-Raising Sovkhozes of Central Asia (office at Stalinabad, 6 sovkhozes).

Recent Structural Changes

Fragmentary evidence is available concerning subsequent changes in the organizational structure of the present Ministry of State Farms USSR. Seven main administrations not mentioned in Article 7 of the above-quoted statute have been identified. These are:

1. Main Administration of Water Economy, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(4) (It seems reasonable to assume that this office has absorbed the Office for Land Management, Field and Forest Melioration, and Water Supply Work in Sovkhozes mentioned in Article 19 of the above-quoted statute.)
2. Main Administration of Material and Technical Supply, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(4) (It seems reasonable to assume that this office has absorbed the Office for Procurement and Production of Sovkhoz Construction Materials, and the Office for Sovkhoz Supplies mentioned in Article 19 of the above-quoted statute.)

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3. Main Administration of Grain and Oleaginous Crops, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(4)

4. Main Administration of Leningrad Livestock Sovkhozes, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(5)

5. Main Administration of Livestock Sovkhozes in the Moscow Zone, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(6)

6. Main Administration of Wild-Animal-Raising Sovkhozes, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(7)

7. Main Administration of Karakul-Raising Sovkhozes, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(7)

Information indicating the 1950 organization of sovkhozes into trusts is outlined below.(8) It is assumed that this organizational breakdown supersedes that given in the above-quoted decree. All the administrations and trusts listed below are directly subordinate to the Ministry of State Farms USSR.

1. Administration of North Caucasus Sovkhozes
 - a. Groznyy State Farm Trust
 - b. Krasnodar Grain Trust
 - c. Krasnodar Dairy and Swine Trust
 - d. Stavropol' Grain Trust
 - e. Stavropol' Livestock Trust
2. Administration of Sovkhozes of the South
 - a. Crimean Grain Trust
 - b. Rostov Grain Trust
 - c. Rostov Sheep Trust
 - d. Rostov Livestock Trust
 - e. Stalino Dairy and Swine Trust
 - f. Moldavian State Farm Trust
3. Administration of Sovkhozes of the Southeast
 - a. Astrakhan Livestock Trust
 - b. Stalingrad Grain Trust
 - c. Stalingrad Livestock Trust
 - d. Stalingrad Sheep Trust
 - e. West Kazakhstan Meat Trust
4. Administration of Sovkhozes of the East
 - a. Irkutsk Grain and Livestock Trust
 - b. Krasnoyar Grain and Livestock Trust
 - c. Minusinsk Dairy Trust
 - d. Krasnoyar Sheep Trust
 - e. Krasnoyar Dairy and Vegetable Trust
 - f. Primorskiy Grain and Livestock Trust
 - g. Tuva Sheep Trust
 - h. Amur Grain and Livestock Trust
 - i. Khabarovsk Dairy and Vegetable Trust
 - j. Kamchatka Livestock Trust
 - k. Sakhalin Dairy and Vegetable Trust
 - l. Chita Livestock Trust

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5. Administration of Siberian Sovkhozos
 - a. Altay Grain Trust
 - b. Biysk Dairy Trust
 - c. Altay Sheep Trust
 - d. Novosibirsk Grain and Livestock Trust
 - e. Barabinsk Dairy Trust
 - f. Kemerovo Livestock Trust
6. Administration of Sovkhozos of the Urals
 - a. Kurgan Grain and Livestock Trust
 - b. Omsk Grain and Livestock Trust
 - c. Omsk Dairy Trust
 - d. Ishim Livestock Trust
 - e. Chelyabinsk Grain and Livestock Trust
7. Administration of Cattle-Breeding Sovkhozos
 - a. Smolensk State Breeding Trust
 - b. Kalinin State Breeding Trust
8. Administration of Swine-Breeding Sovkhozos
9. Administration of Sheep-Breeding Sovkhozos

It should be noted that the Administration of Swine-Breeding Sovkhozos and the Administration of Sheep-Breeding Sovkhozos are apparently directly subordinate to the Ministry of State Farms USSR, and not administered through the Main Administrations of Swine- and Sheep-Raising sovkhoses.

Current Key Personnel

The following key personnel are currently employed by the Ministry of State Farms USSR and various republic ministries of state farms:

- Afanas'yev, V. A., Chief, Main Administration of Wild-Animal-Raising Sovkhozos, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(7)
- Azimov, U., Minister of State Farms Uzbek SSR.(9)
- Groshev, K. I., Deputy Minister of State Farms Kirgiz SSR.(10)
- Ivandayev, I. V., Minister of State Farms Kazakh SSR.(11)
- Kostyuk, S. S., Minister of State Farms Belorussian SSR.(12)
- Mamayev, D. A., Minister of State Farms Lithuanian SSR.(13)
- Menonov, V. V., Chief, Main Administration of Karakul-Raising Sovkhozos, Ministry of State Farms USSR.(7)
- Mettus, A. Ya., Minister of State Farms Estonian SSR.(14)
- Mirzoyev, R. Minister of State Farms Azerbaydzhan SSR.(15)
- Ovchinnikov, F. M., Deputy Minister of State Farms RSFSR.(16)
- Skvortsev, N. Minister of State Farms USSR.(17)
- Ryabov, G. G., Minister of State Farms RSFSR.(18)
- Turabetkov, D., Minister of State Farms Kirgiz SSR.(10)

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Republic Ministries of State Farms

This report has dealt almost exclusively with the Ministry of State Farms USSR. There are republic ministries of state farms in: the RSFSR, Ukrainian SSR, Belorussian SSR, Uzbek SSR, Kazakh SSR, Azerbaydzhan SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Latvian SSR, Kirgiz SSR, Estonian SSR, Karelo-Finnish SSR, and there is a Tadzhik State Farms Trust.(8) Although no information is available concerning their structure or function, it is reasonable to assume that, like republic ministries of other Soviet economic ministries, the structure and function of republic ministries of state farms is roughly comparable to that of the parent organization, the Ministry of State Farms USSR. This assumption is supported by Articles 6h, 9, and 15 of the above-quoted statute, which mention corresponding republic level offices, divisions, administrations, etc.

SOURCES

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3. Ibid., 1938, No 4, Item 13.
4. Moskva (Moscow City Directory), 1948, p 32.
5. Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 11 Oct 50.
6. Myasnaya Industriya, No 1, 1949.
7. Karakulevodstvo i Zverovodstvo, No 2, 1951.
8. Moscow, Sovkhoznaya Gazeta, 16 Mar 50.
9. Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 20 May 51.
10. Moscow, Vedomosti Verkhovnogo Soveta SSSR, 8 Feb 51.
11. Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 1 Apr 51.
12. Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 8 Apr 51.
13. Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 29 Apr 51.
14. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 1 Apr 51.
15. Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 20 Jul 51.
16. Les i Step, No 5, 1951.
17. Moscow, Pravda, 30 Jun 51.
18. Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 18 Apr 51.

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