

Livestock Board

Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) is composed of seven livestock producers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Agency staff including the state veterinarian implements board policy. The purpose is to serve the livestock industry to ensure it remains a mainstay of the economy. The WLSB shall exercise general supervision over and protect the livestock interests from theft and disease and shall recommend legislation that, in its opinion, will foster the industry.

The WLSB and agency will be open, ethical, responsive, accountable, and dedicated to the public it serves. The board and agency will pursue the goal of "Safeguarding the Wyoming livestock industry today and for the future" with the best available technology and personnel within its economic means. The people of Wyoming will be respected for their opinions and concerns and served to the best of the board and agency's ability. The livestock board and agency strive to create and maintain animal health and identification programs that are a standard in the United States and that ensure the marketability of Wyoming's livestock.

Results of outcomes

The Wyoming livestock industry continues to enjoy free marketability and good animal health as a result of the Wyoming Livestock Board's animal health and importation rules.

The Wyoming cattle industry lost its Brucellosis Class Free status in February 2004, as a result of finding two Brucellosis infected herds. Concurrently, with the finding of Brucellosis in Wyoming cattle, the WLSB amended the Chapter 2 Brucellosis Rules to require statewide surveillance testing consistent with Brucellosis Class A status requirements. The livestock board now requires a negative Brucellosis test within thirty (30) days prior to change of ownership and/or interstate movement on all test eligible cattle. During this reporting period, two herds were found infected with Brucellosis. As a result of finding the two infected herds, six contact herds were tested. This also resulted in depopulation of one breeding cattle herd and one group of feedlot cattle. In late June of 2003, there was suspicion of two other possible infected herds in Wyoming.

There were 181 Brucellosis trace backs conducted cooperatively with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS/VS) during the reporting period for Brucellosis suspects or reactors as a result of our increased surveillance. Wyoming vaccinated 195,184 heifers against Brucellosis and tested 78,905 head of cattle for Brucellosis.

General information

Dr. Jim Logan, State Veterinarian and Executive Officer

Agency contact

Cynthia Sandoz
307/777-6443
2020 Carey Ave, 4th Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0051
csando1@state.wy.us
<http://wlsb@state.wy.us>

Year established

1933

Statutory references

The agency's statutory authority was established under Chapter 85, Laws 1933. Its activities are described in:
Title 6, Chapters 3 and 6
Title 7, Chapter 2
Title 9, Chapter 2
Title 11, Chapter 6, Chapters 18 through 24 and Chapters 26 through 33 and Chapter 37
Title 31, Chapters 5 and 10

Authorized personnel

15 full-time, 66 full-time at-will contract, and 34 part-time at-will contract

Organizational structure

Administration, Animal Health, Law Enforcement/Emergency Management, Brand Recording, Brand Inspection. The Wyoming Livestock Board is a separate operating agency with its seven members appointed by the governor.

Clients served

Livestock producers, licensed veterinarians, general public.

Budget information

General funds	\$2,714,211.00
Federal funds	231,009.00
Trust and agency funds	0
Other earmarked funds	4,258,503.00
Total.....	\$7,203,723.00

Bovine Tuberculosis (Tb) remains in four states in the United States. Wyoming cattle producers tested 2,730 head of cattle and bison, 13 goats, and 67 head of other animals with no Tb infection found in Wyoming animals. Wyoming continues to maintain its Tb Free Status.

Trichomoniasis continues to have an economic impact on the cattle industry with 34 herds being quarantined due to infected bulls. The prevalence of infection has increased with 78 infected bulls found in 7,472 bulls tested indicating that Wyoming's Trichomoniasis Program has increased the awareness of, and vigilance for, this disease.

Both the Wyoming Livestock Boards' Brand Inspection and Animal Health Units assisted USDA/APHIS/VS to determine the destination of cattle sold from the premises of the Canadian Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and the December 2003, United States BSE cases. No cattle from these premises came to Wyoming.

Wyoming's sheep industry is able to market and export animals freely due to compliance with state and federal Scrapie regulations. The WLSB acknowledges that Scrapie is in the state and has implemented an active surveillance program through an USDA/APHIS State Cooperative Agreement Pilot Project. Wyoming had 23 flocks enrolled in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program. No new cases of Scrapie were found in Wyoming during this reporting period.

The sheep industry has also benefited from testing 1,394 rams for *Brucella ovis*, a bacteria that causes infertility in rams. There were 43 positive or suspect animals found in testing, and they were culled from their flocks thereby minimizing spread of the disease.

The swine industry maintained Pseudorabies and Brucellosis Free Status by testing 6,229 head of swine. All animals tested were negative for both diseases.

During the reporting period, 12,431 horses were tested for Equine Infectious Anemia at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory. One horse tested positive for the disease and was euthanized to prevent further spread.

West Nile Virus can cause an encephalitic condition in horses, mules, and donkeys. During this reporting period, there were 27 known positive horse cases in Wyoming. Wyoming veterinarians recommend West Nile Virus vaccine to their equine clients. West Nile Virus is considered an enzootic disease in Wyoming. Wyoming has also experienced cases of human West Nile Virus infection.

There were three, foreign animal disease trace backs conducted cooperatively between the Wyoming Livestock Board and USDA/APHIS/VS during the reporting period.

There were 4,791 import permits issued for livestock entering Wyoming.

A total of 391 quarantines were issued to ensure that imported livestock were tested or vaccinated pursuant to import requirements and/or for disease control.

Livestock imported included 175,656 cattle; 26,306 swine; and 45,591 sheep.

During this reporting period, 24 livestock market applications were received and approved; seven of those were

weekly sale livestock markets and 14 were one-time livestock sales.

Agency investigators performed 398 investigations during this reporting period: 75 (Import violations); 55 (livestock rustling); 48 (animal welfare); 38 (brand/ownership change); 19 (check collections); 19 (assist other agencies); 19 (information); 18 (civil matters); 17 (Chapter 2 Brucellosis); 17 (brand/county line violations); 14 (brand/removal from state); 7 (report disease to state veterinarian); 6 (property destruction); 5 (chapter 15 rules); 5 (abandoned animals); 3 (suspicious); 3 (removal w/o certificate); 3 (taking up estrays); 3 (other agency rules); 2 (stock on public right-of-way); 2 (market license); 2 (brand/L form); 2 (chapter 14 rules/covhi); 1 (no brand inspection certificate in possession); 1 (furnishing false proof of ownership); 1 (G Form violation); 1 (no brand inspection before slaughter); 1 (interference with a peace officer); 1 (use of unrecorded brand); 1 (driving cattle from home range); 1 (brand recording violation); 1 (administrative); 1 (dead animal disposal); 1 (suspected terrorism); 1 (stock at large); 1 (Chapter 9); 1 (Chapter 17); 1 (wrongful taking of property/disposal); 1 (Tb test)

In addition to the investigations, 77 criminal summons were issued for violations of Title 11 Livestock Laws with 60 percent of the summonses issued for brand related violations and 40 percent issued for animal health violations.

Agency law enforcement personnel conducted nine training sessions for other law enforcement agencies.

The objective to protect the ownership of livestock resulted in 1,841,253 brand inspections for the 2003 calendar year. The identification and holding or return of stray livestock was approximately 318 head. The Brand Recording Unit had 1,578 transactions with new brands and transfers at 785 processed.

Strategic plan changes

The WLSB has been actively involved in routine emergency management planning and response preparation for the last four years. With the ever present threat of introduction of foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases and Bioterrorism (or Agroterrorism), emergency management has been elevated to priority status at the WLSB. The WLSB is coordinating efforts with other agencies for active disease surveillance, personnel training, and response preparedness. The WLSB will be training brand inspectors, animal health technicians, and enforcement officers on biosecurity and response techniques.

In 2004, the Brand Recording Unit will start the process for the 2005 brand renewal. Wyoming law stipulates that all brands must be renewed by March 1, 2005. As part of the renewal process, the WLSB has promulgated Chapter 21 Rules governing the re-recording of livestock brands as directed by statute.

Livestock Board organization chart

