

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 good marketability and overall animal health in part as a result of the Wyoming Livestock Board's animal health and importation rules. The loss of Wyoming's Brucellosis-free status has caused an additional burden to cattle producers. The WLSB is doing its part to ensure the state regains free status as soon as possible.

The Wyoming cattle industry lost its Brucellosis Class Free Status in February 2004. Due to additional cases in FY 05, Wyoming will be unable to apply for free status until December 2005 (assuming there are no new cases before then). The WLSB requires a negative Brucellosis test within 30 days prior to a change in ownership or movement across state lines for all test eligible cattle. These and other requirements are discussed in the Strategic plan changes below and are a necessary part of being a Class A state in order to gain Brucellosis Free Status.

Wyoming vaccinated 186,013 heifers against Brucellosis and tested 167,861 head of cattle for Brucellosis.

Bovine Tuberculosis (Tb) remains in three states in the United States. Wyoming cattle producers tested 2,555 head of livestock with no Tb found in Wyoming animals. Wyoming continues to maintain its Tb Free Status.

Trichomoniasis continues to be an important disease for Wyoming cattle producers with 44 bulls testing posi-

General information

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State Veterinarian and Executive Officer

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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

17 full-time, 64 full-time at-will contract, and 34 part-time at-will contract

Organizational structure

Administration, Animal Health, Law Enforcement, Brand Recording, Brand Inspection and Animal Identification. 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	\$922,559
Federal funds	622,432
Trust and agency funds	0
Other earmarked funds	4,497,502
Total	\$6,042,493

tive of 7,752 bulls tested. Eighteen herds including 549 bulls were quarantined due to finding at least one positive bull. The prevalence has decreased and may indicate that the industry is making progress toward eradicating this disease.

Wyoming's sheep industry is able to continue marketing and exporting animals freely due to Wyoming's compliance with state and federal Scrapie regulations. Scrapie was once again found in the state, but Wyoming continues to use an active surveillance program through a USDA/APHIS State Cooperative Agreement. Wyoming had 24 flocks enrolled in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program and the WLSB has certified 13 of these flocks.

The sheep industry also tested 1,702 rams for Ovine Brucellosis with 60 testing as reactors or suspects. These rams were culled from the flocks, thereby reducing the risk of transmission.

The swine industry maintained Pseudorabies and Brucellosis Free Status by testing 4,348 pigs; all were negative for both diseases.

The Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory and two other labs tested 13,894 horses for Equine Infectious Anemia. For the first time in five years there were no positives in Wyoming.

West Nile Virus (WNV) affected horses again with 27 horses testing positive. There were also human cases of WNV, but none were fatal.

There were 4,749 import permits issued for livestock entering Wyoming. This allowed entry of 291,380 cattle, 43,217 sheep, and 32,261 swine or swine semen.

A total of 343 quarantines were issued to ensure that imported livestock were tested or vaccinated in accordance with import requirements put in place to control disease.

The WLSB received and approved 15 livestock market applications; seven of these were weekly markets, the other eight were one-time sales.

Agency investigators performed 454 investigations during this reporting period: 83 Chapter 8 Rules/import violations; 60 livestock rustling; 45 check collections; 43 animal welfare; 38 brand/ownership change; 23 brand/removal from state; 22 brand/county line violations; 21 check collections; 20 civil matters; 12 assist other agencies; 11 information; eight Chapter 2 Rules; eight property destruction; seven administrative; six Chapter 15 Rules; six abandoned animals; five no brand inspection certificate in possession; five report disease to state veterinarian; five market licenses; four Chapter 14 rules; four use of unrecorded brands; three taking up strays; three dead animal disposal; three other agency rules; two stock on public right-of-way; two L form; two driving cattle from home range; two stock at large; one furnishing false proof of ownership.

In addition to the investigations, 58 criminal summonses were issued for violations of Title 11 livestock laws with 55 percent of the summonses issued for brand

related violations and 45 percent issued for animal health violations.

The objective to protect the ownership of livestock resulted in 2,081,775 brand inspections for the 2004 calendar year. The identification and holding or return of stray livestock was approximately 2,038 head. The Brand Recording Unit processed 9,035 transactions along with 2,122 brands transfers. The Brand Recording Unit renewed 27,397 brands. The brand renewals explain the increase in total transactions and brand transfers.

Strategic plan changes

The WLSB continues to plan for emergency animal management and agricultural homeland security as it has for the past five years. This year the WLSB completed its Emergency Management Plan. Most of the training, planning and response preparedness is conducted in cooperation with other agencies such as the Wyoming Departments of Health, Agriculture, Homeland Security and USDA/APHIS.

The Animal Health Unit also plans to improve Brucellosis trace-backs to make them more efficient and consistent with the Brucellosis UM&R as this is required to regain Brucellosis Free Status; this will require a legislative change. Also, as recommended to regain free status, the WLSB and USDA/APHIS have begun and will continue to work with producers in the Greater Yellowstone Area to develop individual herd plans to reduce the probability of cattle acquiring Brucellosis from wildlife.

The WLSB is also attempting to make law enforcement investigations more efficient. With the retirement of the law enforcement administrator, the WLSB has elected to replace that administrator with a field investigator in Southeast Wyoming and split the administrative duties among existing personnel. The WLSB is awaiting approval from the state to do so.

The Brand Recording Unit has implemented a staggered brand renewal process and has computerized the system making it more efficient and eliminating the need to hire additional personnel. The Brand Inspection Program is looking at ways to increase revenue and develop a more equitable system of charging for its services. Additionally, it is testing potential animal identification systems and programs to develop a program that will suit the needs of Wyoming producers.

Livestock Board organizational chart

