

Editorial for the Wyoming Roundup: 7/1/10

STOP at the PORTS??

As of late, there is a lot of confusion as to whether or not, we as livestock haulers need to stop at Wyoming Ports of Entry.

Whenever you pass one of the BIG white signs with black letters telling you as a livestock transporter to pull into the port, you best take notice. Those signs are "regulatory signs", therefore indicating that law requires you to stop. However, if you are moving around in Wyoming with your livestock and do not pass one of these signs, you are not required to stop at the port. Point being, ALL livestock transporters, whether commercial or private, are required to stop at a Wyoming Port of Entry upon entering our state &/or going by one of these signs. Those of you traveling from County to County in Wyoming, which do not go by one of these signs, would not need to stop at a port of entry within the state unless you so choose.

The reason Ports of Entry are so important to the Wyoming Livestock Board is because, they are the first point of contact for livestock entering our state. We laugh sometimes because we hear all types of comments about those back roads and how haulers outsmart the system by using them and bypassing the port, when by all rights, are they truly outsmarting anyone or are they putting our state in danger of a disease outbreak, terrorist attack, theft, or the dumping of illegal livestock? Something to think about.

Port of Entry personnel work in conjunction with the Wyoming Livestock Board by logging information obtained from the CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) or Health Certificate into a system shared by both agencies. The information consists of your CVI number, entry permit number if required, number of head, consignee and consignor information. This information is then automatically downloaded to a system within the Livestock Board where it can be reviewed and matched to the information logged into the system at our end. The information we collect from Veterinarians in other states include CVI numbers, entry permit numbers and brand inspection numbers in some cases. This is all information required by law to help us protect Wyoming livestock producers when importing animals.

With changes in the past few years concerning our livestock regulations, we have been invited to participate in a training session for all Port of Entry employees in the upcoming months. This will be a golden opportunity for all of us to work together and get to know each other better for future dealings with our livestock imports. Our goal is to listen, educate and inform our law enforcement, regulatory, and agriculture related.

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