

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WYOMING BRAND INSPECTION PROGRAM



COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Brand Inspection:

Brand Inspection exists to verify livestock ownership. Brand Inspectors act as agents of the Wyoming Livestock Board and have become front line contacts in Wyoming's livestock industry.

In order for a Brand Inspector to do his/her job, they must complete a physical inspection of livestock for brands and ownership, including the brand record &/or paper documentation.

Primary duties of an inspector are: inspect cattle, horses, mules, asses, sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas for brands and ownership. Brand Inspections are required for a change of ownership and to legally cross county or state lines. Inspectors are required to take up and issue Title certificates during a change of ownership Brand Inspection.

Other duties of Wyoming's brand inspectors include: identifying stray livestock, assist with removal of livestock from right of way, assist enforcement officers in livestock investigations and animal welfare cases, assist the Board with animal health related incidents which includes quarantine follow-up, illegal importation investigation assistance as well as assisting with testing and traceability efforts in disease control outbreak instances.

A large percentage of livestock incidents are reported to a brand inspector first. These incidents include but are not limited to stray and abandoned livestock, stolen or missing animals, animals running at large, vehicle accidents involving livestock, animal abuse, sick or injured animals, animal identification in civil instances involving ownership questions, etc.

There are 3 parts to brand inspections. This information is important to livestock producers in Wyoming in order to understand your brand inspection costs.

Part 1

Brand Inspection Fee Collection

Part 2

Predator Fee Collection

Part 3

Beef Council Fee Collection



Costs collected and dollars spent are as follow:

Part 1

Brand inspection fees:

Brand inspections were established for use on Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Mules, Asses, Goats, Llamas and Alpacas. Brand inspections are a key factor for theft, disease and ownership traceability of Wyoming livestock. The blue copy given to you at the time of your inspection is considered title to the livestock as described on the form. **Brand inspection fees are collected and deposited into an account in the Wyoming Livestock Board. 100% of this money stays in the agency itself. The dollars are deposited in an ear-marked account specific to the brand programs in Wyoming.** Your brand inspection fees are one part of a three part collection process used when an inspection occurs on your livestock. Fees are due at time of inspection. Brand inspection fees are set by statute and are subject to not more than a 20% increase per year... **Please check with your inspector to confirm brand inspection fee rates.**

Surcharge: charged per inspection when mileage is incurred by the inspector. Not to be charged when no mileage is incurred by the inspector or the inspection is done at an approved location or licensed livestock market. Wyoming brand laws may be found in Title 11, Chapter 20,21,23,24, 26, 28 and 30 of the Wyoming State Statutes. Existing rules regarding brand inspection include (1, 2, 4, 9, and 11) on file at the Wyoming Livestock Board.

A Form: used for intrastate and/or interstate movement of livestock: also issued when a change of ownership occurs.

B Form: issued at licensed Wyoming livestock market as title and clearance to destination.

D Form: issued for intrastate and interstate movement of hides.

G Form: issued for intrastate movement of livestock to a Wyoming livestock market, and for interstate movement of cattle and horses to any Board approved out-of-state livestock market where Wyoming Brand inspection is maintained.

H Form: issued for intrastate movement of work, show or rodeo stock for one year from the date of issue.

L Form: issued as a permanent or lifetime inspection to the owner of livestock used for rodeo, show, racing, pleasure or Wyoming farm and ranch work.

Instate Range Movement Permit: movement of livestock from a location in Wyoming to a noncontiguous location in another county provided the applicant and the ranch meet the requirements and criteria established in W.S. 11-20-212

Out of State Range Permit: an amount equal to 25% of the inspection fees established by the Board in Section 6 of Chapter 9 rules per head for cattle, horse, asses and mules. An amount equal to 25% of the inspection fees the Board in Section 6 per head for sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas.

Part 2

Predator Fees

At the time of collecting brand inspection fees, **the brand inspector shall collect predator management fees** on all sheep, goats and cattle inspected within each predator management district. Predator fees are determined by directors elected pursuant to W.S. 11-6-202 from each predator management district. The predator management board shall annually determine the predator fees for that district. **The collection of predator fees must be done by the inspector at the time an inspection is obtained by the producer, per Wyoming Statute 11-06-210.** However, predator fees shall not be collected on cattle, sheep & goats shipped into this state for immediate sale or slaughter. The predator fee shall not be collected on the same livestock more than once in any 12 month period. **The Wyoming Livestock Board may retain, not to exceed 5% of the revenues collected for the actual cost of the collecting and predator management fee.** 95% remaining revenues collected by the livestock board under this section shall be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in an account. Those fees are then distributed quarterly to the county treasurer of the county from which the shipment originated, unless at the time of predator fee payment, the livestock owner designates the fees to be distributed in total to another county in this state in which the livestock are fed or pastured. These fees are paid to fund the predator management activities in Wyoming. The annual predator management fee for sheep, goats and cattle shipped into Wyoming for confinement in commercial feedlots shall not exceed \$.25 cents per head. That fee is set by the predator management

Board in the district in which the feedlot exists. Predator fee refunds may be obtained by contacting the predator board in your district or by calling 307-777-6781. Refunds may be obtained through a request process only, and will involve your district predator management board's decisions. Refunds do come with consequences, for more information concerning

the refund process or about information about predator board members in your district, please contact Ken Drake, Predator Control, Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture. 307-777-6781

Part 3

Beef Council Fee Collection

At the time of collecting brand inspection fees, ***the brand inspector shall also collect a beef checkoff fee on any cattle changing ownership, only 3% of those dollars remain in the Wyoming Livestock Board Account.*** In accordance with the Beef promotion Research Act of 1985 (BPRA), \$1.00 per head is assessed on all bovine animals at change of ownership. The beef checkoff assessment in Wyoming is collected by the Wyoming Livestock Board, **on behalf of the Wyoming Beef Council** and is deposited into a special revenue account. The Wyoming Beef Council functions under both laws of the State of Wyoming (W.S. 11-37-101 through W.S.11-37-110 and the Beef Promotion and Research Act 7 USC 2901 et.sq. and the Beef Promotion and Research Order 7 CFR 1260. Under these acts the Wyoming Beef Council is charged with: collection of beef checkoff, monitoring compliance, coordinating checkoff programs in Wyo. with Cattlemen's Beef Board and other national organizations, implementing state programs that support the vision and priorities of the beef industry long range plans. \$.50 cents of each \$1.00 collected is sent to the Cattlemen's Beef Board for national beef promotion efforts. The remaining \$.50 cents remains in the state of Wyoming to be invested in beef check-off programs as determined by the beef producers serving on the Council. The beef checkoff is a producer created, producer run program designed to increase global demand for beef and beef products ultimately improving profit opportunities for beef producers. The beef checkoff assessment in Wyoming is collected by the Wyoming Livestock Board, on behalf of the Wyoming Beef Council, and is deposited into a special revenue account. Collections average \$1 million per year resulting in approximately \$500,000 remaining in the state for programs determined by members of the Wyoming Beef Council. For information concerning your beef checkoff dollars, please contact Ann Wittmann, Director Wyoming Beef Council, Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture 307-777-6399.



Wyoming Livestock Board

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307-777-7515

Important Facts:

In 2008, 1409 cattle estrays were found during inspections or investigations. The total cattle value came to \$1,841,777.00 recovered. 287 sheep and 511 horses were also found at a value of \$385,716.94. Total cost recovered from Estrays \$2,227,493.94.

The number of cattle, horses and sheep removed from public roads and right of ways by inspectors working with law enforcement officials in 2008 totaled 1,829.

For brand inspector telephone numbers or contacts, please call the Wyoming Livestock Board Brand Unit at 307-777-7515. Please remember to schedule an appointment in advance with your inspector.