

**WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD**

**2008**

**DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

**SURVEY**

**PREPARED BY**

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**FOR THE**

**WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD  
2020 CAREY AVE., 4TH FLOOR  
CHEYENNE, WY 82001**

**JULY 2008**



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# Explanation of Results

## Introduction

This was a two wave survey. A pre-survey notification letter was mailed to a random sample of 1,149 Wyoming livestock producers from a known total statewide livestock producer population of 7,659 in mid May of 2008. Approximately five days later, the survey instrument was mailed to this sample of producers. A reminder letter, mailed separately, and a new survey were then sent to non-respondents approximately one month after the initial mailing. The postage paid return envelopes were coded and thus those who returned surveys prior to the second wave were not contacted again. There were 46 undeliverable surveys in this effort. Surveys were received from 713 livestock producers for an unadjusted response rate of 65%. There were 24 blank surveys within the 713 returned surveys which produced an adjusted response rate of 63% (689 useable responses). Typically, the response rate achieved on a mail survey without monetary incentives is 30% and 52% with incentives. The response rate on a one wave mailing is 33% and 43% on a two wave mailing. There were no monetary incentives used in this survey project, and, therefore, the 62% response rate was well above expectations.

The accuracy, validity and precision of estimated results from a survey revolve around the level of confidence or margin of error. The generally accepted standard of precision for a typical survey is the 95% confidence level which means the margin of error is no greater than plus or minus 5 percentage points around any given percentage of the sampled population. Reworded, this means that in 95 cases out of 100, the results based on a randomly selected sample will differ by no more than 5 percent points in either direction from what would have been obtained had all 7,659 livestock producers been surveyed. The 2008 Disease Management Survey's margin of error is at plus or minus 5%.

## *Validity of Survey*

In order to insure that the results obtained from the sampled population of livestock producers are reflective of the entire population of livestock producers or those not sampled, the following practices were utilized with this survey effort:

- A. A mail-out/mail-back methodology was employed. This practice generally yields a higher response rate than a phone survey for the same dollar amount.
- B. Producers were selected using a systematic random sample methodology. Specially, the sample was picked from an unduplicated brand list of all Wyoming Livestock producers (7,659) broken down by county. Surveyed producers were chosen systematically by selecting every nth producer (brand) proportionate to the number of producers in each county until the desired number of producers was achieved. This insured that no county was over or under sampled. Thus, selected producers were picked at random within each county.

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- C. Respondents were asked to complete the survey using an unbiased sampling procedure, the birthday method, i.e. the birthday method which requests that the respondent be an adult (18 years or older) with the most recent birthday of those present within the sampling unit, irrespective of year of birth.
- D. Contacting potential respondents twice to encourage response from producers who may have different opinions or processes than those who would respond with only one request.
- E. Requesting response on official jurisdiction letterhead signed by the highest ranking official or staff member.
- F. Providing a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope.

# Survey Highlights

- According to Wyoming Livestock Board administrative records there were 7,659 livestock producers in Wyoming in 2008. Of these, 93% used some form of an animal identification system. A combination of brands and ear tags was the most common system employed by producers. Approximately 25% of all producers used only a brand system.
- Eighty-one percent of producers raised or kept livestock for commercial purposes.
- Eighty-four percent of producers felt there should be an animal disease trace back system in Wyoming with 58% wanting state government to fund a state mandated system. On an evaluative scale, more than three quarters of producers felt a trace back system was important.
- When asked if a disease management system should be voluntary or mandatory, producers were almost evenly split (32.5% voluntary and 28.8% mandatory).
- When asked where they ship their livestock, 49% of producers said they ship in-state and out-of-state both. Very few livestock producers shipped internationally.
- Thirty-five percent of producers thought animal disease trace backs should be accomplished within 48 hours with another 28% wanting a 24 hour period.
- Only 58% of producers were aware that Wyoming's Constitution requires the state to have an animal inspection system to protect livestock from diseases.
- Slightly more than 50% of the state livestock producers felt they had a good understanding and knowledge of a National Animal Identification System (NAIS).
- Less than 50% of producers felt a NAIS would improve management of their operations.
- Seventy-seven percent of survey respondents thought consumer opinions drove industry standards.
- Seventy-one percent of all Wyoming livestock producers have been in business for 21 or more years.

## Survey Results

### 1. Do you currently use a form of Animal Identification in your operation?

Yes	No	Total
631	48	679
92.9%	7.1%	

Question 2 permitted respondents to check more than one identification system. All combinations of systems are presented below. The use of both brands and ear tags was the most common system used by producers at 25.5%. There were 163 producers using this system. The second system most commonly used was the brand alone system at 24.9% or 159 producers.

### 2. If yes, what kind? (check all that apply)

	# Of Responses	Percent
Brand	159	24.9%
Tattoo	0	0.0%
Ear Tags	14	2.2%
RFID	0	0.0%
# Tags	4	0.6%
Brand / Tattoo	6	0.9%
Brand / Ear Tags	163	25.5%
Brand / Ear Tags / # Tags	151	23.6%
Ear Tags / # Tags	6	0.9%
Brand / Tattoo / Ear Tags	18	2.8%
Tattoo / Ear Tags	1	0.2%
Brand / Tattoo / # Tags	8	1.3%
Brand / Tattoo / Ear Tags / # Tags	47	7.4%
Tattoo / Ear Tags / # Tags	1	0.2%
Brand / Ear Tags / RFID / # Tags	8	1.3%
Brand / # Tags	45	7.0%
Brand / Ear Tags / RFID	4	0.6%
Brand / RFID	1	0.2%
Brand / RFID / #	1	0.2%
Brand / Tattoo / Ear Tags / RFID	1	0.2%
All	1	0.2%

### 3. Are disease trace backs important?

Yes	No	Total
580	86	666
87.1%	12.9%	

**4. Should there be an Animal Disease trace back system in WY?**

Yes	No	Total
525	97	622
84.4%	15.6%	

**5. Are you aware of the voluntary National Animal Identification System (NAIS)?**

Yes	No	Total
473	205	678
69.8%	30.2%	

**6. Have you applied for your own unique premises number from the Wyoming Livestock Board?**

Yes	No	Total
141	535	676
20.9%	79.1%	

**7. Should a state mandated program be funded by:**

	# Of Responses	Percent
Producers	44	7.1%
State Government	358	58.0%
Federal Government	168	27.2%
All of the above	13	2.1%
State & Federal	25	4.1%
Producers & State	<u>9</u>	1.5%
Total Responses	617	

**8. Would you attend an informational meeting about animal disease management in Wyoming?**

Yes	No	Total
470	178	648
72.5%	27.5%	

**9. How far would you be willing to travel to attend an informational / listening session about NAIS or a similar state run program?**

Less than 25 miles	209	33.8%
25 - 50 miles	217	35.1%
51 - 100 miles	151	24.4%
more than 100 miles	<u>42</u>	6.8%
Total Responses	619	

**10. Do you raise or keep livestock for commercial sale?**

Yes	No	Total
554	127	681
81.4%	18.6%	

**11. Do you raise or keep livestock for recreational use or exhibition?**

Yes	No	Total
259	420	679
38.1%	61.9%	

**12. Do you ship, sell or export livestock?**

Yes	No	Total
584	103	687
85.0%	15.0%	

**13. Where do you ship or export your livestock? (check all that apply)**

	# Of Responses	Percent
Out of State	99	16.9%
In-State	186	31.7%
Internationally	0	0.0%
Other: Specify	4	0.7%
Out of and In State	285	48.6%
All marked	2	0.3%
Out/In/ Internationally	6	1.0%
Out/In/Other	4	0.7%
In State & Internationally	<u>1</u>	0.2%
Total Responses	587	

**14. Do you know which animal/livestock diseases are reportable?**

Yes	No	Total
300	287	587
51.1%	48.9%	

**15. Should reportable animal/livestock diseases be reported to?**

	# Of Responses	Percent
Local Vet	211	35.9%
State Vet	153	26.1%
WY LSB	23	3.9%
Other: Specify	14	2.4%
Local & State Vet	91	15.5%
All marked	9	1.5%
Local & State Vet & LSB	58	9.9%
State Vet & LSB	19	3.2%
Local Vet & LSB	8	1.4%
LSB & Other	<u>1</u>	0.2%
Total Responses	587	

16. Do you know what the definition of a zoonotic disease is?

Yes	No	Total
130	454	584
22.3%	77.7%	

17. Is there a need for a system to aid in prevention, control and notification of animal disease and health issues in Wyoming?

Yes	No	Total
514	129	643
79.9%	20.1%	

18. How quickly should an animal disease trace back be performed?

	# Of Responses	Percent
8 hours	43	7.0%
24 hours	169	27.5%
48 hours	217	35.3%
1 week	137	22.3%
1 month	31	5.0%
Longer?	18	2.9%
Total Responses	587	

19. Are Foreign Animal Diseases a threat to Livestock in the United States?

Yes	No	Total
605	52	657
92.1%	7.9%	

20. Are Foreign Animal Diseases a threat to the Livestock Industry in WY?

Yes	No	Total
550	96	646
85.1%	14.9%	

21. Is access to foreign markets important to the Livestock Industry in WY?

Yes	No	Total
562	92	654
85.9%	14.1%	

22. Did you know the average time taken for a livestock Tuberculosis trace back is 188 days?

Yes	No	Total
45	635	680
6.6%	93.4%	

**23. Which system do you believe would be a more effective disease management program?**

	<b># Of Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Voluntary	217	32.5%
Mandatory	192	28.8%
Don't know	<u>258</u>	38.7%
Total Responses	667	

**24. A disease trace back system should be managed by:**

	<b># Of Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
State of Wyoming	454	68.1%
Federal Government	46	6.9%
Don't know	122	18.3%
Other:	18	2.7%
State & Federal	<u>27</u>	4.0%
Total Responses	667	

**25. Are you aware that after the 2003 BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or Mad Cow Disease) case in Washington State over 100 foreign markets closed their borders to US beef?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
546	134	680
80.3%	19.7%	

**26. Are you aware that animal Agriculture accounts for approximately 16% of the U.S. gross national Product?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
407	273	680
59.9%	40.1%	

**27. Are you aware that 20% of the U.S. job market is linked to animal agriculture?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
385	294	679
56.7%	43.3%	

**28. Are you aware that the annual cash receipt of the animal agriculture industry in Wyoming is valued at nearly \$900 million?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
280	396	676
41.4%	58.6%	

29. Are you aware that Congress has the power to regulate interstate commerce?

Yes	No	Total
573	104	677
84.6%	15.4%	

30. Are you aware the U.S. Constitution recognizes the right for states to have inspection laws and programs?

Yes	No	Total
493	184	677
72.8%	27.2%	

31. Are you aware the Wyoming Constitution mandates the State must have an inspection system to protect the livestock interests from diseases?

Yes	No	Total
388	286	674
57.6%	42.4%	

Questions 32 through 41 were evaluative questions and respondents were proffered a 5 point scale measuring levels of understanding, importance and value with 5 representing the highest level and 1 representing the lowest. The 5 point scale was converted to a 100 Point Scale as shown below with results reported on a 100 Point Scale. For example, the average score for question 32 using the 5 point system was 2.69. Converted to the 100 point scale, this average becomes 53.8%. Respondents, therefore, were only marginally comfortable with understanding the National Animal Identification System. Whereas, the 5 point score average for question 34 was 3.77 or 76% of producers felt that traceability of Wyoming livestock was important.

5 Point Scale Score	100 Point Scale
1	20%
2	40%
2.5	50%
3.0	60%
3.5	70%
4.0	80%
4.5	90%
5.0	100%

32. Circle your level of understanding and knowledge of the National Animal Identification System from 1 to 5, with 1 being a total lack of understanding and 5 being a complete understanding.

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	95	175	281	94	30	675
Avg. 5 Point Score	2.69					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>53.8%</b>					

33. Circle your level of understanding and knowledge of how the premises registration process works in Wyoming from 1 to 5, with 1 being a total lack of understanding and 5 being a complete understanding?

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	177	168	203	94	37	679
Avg. 5 Point Score	2.48					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>49.6%</b>					

34. How important is traceability in Wyoming Livestock from 1 to 5, with 1 being no importance and 5 being very important?

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	22	45	189	224	193	673
Avg. 5 Point Score	3.77					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>75.5%</b>					

35. How would you rate the ability of a National Animal Identification System to do the following, with 1 being very unlikely to 5 being very likely?

A. Improve the producer's operational management

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	228	138	189	74	34	663
Avg. 5 Point Score	2.32					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>46.4%</b>					

B. Increase the producer's marketability of livestock

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	126	107	194	154	78	659
Avg. 5 Point Score	2.93					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>58.5%</b>					

C. Accurately track animal movement

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	85	92	201	184	100	662
Avg. 5 Point Score	3.18					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>63.7%</b>					

D. Quickly respond to emergency animal disease outbreaks

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	81	94	196	170	121	662
Avg. 5 Point Score	3.24					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>64.7%</b>					

E. Benefit the Wyoming producer

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	146	112	188	122	91	659
Avg. 5 Point Score	2.85					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>57.0%</b>					

36. Rate the economic value to the producer that the ability to verify livestock source, age and production process from 1 to 5, with 1 being of no value and 5 being a high value to the producer?

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	62	105	226	178	91	662
Avg. 5 Point Score	3.20					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>64.0%</b>					

37. Rate how important you believe the ability to verify livestock source, age and production process is from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	58	86	207	195	121	667
Avg. 5 Point Score	3.35					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>67.0%</b>					

38. How important to your business is the ability of the state or federal government to perform an animal disease trace back from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	91	105	201	160	109	666
Avg. 5 Point Score	3.14					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>62.7%</b>					

39. Rate how important you feel consumer opinion drives industry standards from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	27	39	145	263	199	673
Avg. 5 Point Score	3.84					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>76.9%</b>					

40. Rate how important you feel the need of individual animal identification is in a disease management program from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	54	86	170	198	158	666
Avg. 5 Point Score	3.48					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>69.6%</b>					

41. Rate the importance of Country of Origin Labeling or COOL from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Responses	30	31	92	144	376	673
Avg. 5 Point Score	4.20					
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>83.9%</b>					

**42. How long have you been a livestock producer?**

	<b># Of Responses</b>	<b>Percent</b>
5 years or less	32	4.7%
6-10 years	49	7.3%
11-20 years	113	16.7%
21-39 years	220	32.6%
40 years or more	261	38.7%
Total Responses	675	

Table 1. presents response rates by county for the survey. The data presented include instruments returned but not completed by producers. While the overall response rate to the *2008 Disease Management Survey* was excellent, users are cautioned that respondent answers to the questionnaire are not statistically valid at the county level.

<b>Table 1. RESPONSE RATES BY COUNTY</b>			
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b># OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>SAMPLE SIZE</b>	<b>% RESPONSE</b>
Albany	34	49	69.4%
Big Horn	34	51	66.7%
Carbon	11	15	73.3%
Converse	38	55	69.1%
Campbell	56	85	65.9%
Crook	22	42	52.4%
Fremont	64	133	48.1%
Goshen	41	71	57.7%
Hot Springs	12	20	60.0%
Johnson	33	46	71.7%
Laramie	23	38	60.5%
Lincoln	20	31	64.5%
Natrona	45	84	53.6%
Niobrara	34	46	73.9%
Park	36	54	66.7%
Platte	36	52	69.2%
Sheridan	44	65	67.7%
Sublette	26	46	56.5%
Sweetwater	18	33	54.5%
Teton	8	19	42.1%
Uinta	17	40	42.5%
Washakie	24	42	57.1%
Weston	28	32	87.5%
Unknown	9	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>62.1%</b>

## **Respondent Comments to The 2008 Wyoming Livestock Board Disease Management Survey**

The pages below contain written comments provided by survey respondents. Comments were received for almost all questions on the survey instrument. Comments were not edited for content or meaning, but misspellings were corrected. When the same comment was made more than once on the same question, the number of responses will be found in brackets. Readers are strongly cautioned to not attach statistical validity to written comments.

### *Question 1*

- Sometimes

### *Question 3*

- to a point
- depends
- It depends on who's tracking - disease control or packer, lobby or NCBA
- In some cases, in others will be used wrongfully by big packers
- let's not exempt packers we already have a system in place

### *Question 4*

- Depends on what & who runs it
- We have a brand
- there is -> scrapes for goats & sheep
- there is
- voluntary
- not necessarily gov involvement
- not mandatory
- use in conjunction w/ brands
- Leading question
- as long as it wasn't invasive or too costly to the producer
- have one - BRANDS
- We have Health, Brand, Vet
- There already is - brands and tattoos
- We have brands - and brand laws!
- We have one! The brand!
- There already is!
- Because disease is sometime brought in on travel - or cattle brought in for pasture - horses - show - rodeo
- sheep have too short of a life span
- using brands
- expense
- We already have one with our brand system

*Question 5*

- HATE IT
- why doesn't this apply to NAFTA
- stay away from this
- Bad deal. It will not be voluntary

*Question 6*

- I have premises # from the USDA for sheep & goats
- And I will never do it. I don't think its right to be forced to do something to make the government know everything you do.
- & won't
- not sure
- I think so
- swift/JBS accepts my affidavit of same & age
- will not apply
- We already have farm numbers
- not needed
- not needed with hot iron brands
- applied a couple years ago, never received a number
- will not apply

*Question 7*

- don't need one
- I think we can trace cattle by use of present systems; brands-bangs programs
- It is still funded by the producer
- keep fed gov out of state business
- NO (6)
- no mandated program
- None of above
- None, it will be one more thing for producers to make less money, we need fewer programs and more common sense. If we are worried about disease we need to control the animals coming in from other countries.
- not at all
- not needed
- only as needed and by who would the best job
- packer, lobby, consumer
- rancher needs paid to keep records if at all
- Should not be a program. Use current program
- Should not be one
- There should not be a mandated program
- Too much government! We don't need them

*Question 8*

- depending on location
- depends on who's promoting the meeting
- I have - it was a non-starter

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- If you weren't trying to push some sort of identification system other than brands.
- Maybe (5)
- sometimes

*Question 9*

- 0 miles @ \$5 a gallon
- 2 ft
- Depending on gas prices!
- depends
- NONE (2)
- would not travel to hear about NAIS

*Question 10*

- Do you mean retail? We ship calves or yearlings to auction or feeders.
- What the h is commercial sale?

*Question 11*

- as of right now the only animals I have are ones we feed for our own use - for slaughter
- I raise livestock to consume personally & would never intentionally sell anything I would not eat myself. Mine is a self contained herd as such - unless the disease is spread by the sire, the risk is low.
- I use livestock commercially

*Question 13*

- through sell barn (4)
- where ever the buger is
- sells beef

*Question 14*

- But I'll bet the vet does
- some of them

*Question 15*

other:

- 3 all of the above
- 1 rancher
- 1 mind your own business
- 1 not sure
- 1 It would depend upon how the program was set up
- 2 Local vet should notify others
- 2 County Health Office
- 1 don't know
- 1 livestock producers and their neighbors
- 1 a national database
- already should be in place
- define reportable

*Question 16*

- a disease that can be found in animals but can affect people
- didn't recognize word
- I'm sure I could find out if I needed to
- Reason for this question is?? I'm not a vet, no do I want to be
- transmittable to humans

*Question 17*

- already in place
- already such system in place, needs to continue and perhaps be improved, refined
- beyond the current system...no
- brand & bang tags should do
- have a brand system in place
- How about common sense? If you have a 'system' you have someone trying to control producers more.
- Is this another state run program?
- maybe if we don't go over board on gov control
- no new government agency
- perhaps
- presently in place
- There is right now. Brands
- thought we had one
- We have a brand
- we have one now - branding!
- We have one!
- What we have is adequate

*Question 18*

- ASAP (5)
- depending on disease the sooner the better
- depends on disease (4)
- no opinion
- not sure
- one disease may be more critical than another
- w/in hours after it is diagnosed, depending on severity
- which ever time frame is critical to disease that is being traced

*Question 19*

- Doesn't make any difference the "Feds" will open the borders anyway!
- Mexican
- not if we keep control of our borders
- Not if we would keep our borders closed
- perhaps
- So what are we doing about it??

*Question 20*

- Canada Trucks travel thru Wyoming with Canada livestock coming into the country
- Canadian Imports
- not extreme
- not if we keep control of our borders
- perhaps
- TB from Mexico & BSE from Canada
- the answers to the previous 3 questions would depend on the disease
- very slight

*Question 21*

- If foreign meat did not come in we would not have a problem. "Free Trade" is not 'Fair Trade'
- not very sure haven't got any benefit
- to sell

*Question 22*

- Could this not be improved?
- Gov fault & in effective, good reason not to go with fed control.
- No excuse for this
- not soon enough
- Where?

*Question 23*

- Don't want any more government intervention
- I think it depends on the # of animals
- mandatory would be more effective however there is already too much state and federal government control in all industry not just livestock
- Need responsible producers!
- What's wrong with the one we have? It works

*Question 24*

**other:**

- 3 Private
- 3 Vets
- 2 counties with brands
- 2 each individual state
- 2 local boards
- 2 Producers
- 1 depends on the disease
- 1 mind your own business
- 1 NCBA or separate National Committee
- 1 none
- 1 Stock Growers Association
- 1 who ever funds the program

Wyoming Livestock Board 2008 Disease Management Survey

- 1 WY Livestock Board
  - certainly not the federal government
  - definitely not the Fed
  - keep fed gov out of our livestock business
  - Keep government out. Gov intervention only pisses people off and creates havoc & dissension
  - Leading question
  - not fed gov
  - not impressed with state or federal government
  - State Gov only
  - There should not be any Federal Government management
  - Why

*Question 25*

- “Canadian Imported Cow” should always proceed this question
- And NAIS wouldn’t help!
- And we open the boarder to the north? COME ON!
- But if we had kept our borders closed to Canada would they not have re-opened?
- Canadian Cow
- Canadian Cow with animal ID
- I knew they closed borders but not 100
- If USDA had used info they had this wouldn’t have been as great a problem
- knew numerous countries did
- Only US case cow was tested multiple times before the USDA - packer lobby could get a positive result
- Wasn’t that a Canadian cow? Doesn’t Canada have a mandatory system, similar to NAIS in place?

*Question 26*

- Give me a break
- Why is it not higher we have great product and USA government think that we need to buy more out of USA
- would have thought it more

*Question 27*

- if you count animal by product it higher job market
- Same as above
- What percentage of that job market is filled by foreigners both legal and illegal?
- would have thought it more

*Question 28*

- Only?
- was not aware of the \$ amount but thought it to be a lot

*Question 29*

- Does this question imply WY wants federal control?
- they shouldn’t

*Question 30*

- actually the constitution is silent on this issue, but it does not prohibit the action
- and we already do
- Are you aware that the constitution contains a fifth amendment?

*Question 31*

- Is that not what a health inspection is for?
- must be followed up with import inspections
- state vet
- they charge us for it when we sell but no inspection is done

*Question 32*

- enough to know we don't want it
- I know enough to know national is not the way to go
- not a good system - too expensive & labor intense

*Question 33*

- and don't like it
- we already have our brands - use this source

*Question 34*

- Already in place, need no new laws
- by keeping better track of brands
- I worked at sale barn & feedlots most of my life and when something happens it was not long before they knew where the livestock come from & what happens
- Use brands!
- USE THE BRAND!
- We have this in on with BRANDING!
- WY has a brand system that they can do that now. They tracked a cow from Canada to Washington

*Question 35*

- already do
- Benefit? HOW??
- benefit the big three Packers & IRS...5
- Don't want it!
- hurt
- Look at Australia
- people should be able to talk to each other go by their word

*Question 36*

- As linked to NAIS?
- brands will work
- I've been able to verify where my cattle come from before this NAIS thing
- producer should be doing this on their own

*Question 37*

- Most producer can tell you this

*Question 38*

- depends on disease
- no fed gov
- you do it now

*Question 39*

- big mouths don't stop big appetites
- Government opinion 5
- we are the source in our operation

*Question 40*

- again, we already have brands and tattoos
- I think that cattle #s in a feedlot situation it would be far more important than a dozen in a pasture
- Leading question
- the people I know that are in the livestock business already tell you this
- Use brands only!

*Question 41*

- Hasn't been working, so it must not be important
- Should apply to all countries
- tracking for imported livestock only
- very important more important than domestic trace back

*Question 42*

- 102 years
- Horses only
- husband is deceased - he was in the business 11-20 years
- I am no longer a producer Not since 1990
- I am not in the livestock business since 2001
- I don't produce livestock, I use horses & mules commercially
- I will not sell any animal that is not healthy!!
- no longer a producer

*General comments*

- (addressee) does not live in WYO
- (letter attached) I [name] am no longer a livestock owner since October of 2007. I have sold my livestock. There is no need for you to send me any more information, or surveys etc. I apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you
- A question I have is who is to say where an animal contracts a disease. With a lot of cattle movement they can catch a disease at places other than home.
- adamantly opposed to NAIS
- All my life I've see cattle trace back to where they came from by Brands and I don't think it right that everybody has to have a # chip and all their animals must use it. It just another way for the government to have more control on a person.
- Both (addressees) are deceased
- BRANDS ARE ALL THAT IS NEEDED!
- Canada has had a mandatory 'NAIS' system in place for 10 years. During their last occurrence of mad cow they used their old brand inspection system to trace back. NAIS wont stop disease, management will.
- depends on the quality of your product
- Have you ever tagged a newborn calf in a herd that has been harassed by wolves? You won't tag a second one.
- I am no longer in the livestock business
- I am retired and have 3 horses for helping my daughter and her husband.
- I am returning the survey to you as I feel I cannot answer the questions as well as someone else. I have been out of the cattle industry for more than 10 years and do not have any working knowledge of any of the current operation procedures.
- I am sending this back unanswered. It is too complicated for me. I only own about 5 cows and my son runs them with his.
- I did your survey and I think it is important to keep track of beef cattle down the chain as they go in the production cycle. However, I feel strongly that mandatory tagging and the federal government (APHIS Vets) in general is not the best answer. State regulated is better than Federal. We have brand laws and branded cattle can be tracked through the whole process back to the originating ranch. Also, age verification within the entire industry is standard; all producers send calves 8 to 9 months or yearlings 20 to 21 months. Culls are usually older or problematic cattle and are easy to identify. These are two very different types of cattle. Tagging at the ranch before shipping would add one more step in the process as well as added expense. Even if the tags were free, we would rough up our cattle one more time just before shipping which in some cases, depending on the setup, could cost a lot in more shrink and injured animals. Tagging should be done down the chain at the feedlot, not at the ranch. Cow/calf operators can't stand any more expense or loss; as you know, the profit margin is already slim.
- I don't raise anything anymore except a few horses. However I do feel disease control is very important I must confess I don't keep up on things so I don't feel I can answer this survey in an educated manner. Keep up the good job you do for all our ranchers & farmers.
- I feel that with Brand Inspection in WY we already have premise ID
- I feel very strongly that, when executed properly, the Wyoming Brand laws should be the only sort of identification system used.
- I filled the first one & sent it
- I filled the first one & sent it

*Wyoming Livestock Board 2008 Disease Management Survey*

- I have used ID cow tags for 33 years and I have yet found one that will stay in cows for more than 5-7 years and sometimes less
- I haven't had any cattle since 1986. Sold the ranch in 1997, moved to town in 1999.
- I make my living in other areas as well as livestock. Many of the state & Federal laws and programs that directly affect me are made and managed by people who don't seem to have a full understanding of the big picture. The management and economic diversity of the different livestock operations is not taken into account and there for there is the possibility of a program that is too costly or time consuming being put into place. Also politics seem to have as much or more influence than fact or practicality.
- I no longer have any livestock
- I wouldn't be able to answer these questions without more information
- If it is mandated I will sell my livestock & go to raising cash crops. I will not bow down to the "Man of the Beast" animal ID. The Privacy issue was not addressed in this survey. Producer info has already been given out under freedom of information act.
- If you trace domestic livestock then rules should apply to imports. I have never seen the fed gov be efficient in anything they do. Stay away from Federal Gov participation!
- I'm retired & don't produce much Livestock (only horses)
- In my opinion this is a biased survey designed to produce the results you want to say all producers want a federal mandated ID system
- Is this another way for the Lending Inst. To know more?
- keeping zoonotic diseases out of the USA from diseased countries is the only way to keep our livestock disease free
- Look what happen to the hog market when they mandated a program. The hog price went down and has never come back up because it made it possible for one company to have all the control
- Mark all imported products!!
- Most cattle producers in WY sell their calves @ weaning & have no connection or awareness of feeder, finish & packing of their end product. Those of us who finish l/s realize the importance of BQA, Quality/yield grades, vax programs & premiums of age.
- Not in livestock production at this time
- Out of livestock business
- Please note I feel this is a NCPA loaded survey. If we don't bring livestock in there we won't have BSE etc. We can ban\_\_ vaccinate - trace back is a packer
- Poorly compiled - Needs more questions addressing privacy issues & response issues. Fewer leading questions which imply support for animal ID.
- recipient is no longer a producer, just holds the brand
- sorry - I just don't feel qualified for this survey
- State run programs are a loss of freedom
- The federal government should not be involved
- The only occurrence of E. Coli salmonella etc, that I'm aware of passed through government inspected packing plants yet the packers want an exemption on NAIS. Follow the money and you'll see whose interests are being served. This survey is being funded by money that was taken from someone and then given to the state of WY probably by the fed gov. If you want to increase the problem & drive up the cost, then put the gov in charge of running it. I am opposed to the NAIS on many levels.

Wyoming Livestock Board 2008 Disease Management Survey

- The USDA already has an ID system in place for sheep & goats -> FREE. Why can't we just use the same tag program? Otherwise any other system is too expensive for the small producer.
- there isn't enough room to explain my comments
- This survey is biased. Answers lead to a deed for NAIS. Current identification systems are adequate for trace back!
- USE BRANDS! For hoof & mouth, you will bill everything anyway
- use current brand laws
- very aware
- We already have a state wide ID system with our brand laws for trace back
- We are no longer in the cattle business for the last 8 years
- We are retired and have recently gone out of the farming-ranching business
- We believe the brand system is adequate & has been for years & no further system is needed!
- We buy our grass cattle from Livestock Auctions. It's certainly a dukes mixture, especially if the yard buys and feeds them for spring auction. It is almost impossible except from buyer on
- We do not have any livestock
- We do not operate a ranch any more or have any livestock. We still have 3 brands. Would maybe interested in selling one or all
- We do not raise livestock
- We DO NOT support the idea of the NAIS. We have expressed this before!! The people/producers we know who have used it find it to be ineffective. We have a viable system in place through inspections, etc. Are you simply going to insist that this is going to happen despite what producers are already telling you? Again, we do not want NAIS!!!! You can scare us, threaten us, pose the questions in 100 different ways...but a duck is still a duck! Why do you insist on bringing this idea again?? How about sending us the results of the last survey along with the results of this one? And a list of all comments? Who will really benefit from the NAIS? It won't be the producers! Whose interests will really be served?
- We have a good hot iron brand program in Wyoming - that is identification enough for trace back or anything else
- We need a system that uses common sense and isn't over complicated
- We should be selling our products domestically
- Why can't our Brand system be put on a computer program & be implemented in such a way that it will work
- With brands, livestock can be traced back to owners. The less government we have the better off we are. Free enterprise works better with less government interference

## **Appendix A: Survey Materials**

The following pages contain copies of the survey materials sent to the randomly selected livestock producers within Wyoming. All producers selected for the study were first sent a pre-notification letter informing them that they would be receiving a questionnaire with a postage paid return envelope within approximately five days. A reminder letter was sent to non-respondents approximately one month following the initial mailing asking that producers complete the survey. This letter was then followed by a second survey instrument with a postage paid return envelope.

## First Pre-notification Letter



Dave Freudenthal  
Governor

# Wyoming Livestock Board

"Safeguarding Wyoming's Livestock Industry Today and for the Future"

2020 Carey Avenue 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0051  
Phone: (307) 777-7515 ■ Fax: (307) 777-6561 ■ Web Site: <http://wlsb.state.wy.us>

James L. Schwartz, Director - Chief Executive Officer  
Walter E. Cook, DVM - State Veterinarian



Jim Logan, DVM  
Assistant State Veterinarian

May 19, 2008

Dear Wyoming Livestock Producer,

The Wyoming Livestock Board is charged with "protecting" the livestock industry in Wyoming in statute and in the Wyoming Constitution. As Wyoming livestock producers, we are always independent and proud of our products-as we should be! There is always controversy on the best methods or approaches best for the industry. The Wyoming Livestock Board will be sending you a survey in a few days. Please take the time to fill it out as it will be used for future decisions that could impact your operation.

My staff and I will use the survey information in our ongoing efforts to improve delivery of services to Livestock producers in Wyoming. Our Agency desperately needs producer information concerning disease traceability in Wyoming.

You have been chosen as one of 1200 active livestock producers in Wyoming to participate in a survey by the Wyoming Livestock Board. Your completion and return of the survey to the office of Wyoming Center for Business and Economic Analysis, LLC, in a self addressed, stamped envelope, are important in making this a statistically successful effort. If the person whose name appears on the envelope is unable to fill out the survey, please have an adult (19 years or older) in the household complete the survey.

Your completed survey will be 100 percent confidential, no Wyoming Livestock Board official or Wyoming Livestock Board staff will have access to your questionnaire. In addition, once all surveys are tabulated, they will be destroyed. There will be no follow up telephone calls or interviewers calling you or knocking on your door.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the survey, please contact the Wyoming Center for Business & Economic Analysis at 866-632-1347. Thank you for your participation in this important undertaking.

Respectfully;

Jim Schwartz, Director  
Wyoming Livestock Board

Walter E. Cook  
State Veterinarian

Phil Marton  
WLSB President

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### Board Members

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Phil Marton  
Casper  
President

William Taliaferro  
Rock Springs  
Vice President

Donna Wells-Phippis  
Lingle



Rob Orchard  
Ten Sleep

Fred Wilson  
Newcastle

Eric Barlow, DVM  
Gillette

Albert Sommers  
Pinedale

## Second Pre-notification Letter

 <p><b>Dave Freudenthal</b> Governor</p>	<p><b>Wyoming Livestock Board</b> "Safeguarding Wyoming's Livestock Industry Today and for the Future"</p> <p>2020 Carey Avenue 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0051 Phone: (307) 777-7515 ■ Fax: (307) 777-6561 ■ Web Site: <a href="http://wlsb.state.wy.us">http://wlsb.state.wy.us</a></p> <p><b>James L. Schwartz, Director - Chief Executive Officer</b> <b>Walter E. Cook, DVM - State Veterinarian</b></p>	 <p><b>Jim Logan, DVM</b> Assistant State Veterinarian</p>
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June 18, 2008

Dear Producer:

The Wyoming Livestock Board is charged with "protecting" the livestock industry in Wyoming in statute and in the Wyoming Constitution. The Wyoming Livestock Board sent out a survey a few weeks ago and we did not receive your completed survey. This is the second mailing of the **2008 Wyoming Disease Management and Traceability Survey**. We are asking that you please take a few minutes to complete this one and return it to Wyoming Center for Business & Economic Analysis. **IF YOU ALREADY SENT IN THE FIRST SURVEY, PLEASE IGNORE THIS SECOND REQUEST AND ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES.**

If the person whose name appears on the envelope is unable to fill out the survey, please have an adult (19 years or older) in the household complete the survey.

If you did not complete the first survey, please be assured that we value your comments. Your input helps guide us in improving delivery of services to Livestock Producers in Wyoming. Answers to the questions in this survey are 100 percent confidential. In addition, once the surveys are tabulated, all surveys will be destroyed. There will be no follow up telephone calls or interviewers knocking on your door.

**Please return your survey by June 28, 2008 in the enclosed postage paid envelope.**

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Wyoming Center for Business and Economic Analysis at 866-632-1347. Thank you for your participation in this important undertaking.

Respectfully,

Jim Schwartz  
WLSB CEO

Philip Marton  
WLSB Board President

Dr. Walter Cook, DVM  
Wyoming State Veterinarian

## Survey Instrument

### **WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD 2008 DISEASE MANAGEMENT SURVEY**

Thank you for taking the time (about 5-10 minutes) to complete this survey. Your answers will directly shape the disease traceability program in Wyoming, as was stated in the pre-survey letter you received recently, the Wyoming Livestock Board is charged with 'protecting' the livestock industry and your input is greatly appreciated. Thank you again for helping to make the Wyoming Livestock industry better!

1. Do you currently use a form of Animal Identification in your operation?  
 Yes (Continue)       No (Go to item 3)
  
2. If yes, what kind? (check all that apply)  Brand    Tattoo    Ear tags  
 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) device  
 Individually numbered tags
  
3. Are disease trace backs important?    Yes    No
  
4. Should there be an Animal Disease trace back system in WY?    Yes    No
  
5. Are you aware of the voluntary National Animal Identification System (NAIS)?    Yes    No
  
6. Have you applied for your own unique premises number from the Wyoming Livestock Board?  
 Yes    No
  
7. Should a state mandated program be funded by:  
 Producers    State Government    Federal Government
  
8. Would you attend an informational meeting about animal disease management in Wyoming?  
 Yes    No
  
9. How far would you be willing to travel to attend an informational / listening session about NAIS or a similar state run program?  
 Less than 25 miles    25-50 miles    51-100 miles    More than 100 miles
  
10. Do you raise or keep livestock for commercial sale?    Yes    No
  
11. Do you raise or keep livestock for recreational use or exhibition.    Yes    No

*Wyoming Livestock Board 2008 Disease Management Survey*

12. Do you ship, sell or export livestock?  Yes (continue)  No (go to item 17)
13. Where do you ship or export your livestock? (check all that apply)  
 Out of State  In-State  Internationally  Other: Specify
14. Do you know which animal/livestock diseases are reportable?  Yes  No
15. Should reportable animal/livestock diseases be reported to:  
 Local Veterinarian  State Veterinarian  Wyoming Livestock Board  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
16. Do you know what the definition of a zoonotic disease is?  Yes  No
17. Is there a need for a system to aid in prevention, control and notification of animal disease and health issues in Wyoming?  Yes  No
18. How quickly should an animal disease trace back be performed? (choose one)  
 8 hours  24 hours  48 hours  1 week  1 month  Longer?
19. Are Foreign Animal Diseases a threat to Livestock in the United States?  
 Yes  No
20. Are Foreign Animal Diseases a threat to the Livestock Industry in WY?  
 Yes  No
21. Is access to foreign markets important to the Livestock Industry in WY?  Yes  No
22. Did you know the average time taken for a livestock Tuberculosis trace back is 188 days?  
 Yes  No
23. Which system do you believe would be a more effective disease management program?  
 Voluntary  Mandatory  Don't know
24. A disease trace back system should be managed by:  
 State of Wyoming  Federal Government  Other:(Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Don't know

*Wyoming Livestock Board 2008 Disease Management Survey*

25. Are you aware that after the 2003 BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or Mad Cow Disease) case in Washington State over 100 foreign markets closed their borders to US beef?  
 Yes  No
26. Are you aware that animal Agriculture accounts for approximately 16% of the U.S. gross national Product?  Yes  No
27. Are you aware that 20% of the U.S. job market is linked to animal agriculture?  Yes  No
28. Are you aware that the annual cash receipt of the animal agriculture industry in Wyoming is valued at nearly \$900 million?  Yes  No
29. Are you aware that Congress has the power to regulate interstate commerce?  Yes  No
30. Are you aware the U.S. Constitution recognizes the right for states to have inspection laws and programs?  Yes  No
31. Are you aware the Wyoming Constitution mandates the State must have an inspection system to protect the livestock interests from diseases?  Yes  No
32. Circle your level of understanding and knowledge of the National Animal Identification System from 1 to 5, with 1 being a total lack of understanding and 5 being a complete understanding.
- |  |          |          |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
33. Circle your level of understanding and knowledge of how the premises registration process works in Wyoming from 1 to 5, with 1 being a total lack of understanding and 5 being a complete understanding?
- |  |          |          |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
34. How important is traceability in Wyoming Livestock from 1 to 5, with 1 being no importance and 5 being very important?
- |  |          |          |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|  | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
35. How would you rate the ability of a National Animal Identification System to do the following, with 1 being very unlikely to 5 being very likely?
- |   |          |          |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Improve the producer's operational management         | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Increase the producer's marketability of livestock    | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Accurately track animal movement                      | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Quickly respond to emergency animal disease outbreaks | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |
| Benefit the Wyoming producer                          | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> |

36. Rate the economic value to the producer that the ability to verify livestock source, age and production process from 1 to 5, with 1 being of no value and 5 being a high value to the producer?      **1      2      3      4      5**

37. Rate how important you believe the ability to verify livestock source, age and production process is from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?      **1      2      3      4      5**

38. How important to your business is the ability of the state or federal government to perform an animal disease trace back from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?      **1      2      3      4      5**

39. Rate how important you feel consumer opinion drives industry standards from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?      **1      2      3      4      5**

40. Rate how important you feel the need of individual animal identification is in a disease management program from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?      **1      2      3      4      5**

41. Rate the importance of Country of Origin Labeling or COOL from 1 to 5, with 1 being not important and 5 being very important?      **1      2      3      4      5**

42. How long have you been a livestock producer?  
 5 years or less    6-10 years    11-20 years    21-39years    40 years or more

***THANK YOU FOR FINISHING THIS SURVEY.  
YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT.***

***PLEASE PLACE THE COMPLETED SURVEY IN THE SELF  
ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE AND PLACE IT IN THE MAIL.***