

General Information

- Agency name: Wyoming Livestock Board
- Director's name and official title: James L. Schwartz, WLSB Director and CEO
- Agency Contact person: James L. Schwartz, Director-CEO
- Agency Contact phone: 777-6443
- Mailing address: 1934 Wyott Drive; Cheyenne, WY 82002-051
- Web address (URL): <http://wlsb@state.wy.us>
- Other Locations: Riverton, WY
- Statutory References: The agency's statutory authority was established under Chapter 85, Laws 1933. Its activities are described in:

Title 6, Chapter 6, Statute 6-1-101

Title 7, Chapter 2, Statute 7-2-101

Title 9, Chapter 2, Statute 9-2-1102

Title 11, Chapter 6, Statute 11-6-201 and 11-6-210

Chapter 18, Statutes 11-18-101 through 11-18-118

Chapter 19, Statutes 11-19-101 through 11-19-506

Chapter 20, Statutes 11-20-101 through 11-20-409

Chapter 21, Statutes 11-21-101 through 11-21-104

Chapter 22, Statutes 11-22-101 through 11-22-119

Chapter 23, Statutes 11-23-101 through 11-23-305

Chapter 24, Statutes 11-24-101 through 11-24-115

Chapter 26, Statute 11-26-101

Chapter 27, Statutes 11-27-101 through 11-27-107

Chapter 28, Statutes 11-28-101 through 11-28-108

Chapter 29, Statutes 11-29-101 through 11-29-114

Chapter 30, Statutes 11-30-101 through 11-30-114

Chapter 31, Statutes 11-31-101 through 11-31-301

Chapter 32, Statutes 11-32-101 through 11-32-104

Chapter 37, Statutes 11-37-102 and 11-37-107

Title 31, Chapter 5, Statute 31-5-102

- Clients Served: Livestock producers, licensed veterinarians, and general public.
- Budget Information (Expenditures for FY10): \$6,132,364.00

WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD'S 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Quality of Life Result: Wyoming natural resources are managed to maximize the economic, environmental and social prosperity of current and future generations. Wyoming values the unique aspects of its western heritage, providing residents and visitors expanding access to cultural, historical and recreational experiences.

Department: Wyoming Livestock Board

Contribution to Wyoming Quality of Life: The Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) works in collaboration with other state agencies such as the State Veterinary Laboratory, the Department of Agriculture, the Game and Fish Department, the Department of Health, law enforcement agencies, the Wyoming Board of Veterinary Medicine, and the Department of Homeland Security as well as USDA/Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and other federal agencies to protect the livestock industry, all other animals, and general public from animal disease and theft.

The WLSB educates producers and the public about diseases, disease prevention, and risk mitigation efforts, and animal identification requirements, monitors and inspects animal imports and exports for compliance with movement requirements, investigates disease outbreaks and disease traces, investigates alleged infractions of state law and agency rule, and brings violators to the attention of the judicial system.

The WLSB protects the livestock industry by verifying livestock ownership through recorded brands and brand inspection. The recorded brand is a preferred method of animal identification in Wyoming, used by over 88% of production livestock producers. Brand Inspectors use recorded brands to verify ownership and issue title documents on livestock transactions and verify livestock ownership on interstate and intrastate livestock movements. This also enables the WLSB to recover lost or stolen livestock. The recorded brand is the bedrock of the system as well as a tangible part of Wyoming's western heritage. For decades brands have been recorded for 10 years in years ending in five. The inevitable changes that occur in a ten year period led to many unintentionally abandoned brands because the WLSB was unable to contact the brand owners at their address of record. Consequently the historical renewal rate has only been 78%. These situations lead to many problems, including litigation from people who did not intend to abandon their brands. In 2005 brand recording began a new legislatively mandated staggered system where a portion of the recorded brands would be renewed every two years. The agency made a concerted effort to improve the rate of renewed brands and decrease abandoned brands.

The WLSB is considering a comprehensive livestock ID system for Wyoming. Disease tracing is a primary duty of the agency. Currently this is done using a variety of paper and electronic records from information gathered by each agency unit. If the agency can formulate an integrated electronic management system using current animal health, brand inspection, and enforcement records, the Livestock Board will be able to perform the majority of animal trace backs involved in disease outbreaks within 48 hours. 48 hour trace back is a stated goal supported by approximately 70% of Wyoming producers according to a 2008 WLSB poll. The ability to trace livestock back to their original herd is becoming a necessity for foreign and domestic trade. This system will also assist in theft prevention and investigations. The WLSB is uniquely positioned to design and implement an animal identification system since both animal health and livestock identification are among its primary responsibilities.

By doing these things, the WLSB is vital in maintaining the economic vigor and marketability of the livestock industry through implementing and enforcing livestock brand, ID, and health programs. This in turn maintains Wyoming's western heritage and insures that some private lands may be left undeveloped for scenic and environmental benefits.

Basic Facts:

WLSB has 20 full time staff (administration, animal health, brand and law enforcement), 98 AWEC Brand Inspectors and 1 part-time AWEC Law Enforcement officer. The biennial budget for 2011-2012 is \$15,687,010 of which \$8,010,755 is general funds, \$23,649 is federal funds and \$7,652,606 is earmarked special funds.

Three Primary Functions of our Agency include:

Prevention/Education. Our goal is to prevent the introduction of disease into livestock populations. Many of our programs and rules are directed at surveillance and preventing disease introduction into the state's livestock. We also work with individual livestock producers on a voluntary basis to develop herd plans to prevent the introduction of Brucellosis. We try to be proactive. We are also increasing producer education opportunities to prevent disease and animal welfare issues. We have held several meetings to educate producers about specific disease issues.

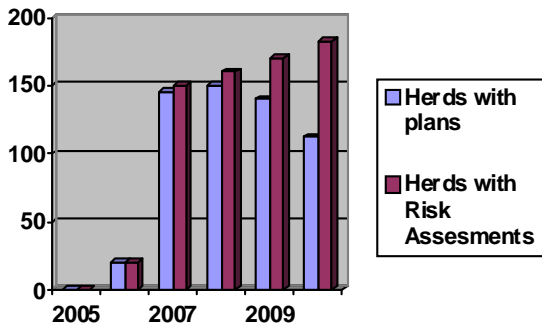
Surveillance. In collaboration with private veterinarians and other agencies we conduct surveillance for reportable diseases to discover and contain them when they have been introduced. Brucellosis herd plans have a surveillance component. We also conduct law enforcement surveillance to assure that people are obeying the rules and regulations concerning animal movements and humane treatment.

Response. We are currently in the process of developing a management system to enable coordination of intra-agency and interagency disease response. Our Homeland Security division is working with local, county, state and federal agencies, as well as local veterinarians, to coordinate a response if a reportable disease outbreak occurs. When a reportable disease is discovered through surveillance, we respond (often with APHIS) to control or eradicate the disease quickly. The Reportable Disease List and Response Protocols have been implemented. Notification of diseases by veterinarians and the public is the first step in any response. We also work with other agencies to educate the public about the disease and its implications to the animals and people of the state. Our primary function when livestock are reported missing is one of response; we respond to missing and stolen livestock reports, conduct an investigation, or attempt to locate the livestock and work with the appropriate officials to bring charges when theft is involved.

Although brands are designed to verify ownership of livestock, the recorded brand, often in combination with some individual animal identification, is the preferred method of animal identification. Combining brand recording, brand inspection, animal health and law enforcement records into a single comprehensive management system will greatly enhance our response efforts. This would also allow a more efficient use of resources in establishing response protocols. An example of this would be the ability to notify effected producers by county, geographic region or watershed drainage. Likewise, when we discover that people are breaking the laws that protect the livestock industry from disease, theft, and abuse we respond by investigating and working with the County attorneys to file the appropriate charges, quarantining or seizing the animals and ensuring they get proper treatment and care.

Performance:

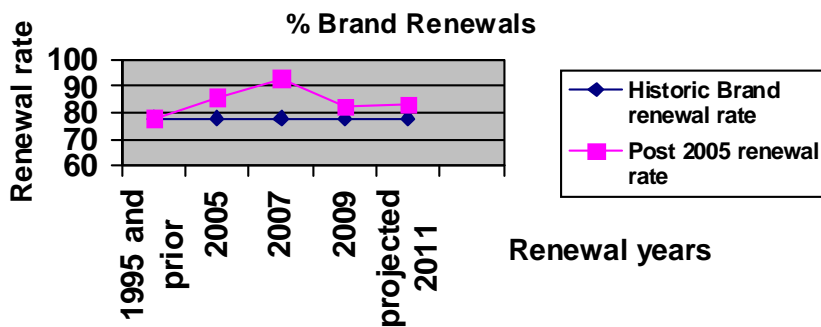
1. Number of Producers with Valid Brucellosis Herd Management Plans and Risk Assessments Completed



* We don't expect the number of Herd Plans to increase much once we have the core group of producers at risk participating in a Herd Plan. Herd Plans are voluntary and must be renewed by the producer annually.

2. New performance measurement, no current data, will be reflected in next strategic plan report.

3. Increase in Percentage of Brands Renewed



Story Behind the Last Year of Performance:

Performance Measure 1. Wyoming's cattle were Brucellosis-free as designated by USDA-APHIS since 1985. In 2003 we identified a single infected herd. In 2004 three additional infected herds were identified; this led to the state losing its Brucellosis-free status. The Governor's appointed Brucellosis Coordination Team recommended that ranches in the Greater Yellowstone Area work with the State Veterinarian's Office and APHIS to develop individual herd management plans (herd plans), based on risk assessments to prevent exposure from wildlife to livestock. Herd plans are designed to allow flexibility for individual producers, yet still protect their livestock from Brucellosis and prevent the disease from spreading if it does get introduced into a cattle herd. This is a low-cost endeavor that we believe provides us the best chance for preventing new infections in cattle herds. Herd plans contain both prevention and surveillance aspects. The main purpose is for producers to adopt management strategies that prevent disease exposure and transmission, but there are surveillance recommendations depending on the risk assessment. In 2008, one additional infected herd was discovered through surveillance; it was subsequently depopulated and all contact herds tested and found free of Brucellosis. The affected herd did not have a risk assessment or herd plan at the time of infection. Subsequently, awareness was increased and the initial herd and several surrounding herds have requested risk assessments and herd plans have been completed.

Performance Measure 2. A solution to this has already been implemented. The training of other Law Enforcement agencies has been started to include providing documentation devices to establish proper measuring tools. Plus a system is being developed regarding quarantine violations. A system that would prevent quarantines from being in place for extended periods of time could shorten the time animals would be under quarantine. This system could place some type of bond for any quarantine violations.

Performance Measure 3. Prior to the 2009 brand renewal period, 29,641 brands were recorded in the state. During the 2009, staggered renewal, 5,130 of those brands were scheduled for renewal. 4,179 brands were renewed and 951 brands were abandoned, a renewal rate of 82.5 percent. This figure represents a significant improvement over the traditional renewal rate of 78 percent. In early 2005, the WLSB decided to allow the reissuing of abandoned brands under certain conditions. This has helped to improve the number of brands renewed and decreased the number of abandoned brands. This policy allows customers to get a quality brand faster. Many of these brands are also more desirable because they are single iron brands. Finally, the reissuing of abandoned brands has increased brand recording revenues significantly.

What has been Accomplished?

Performance Measure 1. Developing herd plans has required increased personnel time. The WLSB has used grant funds from USDA/APHIS to hire additional contract personnel to work in conjunction with USDA/APHIS staff to conduct interviews and develop herd plans with ranch managers. In three years' time, 163 herd plans were developed. The WLSB recognizes that the absolute number of herd plans is not as important as having herd plans for the operations most at risk for contracting Brucellosis. The WLSB has the lead role in herd plan development and is identifying those operations most likely to have cattle at risk of exposure to infected wildlife.

Wyoming's livestock industry is changing at a rapid pace for the following reasons:

First, transportation systems allow rapid movement of livestock across our nation. For example, within three days of one livestock sale in the eastern part of the state, Wyoming livestock can be in over 20 states.

Secondly, we are seeing an increased threat of Foreign Animal Diseases. In each of the last four years we have experienced disease outbreaks of diseases not considered endemic to Wyoming's livestock. Visitors to other countries do not always take the necessary precautions to prevent disease introduction to this country. More importantly, these potential diseases continue to be an agro-terrorism threat to this nation and our state. Indeed, threats to release foot and mouth disease virus at Wyoming events have been made by extremist groups.

Thirdly, consumers are demanding evidence that their food is safe and nutritious; many wish to know where their food was produced. They are very concerned and they rely on us and other agencies to provide the confidence that they require.

Fourth, the size of agriculture operations is being reduced due to sub-divisions. The average size of a ranch in Wyoming used to be nearly 300 mother cows and now it is less than 80 head. Many new producers are not well educated on numerous animal husbandry practices including vaccination.

Finally, this change is related to the enforcement of animal health and brand regulations. In the past, we had port of entry personnel, deputy sheriffs and highway patrolmen that were familiar with agriculture and understood rules and regulations on animal agriculture. Today, this knowledge is not adequate in the law enforcement community; this must be addressed. Our agency only has four law enforcement officers; we need to depend on local law enforcement to help enforce our laws. These officers and port of entry personnel must receive training by us on our regulations and animal husbandry practices. We have also completed a professionally produced video on the state's efforts to control the spread of Brucellosis from infected wildlife to cattle. This video will be used as an educational tool primarily for other state veterinarians and AVICs, and to promote the marketability of Wyoming cattle.

Next two years:

Over the next two years we expect even better progress to be made on risk assessments and herd plans. This is one of the main duties of the field veterinarian we have hired. This veterinarian will also assist in increasing Brucellosis and other disease surveillance in at-risk areas of the state. We have implemented the reportable disease list and response protocol so veterinarians are aware of their reporting duties and what will be expected if a reportable disease outbreak occurs.

Performance Measure 2. A new performance measurement was to be instituted however the Agency was unable to receive approval to purchase the computer software program that would have given the tracking capabilities. The Agency is including a Supplemental Budget request for computerization that would allow for such a program to be incorporated into the overall computerization of the Agency.

Next two years:

A no cost solution is to start a case evaluation and prioritization system that assigns a numeric value to a case based on variables that predict the successful investigations then assign investigations based on those numeric values. This is one way to improve our tracking of these cases without increasing costs. We are providing training and tools for measurement to other law enforcement agencies.

Performance Measure 3. In FY10, the 2009 Brand Book was published. The brand book was published in traditional hardcover copy and is also available on CD format. Printing costs for traditional hard cover books continues to increase. Brand books on CD allow the WLSB to provide a low cost alternative that can be generated on demand and allow the WLSB to print fewer hard copies of the State Brand Book. The WLSB is continuing the policy of reissuing of abandoned brands that don't directly conflict with currently registered brands. This policy has given customers a fast and popular alternative to getting a new brand issued. Of the 950 brands abandoned in the 2009 renewal, many have already been reissued to serve as the primary tool for animal identification. The Board policy of allowing non-duplicate abandoned brands to be reissued continues to bring in additional revenue into the brand program.

WLSB Reportable Disease Information
July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) Numbers

Number of Calves = 174,113 (of which Number of Bison = 765)

Number of Adults = 2,526

Total Number Vaccinated = 176,639

Total Number of Traces = 5

Total Number Tested = 31,368

Total Number Positive = 0

Herd Plans:

Renewed = 119

New Risk Assessments = 7

New Herd Plans = 5

Ram Epididymitis Numbers

Total Number Tested = 448

Total Number Positive = 51

Total Number Indeterminate = 13

Trichomoniasis Numbers

Total Number Tested = 7,939

Total Positive Bulls = 17

Total Infected Herds = 8

Total Quarantines = 8

Total Exposed Herds = 91

Tuberculosis Numbers

Total Number of Traces = 17

Total Number Tested = 7,962

Total Number Positive = 0

Other Disease Cases/Investigations

Anaplasmosis = 2

Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis = 2

Contagious Ecthyma = 2

Equine Viral Arteritis = 1

Johne's Disease = 2

Q Fever = 2

Rabies = 38

Scrapie = 0

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus

Investigations = 9

Positive = 0

Traces to Wyoming

Contagious Equine Metritis
Traces/**Positive** = 1/0

Piroplasmosis
Traces/**Positive** = 6/0

Wyoming Livestock Board Organizational Chart

