

STATE OF WYOMING  
WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD  
NEWSLETTER

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RIVERTON FIELD OFFICE ~ WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Dr. Logan has become a world traveler this past month. Not really, but he must feel that way. He has attended AVMA meetings in Chicago where he discussed issues on the proposed ban on M44/1080, and Bighorn Sheep/Domestic Sheep conflict. Then he went on from there to attend WLSB, FAD, WFBF meetings in Cheyenne. With the assistance of Kim Clark he has given presentations to producers in Afton and Cokeville on Trichomoniasis and Brucellosis. He has met with producers regarding the National Animal Health Monitoring System survey. He attended the Green River Valley Cattleman's Association meetings in Pinedale. Dr. Logan participated in the Western States Livestock Health Association Meeting in Reno and spoke at the Bighorn Sheep/ Domestic Sheep sym-

posium in Boise, ID in early March.

Dr. Logan & Larissa Plymale serve on the Brucellosis Coordination Team's Education and Information Subcommittee and participate in a monthly meeting. A continued effort is being conducted to keep brand inspectors informed of valid herd plans, developing new herd plans, and reviewing herd plans that have reached their anniversary dates. We are making considerable progress in this area.

The Riverton Field Office is operational. Producers are starting to notice we are here, and have stopped by periodically. Wade Werbelow, Frank Barrett, Tom Christiansen, Walt Geis, and others have met in the office on several occasions.



Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) Director Jim Schwartz, Wyoming Assistant State Vet Jim Logan and Wyoming State Vet Walt Cook

Photo by Christy Hemken.

We have an open door policy, as long as we are here the door is always open. So if you get a chance come see us.

By: Larissa Plymale



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ANAPLASMOSIS LETTER SENT TO AFFECTED AREA PRODUCERS

Dear Livestock Producer,  
We wanted to advise you that anaplasmosis has been diagnosed via serologic test near Sheridan. The cattle were not sick, the positive titers may indicate a previous exposure; additionally, they did not comingle with other livestock. But, this does indicate that the disease is present at some level in the Sheri-

dan area. This disease is transmitted by ticks, so this is very early in the year to be finding anaplasmosis. However, we have received reports that the ticks are already active in Sheridan County. Anaplasmosis is sometimes called "tick fever", but others use the term "tick fever" to refer to babesiosis which has not been found in

Wyoming in recent years.  
Anaplasmosis can infect a variety of ruminants including sheep, goats and bison, but cattle are generally the most severely affected. Generally, younger cattle are less severely affected than are older cattle. Pregnant cattle may abort and often there is excessive bleeding at calving. The urine may be brown, and

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## ANAPLASMOSIS LETTER CONTINUED

animals may lose condition rapidly. They may seem weak and uncoordinated. Untreated animals may die rapidly. The disease typically manifests itself in summer and fall, but there can also be latent cases that show up at other times of the year. As mentioned above, this disease is not directly contagious; a tick vector is needed for transmission. Thus, the disease may be prevented by diligent use of insecticides. A killed vaccine has been available in the past, but I do not believe one is currently available.

Anaplasmosis is a disease on the

WLSB Reportable Disease List. We do not, as a rule quarantine a herd with anaplasmosis; however, we do want to be notified of the presence of the disease. If active cases of the disease are reported, we will notify nearby producers. If you are planning to move livestock out of Wyoming, be aware that many states will require that animals with titers to this disease be treated with a long course of tetracycline (3-4 weeks) prior to import.

If you have concerns about how to prevent or control this disease, or if you have concerns about your

livestock, please contact your local veterinarian. They should be able to answer your questions or concerns and can get your animals tested if they have signs consistent with the disease. If you have other concerns or questions, feel free to contact our office.

We have sent this notice to all known producers of Sheridan County, but recognize that we may have missed several, please share this letter with your fellow producers.

By: Dr. Walter Cook

## BRAND INSPECTION FEES BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2008

Cynthia Sandoz has been with the WLSB since December 1999, and with the state for over 14 1/2 years. She will be leaving us to start a new adventure with the State of Wyoming Work Force Services. Cindy has been a great asset to the Livestock Board and will be missed. We wish you all the best in your new position.

Good Luck Cindy!

By: Lindsay Johnson

Surcharge: \$7.50 will be charged whenever a brand inspector visits you for an inspection.

A & B forms for cattle \$1.50 per head, Sheep, Goats, Alpaca & Llama \$.30 per head, Horses/Mules \$10.50 per head for the first 10 head ( \$1.50 for each horse/mule following). Lifetime forms for each animal \$18.00

H-Form \$12.00 a head for the first 10 head (\$1.50 for each Additional head). G-forms going to SD on cattle \$.75 a head, on horses \$.75

per head. D-Forms(hides) \$1.50 per certificate. Accustom Range Permits: \$50.00 per year. Accustom Range Permit inspections: cattle \$.375 (37.5 cents) a head and sheep \$.075 (7.5cents) a head

Non-mandatory inspection fees will cost \$12.00 per hour plus mileage costs as provided by W.S. 9-3-103

Brand Inspection Fees have been addressed in Wyoming Livestock Board Chapter 9 rules. If you need a copy of these rules, please

contact the office at 307-777-7515 or you can get a copy from our web site: [www.wlsb.state.wy.us](http://www.wlsb.state.wy.us)

By: Paula Bivens

## 2009 BRAND RENEWAL

The brand recording unit is preparing for the 2009 brand renewal. The first renewal letter will be sent out in October 2008, and a second and final notice will be mailed in January 2009. The 2009 brand renewal fee will be \$300.00 for 10 years. All payments sent in for the 2009 brand renewal must be postmarked by March 1, 2009. All payments post marked March 2, 2009 or later will be returned

and the brand will be considered abandoned.

Please Check your brand cards to see when your brand is due for renewal and also if your address is correct.

Please contact the brand office at 777-6444, 777-6442 or 777-6649 if you have any questions or need to update your address.

We currently have 29,144

brands recorded in Wyoming and will have approximately 4,800 brands due for renewal in 2009.

Thank you,

Connie Hinesley: Lead Brand Recorder

## BLUETONGUE LETTER SENT TO AFFECTED AREA PRODUCERS

Dear Producer,

In early March 2008, several cattle tested positive for Bluetongue at the WSVL. These cattle were found coincidentally on testing for a sale. Probably these positive tests were the result of the last fall outbreak of Bluetongue in sheep and wildlife in the Big Horn Basin. These cattle were not sick or showing signs of the disease. Cattle with Bluetongue are usually asymptomatic while sheep are more severely affected.

It would seem the spread of Bluetongue Virus (BTV) was wider than was originally thought. BTV is

spread through the bite of a small midge and affects wild and domestic ruminants. The infection is found world wide, but the disease is usually mild or subclinical.

During the fall 2007 outbreak of BTV in Montana and Wyoming, the disease was seen primarily in sheep and wildlife, with deaths occurring in both groups. From the blood work done at the WSVL it would seem that some cattle were exposed in other parts of the state. The positive cattle were from Goshen County, many miles from the primary outbreaks in their Northern parts of the state.

The disease is transmitted by the bite of a small *Culicoides* midge. Due to the extended viremia in some animals the virus can overwinter in most of our western states. This extended viremia and the fact that cattle can be asymptomatic may be the reason we are seeing evidence of BTV in other parts of the state. When the insects are killed by frost, then transmission will usually cease.

After a 5-10 day incubation period affected animals will go off feed, develop a fever up to 107F and sometimes have difficulty breathing. Other signs may include

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CONGRATULATIONS  
JIM AND STEPHANIE LOGAN  
ON THEIR NEW  
GRANDSON  
LOGAN WILLIAM MILEK  
BORN FEB. 22, 2008  
7 POUNDS 8 OUNCES  
19 3/4 INCHES

## REMINDER OF ID REQUIREMENTS

It has been a number of years (since about 2001) that the issue of identifying test eligible cattle prior to change of ownership has been a hot issue. That being the case, we would like to remind producers and veterinarians of that requirement. WLSB's Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules do require that all test eligible bovine be identified prior to change of ownership. "Test eligible" bovinae are currently defined as: all sexually intact bovinae eighteen (18) months of age and over and all bovinae that are

pregnant or post parturient, regardless of age.

Section 11(a) of Chapter 2 Brucellosis Rules titled "Identification of Test Eligible Bovinae Upon Change of Ownership" clearly states the rule on identifying cattle:

*It is the livestock owner's responsibility to ensure that all Test Eligible Bovinae that leave a Herd are identified with Board Approved Individual Identification prior to a change of ownership. The Accredited Veterinarian who authorizes the identification*

*of the animal shall report this identification to the cooperating animal health agencies on forms provided by the Board. Bovinae already identified with Board Approved Individual Identification do not need any additional identification. If no Board Approved Individual Identification is present, a green metal Wyoming identification tag or a silver USDA/APHIS/VS tag shall be inserted in the right ear of the Bovinae. No report is necessary on Bovinae already identified with Board Approved Individual Identification.*

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## INDIVIDUAL BRUCELLOSIS HERD PLANS

An Individual Brucellosis Herd Plan is a list of best management actions for an individual producer's herd that is developed in consultation with the assistant state veterinarian, or a private veterinary practitioner working with the assistant state veterinarian. The herd plan is an agreement between the producer and the Wyoming Livestock Board. The purpose of the herd plan is two fold; the first is to help edu-

cate the producer about Brucellosis and management strategies that can help minimize the risk of Brucellosis exposure into a cattle herd. Second, a herd plan MAY enable a waiver of some of the Brucellosis test requirements for the area of concern defined in the Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules. Herd plans are voluntary and are tailored to each individual ranch depending on the degree of actual risk identified through the herd plan questionnaire. Mitigation

efforts in the herd plans are primarily common sense management activities that most ranches are already engaged in. For example, calthood vaccination of heifers, fencing haystacks to avoid depredation by wildlife, keeping cattle separated from wildlife, and maintaining accurate herd records cooperating with state and federal agencies to prevent Brucellosis, are components of the standard herd plan. Depending on the potential for exposure of cattle to

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## VETERINARY STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT BILL PASSES!

I am pleased to report that the Governor signed Enrolled Act 51 (original House Bill 74), the Veterinarian loan repayment program. This bill authorizes the Wyoming Livestock Board to repay student loans of veterinarians who come to the state to practice food animal medicine in an underserved area of the state. There is no requirement that they practice food animal medicine exclusively. There is a requirement that the veterinarian get a 25% loan repayment match from any "county, city, veterinary clinic, animal care facility, state agency, university, laboratory or veterinary association". The statute also requires that the veterinarian graduate from an accredited veterinary college.

As required by the Act, the Wyoming Livestock Board will immediately begin working with the Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association and the Wyoming Board of Veterinary Medicine to draft rules detailing the specifics of the program. I have some ideas on specifics, but the Board and the other associations will have the

final determination. The proposed rules will go through public comment and I encourage veterinarians and producers to read them and provide comments. My thoughts:

1. For now at least, the entire state is underserved by Food Animal Veterinarians (there may be one or two exceptions). Some areas may be more underserved than others. I would ask the applicants to supply support letters etc. to prove that his/her practice area is really desperate.

2. We have funds to enter into 3 year agreements with 3 vets if each receives the maximum amount (\$30,000/year). I would suggest that we wait to see how many applicants we get and then decide how to best divvy up the funds. Our funding is for the biennium, so I will advise that we reserve some funding for next year as well. My guess is that we will split it up to support more than 3 veterinarians. My recommendation would be that the level of support depend on:

a) Percentage of food animal

b) Student loan indebtedness

c) Community needs

d) Other considerations.

Most of this will get fleshed out in rule-making. There may be some discretion left to the Board. We will just have to see. It is my hope that the rules can be drafted and out for public comment sometime in April. The statute goes into effect July 1; hopefully the rules will be in effect sometime in July/early August so we can enter into agreements with veterinarians before the summer is over.

I would like to recognize and thank Representative Dan Zwonitzer who sponsored this legislation and who made a tremendous effort to get it passed. I would also like to recognize the veterinarians and producers who contacted their legislators. I was told by several legislators that the personal anecdotes made a big impact.

By: Dr. Walter Cook

## INDIVIDUAL BRUCELLOSIS HERD PLANS CONTINUED

potential for exposure of cattle to infected wildlife (elk and bison) a herd plan may also have a test requirement and adult vaccination may be recommended.

A herd plan may enable a producer who ranches within the area of concern (currently Teton and Sublette counties, western Fremont county and the northern approximate 2/3 of Lincoln county) to avoid the 30 day movement or change of ownership test

requirement as per Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules. The herd plan may require an annual (or other) test depending on the exposure risk.

Herd plans are reviewed annually and renewed with concurrence of the producer and the Wyoming Livestock Board. There are currently 49 herd plans in effect for producers within the area of concern. We also have 110 herd plans in effect for producers outside the

area of concern. Many of these producers want to renew their plans as protection should the state lose Free Status, and also to help protect the marketability of their livestock.

Those interested in developing a herd plan may call the Riverton WLSB field office at 307-857-4140 for more information.

By: Dr. Jim Logan

## NAIS UPDATE 2008

The Wyoming Livestock Board will continue educational outreach on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). This will be a coordinated effort working closely with the University of Wyoming Extension Services in addition to public and private appointments. The primary focus is to extend this information statewide. This program will be offered in each county for the year 2008. The program consists of information on Premises Registration, Animal Identification, Animal Tracking, and Foreign and Domestic Animal Diseases. The Wyoming Livestock Board will continue to

Provide a free service of Premises Registration for the NAIS, for those individuals that do not want to participate in the NAIS there is an alternative state program that can be utilized. For more information on this program please contact the Wyoming Livestock Board. Additionally, the Wyoming Livestock Board will be starting to implement an electronic brand inspection program that will allow for immediate collection of brand inspection records. However, the effectiveness of this information relies on the accuracy of the information collected/provided by the producer.

All information that is collected is protected by Wyoming State Statutes 11-18-117. The Wyoming Livestock Board encourages livestock owners to participate in either the NAIS or the state program. Participation in either of these programs will provide critical information to the Wyoming Livestock Board to better assist and protect Wyoming agriculture.

By: Terrill Weston

## REMINDER OF ID REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

*Board Approved Individual Identification can only be removed upon written approval of the Board.*

The green metal Wyoming identification tag mentioned in the rule can be obtained free of charge from the Wyoming Livestock Board. This tag is similar to the orange Bang's tag, except it is green in color and has a different alphanumeric code indicating Wyoming origin. These tags can be sent directly to a producer for their

use and, although they can be, they do not require a veterinarian to distribute and/or insert. These tags should not be borrowed from or loaned to a neighbor as they are recorded and specifically linked to the producer they are sent to and are essential in tracing a cow to its ranch or origin.

By: Doug Leinart

## BLUETONGUE LETTER CONTINUED

Swelling of oral tissues, lameness, pneumonia and head tilt. Mortality can be quite variable, but may approach 30% in severe outbreaks. Insect control by the producer appears to be the most effective means to limit the biting midges that transmit the disease.

The Wyoming Livestock Board urges all producers and veterinarians to be aware of any illness in livestock or wildlife. With early detection and diagnosis

Appropriate actions can be taken to protect unaffected animals and prevent the spread of disease.

We are sending this notice to all producers in Goshen County, but recognize that we may have missed several, please share this letter with your neighbors.

By: Dr. Fred Emerich

## STATE OF WYOMING

Wyoming Livestock Board  
2020 Carey Avenue, 4th Floor  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: 307-777-7515  
Fax: 307-777-6561



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### CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

[HTTP://WLSB.STATE.WY.US](http://WLSB.STATE.WY.US)

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## WE ARE NOT LEAVING WITHOUT OUR ANIMALS!

That was the response of many livestock and pet owners during the 2007 wildfires in California to the order to evacuate. These destructive fires eventually claimed 10 lives and injured 292 people. The fires burned 522,398 acres, destroying more than 3,290 structures and damaging 292 others.

Wildfires can and have occurred in Wyoming. The ever increasing problem of the Bark Beetle has been thrust upon Wyoming forests and threatens it with dead trees prime for maintaining a fire. "Trees are dying. Bark beetles are killing pine and spruce trees throughout northern Colorado, southern Wyoming and the western U.S." according to the USDA Forest Service. If...or when...a large forest fire happens in Wyoming, everyone should be pre-

pared, especially animal owners. Every animal owner is ultimately responsible for their own animals. Owners of small animals, like dogs and cats, should have a "Go Kit" set aside for quick evacuation. A transport kennel for each animal with a few days supply of food and water, as well a bowl, treats and some play toys. Do not forget the vaccination records and a photo with you and your animal, which is handy in case of separation. For the large animal owners, horses, alpacas, or 4H and FFA animals, have your animal transportation ready. If you do not own a trailer, consider purchasing one or know of a neighbor who has one you can borrow, providing they will not be using it during the same emergency. Make sure these animals know how to load into a trailer

before the emergency!

In the event you need evacuation assistance, your first call should be to your local County Emergency Management Agency or County Homeland Security Office. These people have plans in place to assist you. If additional resources are needed, they will contact the Wyoming Livestock Board. Planning for an emergency should not occur during the emergency. Plan in advance to evacuate with your animals. For most of use, they are one of your best friends.

By: Dale Bratton