



# Wyoming Livestock Board Newsletter

## Brand Renewal for 2009

> All renewal notices must be postmarked by March 1, 2009, anything post-marked after March 1, 2009 will be considered abandoned.

## Animal Welfare and the Wyoming Livestock Board

By statute the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) is responsible for every living dumb creature. This broad brush approach causes the enforcement arm of the WLSB a great deal of concern as we have looked after livestock matters more than dogs, cats and other pets.

The WLSB receives 10-15 calls a month regarding animal welfare, most involve thin horses, no food or water apparent or lack of shelter but some come from people dissatisfied with a pet they have purchased from a local pet store.

Most calls from concerned citizens are to Brand Inspectors, local law enforcement or to the WLSB office in Cheyenne. These calls are routed to one of the four (4) enforcement officers across the State for investigation. The WLSB

employs approximately 95 full and part time Brand Inspectors, some of which are law enforcement certified. These numbers of people have a difficult time responding to all the calls coming from across the State. Currently the assistance on some calls is requested through the Sheriff's department, Highway patrol and Brand Inspectors.

As more and more people move to small acreages and keep livestock the number of calls increase as more citizens travel the roads. Some calls are warranted, but only one call in ten is substantiated upon investigation by the WLSB. A number of actual animal abuse problems seem to stem from people moving to Wyoming, who have a limited knowledge of livestock. They find it difficult to understand that five acres of

land will not feed five horses year round. Some of the complaints received come from individuals who are not aware of the difference between an old horse and a starving horse.

Some cases are indeed animal abuse. For example, allowing horses to become very emaciated with no hoof care, no dental care or adequate food and water. Some cases are just ignorance of the needs of an outside animal and not so much as intentional neglect. A lot of cases have discovered animals that have been imported illegally into the State with no ownership or travel documents, let alone health certificates.

When animal abuse occurs, the enforcement officer will usually go the county court and request a cost of care bond. This bond amount will be calculated to cover the cost

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## Brucellosis Confirmed in Wyoming Cattle Herd

The Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory reported to the state veterinarian today that it has cultured *Brucella abortus* out of tissues from two cows from Daniel Wyoming. This is confirmation from the WSVL that the herd is infected with brucellosis. Official confirmation is pending culture results from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

Blood from these cows initially tested positive at a sale barn –

the blood was sent on to the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory where testing confirmed the reaction seen at the sale barn. However, since false positive blood tests can occur, the cows were sent to the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory where they were necropsied and cultured. With culture, tissues are tested for the actual bacteria. In this case, the bacterium was cultured from tissues from both cows.

The Wyoming Livestock Board

and USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) plans to test the remainder of the cattle herd this week to discover if additional cattle may be infected. Once that is complete they will test neighboring cattle herds and complete investigations in an attempt to discover the source of the infection and determine if the infection has spread.

The Daniel cattle producer with the infected herd now faces

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Newsletter Created by:

Lindsay Johnson ~ Animal Health Specialist

## Animal ID



It's been a busy spring in the Animal ID department; we've been to Riverton and Casper to discuss Animal ID and Traceability, had brand inspectors in Cheyenne for training, designed and mailed a producer survey, increased our efforts with premises registration and began planning another Animal ID listening session!

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the Wyoming Livestock Board sponsored an afternoon forum for producers in Wyoming to come, listen and share their thoughts about what needs to be done in Wyoming concerning an animal identification and tracking sys-

tem. Dr. Jim Logan, Assistant State Veterinarian, started the afternoon off with an informative presentation about why Wyoming does need a system of some sort. Eric Barlow, DVM and Wyoming Livestock Board member, then opened the session up to the audience for comments where each individual was given 5 minutes to share their concerns and thoughts surrounding the issue. The general consensus was that Wyoming needs to develop, implement and maintain a Wyoming based system and forget about the national program (National Animal Identification

System).

This leads right into the producer survey that the entire office collaborated on to design and send to 1200 producers chosen from the active brands list. The Disease Management and Traceability survey was sent out on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Results are expected by the end of July. The survey was designed to access the knowledge and direction that Wyoming producers would like to see animal identification and tracking in Wyoming to go. The Wyoming Center for Business and Economic Analysis, LLC is tabulating the results, which the Board

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## It's Time to get Involved!

There are those of us who have a passion or maybe a calling to help others in need. You know who you are and you can't deny it. That's okay! So many of us, however, don't quite know what we can do to help or how to help. The Department of Homeland Security has developed a color coded system to help us determine what our current national risk is. What does that mean to you and me? It means whatever color on the chart our nation is at we need to be prepared. Okay, what do I need to do to "be prepared"? Emergency preparedness means being ready for any type of disaster; able to respond in time of crisis to save lives and property; and help a community, or even a nation, return to normal life after a disaster

occurs.

If you are asking "where do I start?" let me steer you in the right direction. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has training available on line. You can be educated at any time and at your own pace. It is totally free and you get a great looking certificate of completion when you have finished the course. The web link <http://www.fema.gov/about/training/individuals.shtm> has courses just for individuals. Of course, you may search the entire FEMA website at [fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Planning and preparation should also include the animals in your life. FEMA realizes how important they are and have courses on animals and livestock in disasters.

If you're not so computer savvy or you have a concern about emergency issues, contact your local Emergency Manager. The Emergency Manager can direct and assist you in your hunt for disaster planning. The time to prepare is before a disaster.

**Item of interest;** Have you ever heard about the "FAAT List"? Probably not. The FAAT List is a handy reference for the myriad of acronyms and abbreviations used within the federal government, emergency management and the first response community. **FEMA Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Terms.** Funny, in the title FEMA is actually an acronym itself!

By: Dale Bratton

## Brand Recording Unit ~ Brand Renewal

Please update your address on your brand record (s) as we now renew a percentage of all brands every two years.

We will be renewing approximately 5,100 brands. The first renewal notice will be sent in October of 2008 and a final notice will be sent in January 2009. All renewal notices will be sent to the last known address, so again please keep **your address updated no matter when your brand is due for renewal.** Renewal notices sent to the wrong address is the number one cause for missing brand renewal.

All renewal notices must be postmarked by March 1, 2009, anything postmarked after

March 1, 2009 will be considered abandoned.

Address changes can be made by mailing it to us or by contacting us by phone. You can contact the brand unit directly at 307-777-6444, 777-6442 or 777-6649.

Renewal is totally separate from any other brand transaction and must be paid for separately for the exact amount due. **Brand transfers or name changes can not be made on your renewal notice.** A livestock brand is personal property and any change of ownership must be made with a Bill of Sale/ Transfer form with the proper notarized signatures or other legal documents needed de-

pending on the type of transfer, along with the fee of \$100.00.

When renewing your brand by mail we accept checks, money orders, Visa or Master Card. When paying with a credit card please include a phone number.

Renewal fees can be paid as soon as you receive your first renewal notice but must be postmarked by March 1, 2009.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Connie Hinesley

Brand Recording Unit

## Animal Welfare Cases Up!

As of June 1st, 2008 the Law Enforcement Unit of the Wyoming Livestock Board has seen a five (5) percent increase on the number of reported animal welfare complaints. The number of substantiated

cases has also increased from one out of every ten, to almost two substantiated cases out of ten reported. The number of animals needing euthanization has also increased, showing the animals are not being

reported soon enough to establish any recovery care. Animal welfare cases are the most expensive and time consuming cases conducted by the Investigators.

By: Jimmy Dean Siler

## Animal Welfare and the Wyoming Livestock Board continued

of feed, housing (if the animals need to be moved), veterinary examination, drug expense and other care related expenses. The bond is in effect for ninety (90) days. The owner must come up with a cash bond of this amount within 10 days or relinquish ownership of the animals to the WLSB. The owners may voluntarily relinquish ownership at any time during this 10 day period. If the owners pay the cost of care bond the animals will be cared for by the WLSB, but they will also need to appear in court and could be subject to a fine or seizure by the court.

Sometimes seized or estray (abandoned with no proof of ownership) animals must be sold by the WLSB. The State cannot support these animals because of the time, money and manpower needed to assure adequate welfare. Before these animals can be sold they must receive health care, feed and observation for at least ten days or more depending on the results of a cost of care bond hearing.

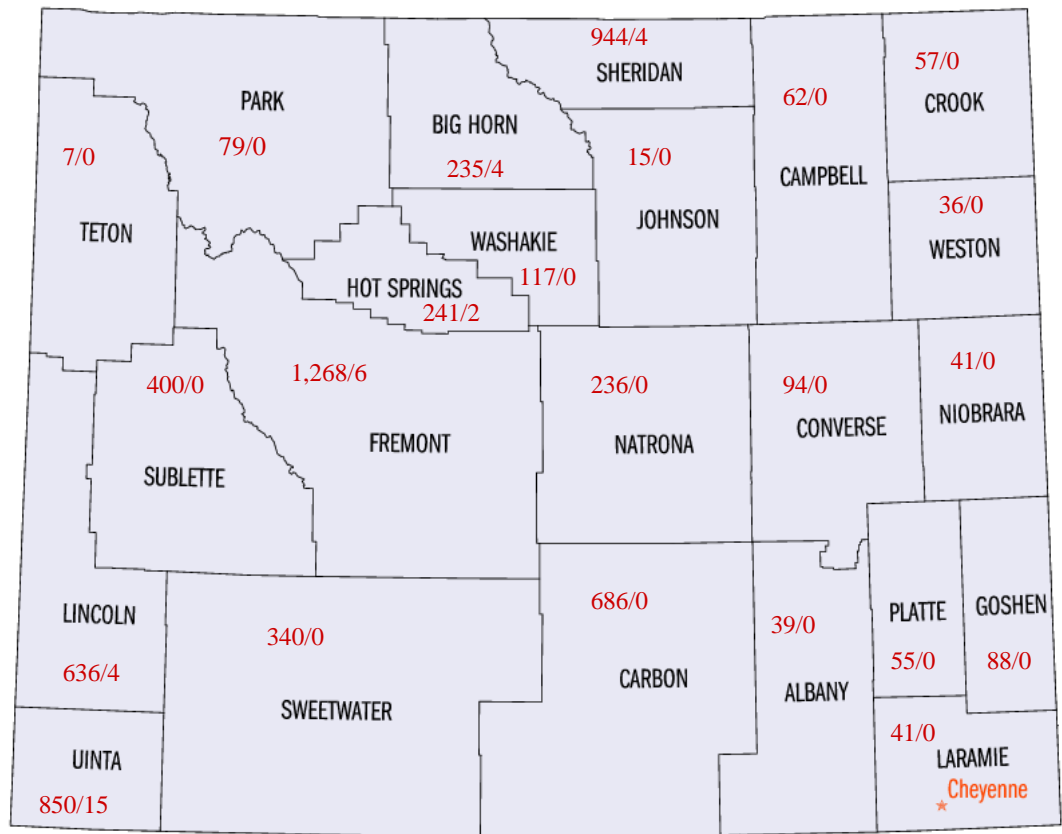
Court cases tend to be long because most animal welfare/ livestock laws are unfamiliar to most law enforcement and judicial systems. Maintaining these animals until resolution

of cases can be very costly. Feed, housing, veterinary care and sometimes euthanasia and disposal all add to the time and cost of animal welfare cases.

Animal welfare cases are not simple. Opinions by ignorant casual observers can cause problems for enforcement officers and competent owners. However, some cases are valid. The WLSB is always ready to investigate all complaints, valid or otherwise.

By: Dr. Fred Emerich and Jimmy Dean Siler

## Trichomoniasis by the Numbers



September 1, 2007 to June 18, 2008

First number in boxes on map indicates total number bulls tested in the county, second number indicates the number Positive out of that total.

Positive Trich Cases are in Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Sheridan and Uinta counties.

Total number bulls tested in State of Wyoming: 6,567 hd  
 Number bulls tested negative: 6,520 hd  
 Number bulls tested positive: 35 hd  
 Number bulls certified clean after 3 tests: 375 hd

Subsequent positive bulls after initially tested neg:  
 Positive on 2<sup>nd</sup> test, after neg on 1<sup>st</sup> 3 hd  
 Positive on 3<sup>rd</sup> test, after neg on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 hd

By: Doug Leinart

## Premises Registration

As of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Wyoming has registered 1,726 premises out of the estimated 9,422 Wyoming premises for a total of 18.32% registration rate. Registration rates have decreased significantly since the beginning of the year. Only 64 premises have been registered in the first six months of 2008. January to June 2007 saw 474 premises registered which directly relates to the brand renewal and premises information and applications being included with the mailing of almost 8,000

brands. Years that Wyoming brands are not renewed significantly decreases the number of incoming premises registration forms.

There are currently approximately 180 pending applications. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> all producers with pending applications were notified by mail that there was a problem with the address that was provided and an application was provided to clarify their address. A deadline was imposed of July 21, 2008 to return the completed

application or return the application having marked that they do not want to register.

The three counties showing the biggest increase in registration numbers are Lincoln, Big Horn and Sublette counties in that order. The top five counties for registration are Johnson, Carbon, Converse, Albany and Niobrara. The bottom three counties are Lincoln, Teton and Crook counties. Nine of the 23 counties have registration rates over 20% and all but one county is over 10%.

By: Erin Smith

## Animal ID continued

is anxiously awaiting.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, seven Brand Inspectors from Goshen, Laramie and Albany counties came to Cheyenne to attend the first all-day computer class. The class was designed to be a basic introduction to computers and to the electronic forms that are now being used in the brand inspection program. The guys were good sports and a lot was learned by Brand Inspectors and teacher alike! We are really looking forward to getting many more computers purchased and several more computer training days planned for the Brand Inspectors.

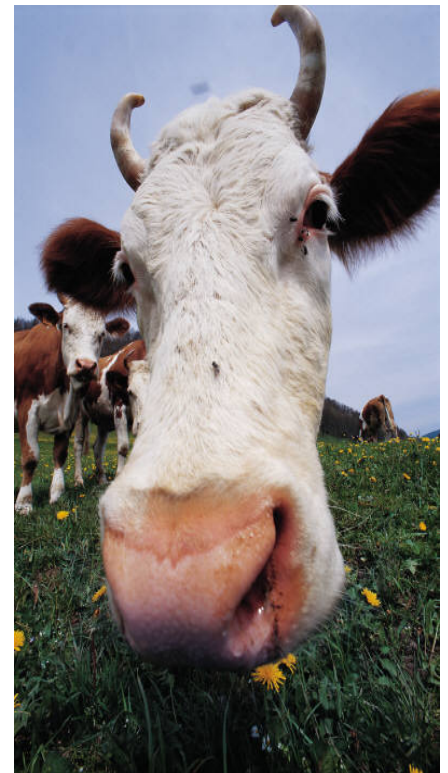
The Wyoming Stock Grower Association (WSGA) Summer Convention was held June 4-7<sup>th</sup> in Casper, WY. Lee Romsa and Jim Schwartz reported to the

Brand Committee on Thursday about the finances of the department and also the changes that are being implemented in computerizing the brand inspection program. The Stock Growers are in strong favor of incorporating the existing brand program into the animal identification and tracking system that is being developed. On Saturday the WSGA organized a panel discussion about Animal ID in Wyoming. Dr. Jim Logan was invited to start the meeting off with his presentation on why Wyoming needs a system. Then Wyoming cattle producers Kurt Epler, Rob Hendry and Pat Cullen gave their thoughts on Animal ID, the National Animal Identification System and how they are using the programs in their operations. The meeting

was very positive and informative for those producers who were still there Saturday.

The Wyoming Livestock Board would like to invite everyone to the next Listening Session, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 9:00 am till 12:00 pm at the Wyoming State Fair Grounds McKibben Cafateria, East Side to participate in forming the Wyoming Disease Management and Traceability system. We will have the results of the Disease Management Survey to share with producers plus lots of time for Wyoming producers to get involved and share their thoughts and concerns about the system that Wyoming develops. Hope to see you there!

By: Erin Smith



## Brucellosis Confirmed in Wyoming Cattle Herd continued

Some tough decisions. The herd must either be depopulated or undergo repeated testing and removal of positive cattle. Since his herd is now considered infected with brucellosis, if it is not depopulated the state may lose its Brucellosis-Free status granted by APHIS. Loss of this status would result in testing requirements for all cattle in the state when they are sold or move out of state.

This event indicates that the

system the Wyoming Livestock Board has implemented has worked to detect the disease. Good cooperation and testing at the sale barn has helped prevent further spread of the disease.

A meeting to discuss the current brucellosis issue is scheduled for June 17 at 7:00 pm at the Pinedale High School Auditorium at 101 E. Hennick St. in Pinedale. Local Cattle producers are encouraged to attend.

For Further information contact:  
Wyoming Livestock Board Director, Jim Schwartz 777-6443 or  
Dr. Jim Logan, Assistant State Veterinarian 857-4140

Press Release

## Protecting Wyoming Agriculture What will it take?

Is Wyoming prepared to deal with the consequences of any major disease outbreak or even a severe winter storm or tornado? Animal diseases and severe weather emergencies seem to be hitting the surrounding states and even Wyoming with more frequency than in the past. With the recent outbreaks of Blue Tongue and Brucellosis in Wyoming, this topic seems to be

in the spotlight. The Wyoming Livestock Board has had many discussions within the agency and with producers across the state about our readiness to deal with these events. There are eight key elements that seem to be lacking or entirely missing in having a complete response plan in place for Wyoming. The Wyoming Livestock Board Wish List is filled with ideas and prin-

ciples that are time consuming and expensive but are essential to have Wyoming prepared to deal with the changing times of agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Stayed tuned for a closer look at each item on the Wish List in future articles where we will explore each topic in depth.

By: Erin Smith and Lindsay Johnson

### Wyoming Livestock Board Wish List

- Individual Animal Identification
- Producer Contact and Headquarter Location Database
- Animal Health Enforcement Program
- Increased Law Enforcement Involvement
- Field and Extension Veterinarians
- County Emergency Team Collaboration
- Computerized Brand Inspection Program
- Industry Wide Partnerships

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State of Wyoming

Wyoming Livestock Board



Check out our new website at:  
<http://wlsb.state.wy.us/>

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## Livestock Inspector Updates

As of July 1, 2008, Red Garretson, Laramie, WY is retiring from the agency. Red has worked as an inspector for 45 years. Red served as an Air Force pilot on search and rescue helicopters and also as a Deputy Sheriff. We were lucky that Red chose to take the path of a brand inspector in Wyoming. He has enriched the program with his knowledge, logic and cowboy skills. Red has seen many changes to the program in his time spent as an inspector. We are going to miss you buddy, have fun in your new adventure and know that you will always be an

honorary inspector for this outfit.

Brand Inspection Supervisor Ron McDonald of Hillsdale, WY is up and running again after a brief setback with his health. We are glad to see him back in the saddle and doing so well.

Brand Inspection Supervisor Dale Armstrong's wife Helen of Glenrock, WY has had a tough couple months after some back surgery. It's been a long haul for her but she is doing excellent and we are so proud of her efforts to stay positive, work hard, and keep on track with her recovery.

As always, we send our thoughts to those of you in the brand inspection circle who are dealing with personal issues in your lives at this time.

As you can tell by the title, Administration and Livestock Board members have made the choice to change the titles of the inspectors from "Brand" inspectors to "Livestock" inspectors. Our inspectors are truly livestock inspectors due to the many duties they cover in their everyday contacts with livestock producers, hence the new title.

By: Paula Bivens

**The Wyoming Livestock Board Symposium will be rescheduled for a later date, to be announced by Jim Schwartz.**