

**WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD**  
**1934 WYOTT DRIVE, CHEYENNE, WY 82002**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BRANDING LIVESTOCK**

The protection you get from having a brand on your livestock depends largely on how the irons are made and if used properly. DO NOT use a small branding iron on cattle. Letters, figures and characters should be approximately 4 inches in height or length with a ½ inch face. Allow at least 2 inches between letters and characters but no more than 2½. In order to successfully use a hot iron, the branding iron should be heated to the color of ashes. The hide should be burned to the color of new leather. CARE should be taken to not burn too deep so that the brand penetrates through the hide, especially on calves and horses.

Horse branding irons should have a smaller face with rounded edges. Letters or characters should be approximately 3 inches in height or length. Allow at least 1½ inches between characters. BUTTOCK brands are to be placed next to the tail head, brand is only visible from the back of the animal.

Placement of the brand is very important; it MUST BE applied only to the location that it is recorded for. Your brand must look exactly how it is drawn on your Official Brand Card. When making letters or figures with right angles, the actual meeting joint can be filed or cut away to a depth of ½ inch to prevent too much heat from that part of the iron. Extreme caution should be used when branding a wet animal. The brand will scald from steam leaving a blotch, bad sore or no brand at all. A well made brand is a work of art; it gives the owner the protection it is intended to.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER REQUIRES SPECIAL CARE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
THE IRONS AND THE APPLICATION OF THE BRAND:

**A** – Closed “A” has the horizontal bar

Open “Λ” or rafter does not have a horizontal bar.

**G** - The horizontal cross bar of the “G” should be 1 inch long in order to distinguish it from the letter “C”.

**J** - The bottom of the “J” should turn up at least 1 inch to be distinct.

**L** or **7** - Should be twice as long as they are wide and should be straight lines, not slanting.

**S** - Should be made with a curve at the top and bottom so that it will not resemble a “Z, 5, or 2”.

**Z** - Should have a straight top and bottom bar with a true diagonal bar from the top to bottom.

**2** - Should have a straight bottom bar and a distinct curve at the top.

**5** - Should have a right angle at the top so it will not look like an “S or 2”.

— “Bar” above or below a character should be 4 inches long.

– “Bar” to the side of a character should be no less than 3 inches long.

/ \ “Slash” should be 4 inches long and placed diagonally the way it is recorded.

⌒ “Quarter Circle” should show a distinct and definite curve.

↑ “Arrow” Should be 4 inches long with 2 inch shorter angles

Earmarks and dewlaps are considered to be helpful in identifying stock and must be cut the same on the class of animals for which they are recorded.

Please notify us of any changes in address. Renewal notices will be sent to the address on file.

*“Put'er on good boys, she'll wear it all her life”*