

WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD (WLSB)
Agency 051
Annual Report
FY23

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Statutory References: The agency's statutory authority was established under Chapter 85, Laws 1933. Its activities are described in:

Title 7, Chapter 2, Statute 7-2-101(a)(iv)(E)
Title 11, Chapter 1, Statute 11-1-103
Chapter 6, Statute 11-6-201 and 11-6-210
Chapter 17, Statute 21-17-308
Chapter 18, Statutes 11-18-101 through 11-18-120
Chapter 19, Statutes 11-19-101 through 11-19-602
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 11-29-115
Chapter 30, Statutes 11-30-101 through 11-30-115
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
Chapter 48, Statutes 11-48-101 and 11-48-102
Title 31, Chapter 5, Statute 31-5-102

Clients Served: Livestock producers, licensed veterinarians, and general public.

Budget Information: BFY23-24 Agency budget is \$19,230,380 of which \$4,765,146 is general fund, \$500,840 from federal funds, \$11,670,664 which is producer-generated revenue from the Brand Recording and Inspection activities of the agency and \$2,293,730 pass through dollars for Predator Control Fees collected on behalf of the County Predator Boards. The significant adjustments to the overall 2023-2024 budget were a result of an increase in spending authority from the brand inspection unit and an increased spending authority of pass-through dollars for the predator control fees.

Basic Facts:

WLSB has four operational units with 17 full-time staff. The divisions include 6 in Administration, 3 in Animal Health, 2 in Law Enforcement, 6 in Brands, as well as 96 At Will Employment Contract (AWEC) Brand Inspectors. The legislature also approved 1 Federal Grant funded AWEC position in the Brucellosis division. Currently, there are 15 full-time positions in the Cheyenne Office. 1 Law Enforcement Officer operates from Laramie and 1 from Cowley. The remaining positions are distributed throughout the state to provide services to WLSB clients.

The WLSB's main functions are livestock identification/ownership verification, outreach/education, disease surveillance and prevention/response. All units strive to prevent animal diseases and theft through education/enforcement; conducting surveillance activities which support our mission; and providing timely and appropriate response to disease reports/outbreaks and reports of missing livestock.

Administration provides management and support to WLSB units.

Animal Health has numerous functions including monitoring and responding to Wyoming reportable diseases, livestock importation, foreign animal disease investigations, epidemiologic investigations, disease prevention, mitigation, quarantine and monitoring, livestock disease tracing, emergency management and response, outreach activities/education, and development and management of cooperative agreements with federal agencies. The Unit is very proactive in maintaining rules for Brucellosis, Trichomoniasis, Scrapie and Import Requirements with the goal of animal health protection for Wyoming's livestock.

Brand The Brand program is the principal means of determining and verifying livestock ownership in the state of Wyoming in order to protect livestock owners from theft or loss. It provides for recording and issuing livestock brands; renewal and or transfer of brand ownership; publishing brand books and updates; physical inspection of livestock for brands and ownership; legal transfer of title to livestock during any change of ownership; determination of ownership and or return estray livestock or the proceeds of the sale of estray livestock to their lawful owners; assisting law enforcement officers investigating violations of livestock laws; supporting disease traceability efforts and compliance with animal health requirements; and providing for collection of predatory animal control and Wyoming Beef Council fees.

Law Enforcement provides criminal investigations, Livestock Board Rules and Regulations enforcement, and emergency management services to the people of Wyoming. A primary function is to provide training to county Sheriffs, regarding livestock law and animal cruelty issues.

Performance Measure #1 is Agency Computerization:**Core System:**

The Agency continues to improve in building an integrated computer system. Animal Health has implemented the use of a new module and is working toward development of an on-line/electronic import permitting system. Law Enforcement now has a subscription service module that is stand alone for Criminal Justice compliance. However, officers will have "look in" capability on both Animal Health and Brand Inspection for access to certificates needed in investigations.

Brand Inspectors are using an online/offline capable computer system to create electronic certificates. This system allows electronic reporting of inspections to the agency office, allowing for automatic entry of fees. This streamlines the auditing process to cut down on transcription and math errors and provide much improved research and data analysis for the agency and our clients. In 2019, the agency added a module

that warehouses older electronic brand certificates and documents. Each year adds more than fifty thousand records to the system and as all has images, this has been putting a strain on the system. Warehousing these older files will help the program system operate more efficiently.

Performance Measure #2 is Education / Outreach:

One of the primary functions of the WLSB staff is to provide educational opportunities and outreach, and to keep the livestock industry updated on issues of importance. Toward that goal, we sponsored, participated in, or presented at numerous meetings, conference calls, webinars, and seminars during the fiscal year. These meetings included producer education meetings on avian influenza, brucellosis, trichomoniasis, scrapie, livestock ID, vesicular stomatitis and other relevant topics. We held two in-person trainings and several virtual trainings to certify Wyoming veterinarians to conduct official trichomoniasis testing in Wyoming. Many interagency meetings were held to coordinate efforts with the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, USDA APHIS, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, UW Extension, Department of Transportation, and others in response to disease issues including Brucellosis, Bighorn Sheep/domestic sheep interactions, zoonotic diseases, and emergency response. Visits were made to the four Wyoming licensed livestock auction markets during the year to assure knowledge of and compliance with WLSB animal health statutes and rules. In addition, the field veterinarian visited designated feedlots located throughout the state to perform inspections and educate them about ID requirements, and to help management determine whether they should become state and APHIS approved tagging sites.

WLSB Animal Health Unit personnel participated in numerous interstate and/or national meetings and teleconferences/webinars to foster coordination with other states, USDA APHIS, and national organizations to help maintain marketability of Wyoming livestock. WLSB personnel also held or participated in meetings with Wyoming producers, veterinarians and county and state livestock event managers to share information about animal ID requirements, agency rules, and interstate movement requirements, and to provide updates and information on reportable diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, brucellosis, trichomoniasis, bovine tuberculosis, equine piroplasmiasis, equine herpes virus myeloencephalopathy (EHV-1), equine protozoal myeloencephalitis (EPM) and vesicular stomatitis.

The WLSB animal health unit met biweekly during the fiscal year to conduct business and discuss issues relevant to the livestock industry. Many meetings were participated in by WLSB staff and board members to educate and coordinate efforts with Wyoming industry and organizations, other agencies, other states, and national organizations to foster our livestock industry.

The WLSB held 6 Board meetings during the fiscal year to conduct business and discuss issues relevant to the livestock industry. Many meetings were participated in by WLSB staff and board members to educate and coordinate efforts with Wyoming industry and organizations, other agencies, other states, and national organizations to foster our livestock industry.

Statutes and Rules:

WLSB staff are currently reviewing Wyoming's livestock rules and statutes. Language updating the rules and statute(s) is currently under development. Updates include development of an electronic format for brucellosis reimbursement utilized by veterinarians, livestock markets, and state slaughter facilities.

Updated verbiage for some of our livestock rules will be incorporated into the promulgation process during the coming year.

Emergency Planning for Livestock:

WLSB is participating in the United States Swine Health Improvement Plan, a platform established to safeguard, improve, and represent the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, states, and regions, supporting current and future health assurance needs of the 21st century US pork industry. WLSB continues to coordinate with the Wyoming Department of Homeland Security regarding emergency response planning. We participated in several training events during the fiscal year. We are also working with adjacent states in developing cross-border emergency livestock response protocols. Both of these initiatives are ongoing and will continue to be works in progress.

Efforts are ongoing between the WY state veterinarian and other state veterinarians and livestock industry sectors (cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry) to develop continuity of business plans for each species to enable producers to move livestock in the case of a foreign animal disease event.

Animal Health Unit:

FY23 Brucellosis Surveillance in Wyoming:

Cattle in Wyoming’s Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) are required to be tested for brucellosis before they leave the DSA or change ownership. Some livestock exhibitions, sales, and international movements also require negative brucellosis tests for cattle to be eligible to participate, regardless of where in Wyoming they reside. The table below includes the number of tests and source of brucellosis testing in Wyoming that occurred in FY23.

FY23 Brucellosis Testing in Wyoming

Test Results	Non-DSA Ranches	DSA Ranches	Total
Negative Head	23700	31397	55097
Positive Head	7	2	9
Suspects	2	4	6
Total	23709	31403	55112

Brucellosis Testing Numbers	Non-DSA	DSA	Total
Animal Hospital/Clinic	3		3
DSA Cattle Tested at Billings, PAYS and Blackfoot		619	619
Market - federally approved	5531	264	5795
Producer Unit/Farm/Ranch	10609	29014	39623
Slaughter plant - custom exempt	3875	520	4395

Slaughter plant - federal inspection	925	234	1159
Slaughter plant - state inspection	2764	754	3518
Grand Total	23707	31405	55112

*All Wyoming-origin cattle slaughtered at Wyoming facilities are tested for Brucellosis

The WLSB paid \$260,737.92 from state funds for brucellosis testing and vaccination, \$74,594.58 from USDA Cooperative Agreement funds for testing and vaccination, and \$8,006.75 from USDA Cooperative Agreement funds for electronic submission bonuses for a total of \$343,339.25 in payments to veterinarians, sale barns, and slaughter plant managers to conduct Brucellosis testing and adult/booster vaccination of DSA-origin cattle.

Other Animal Health Measurables:

The WLSB maintains a list of animal diseases, called the “Reportable Disease List,” that are required to be reported to the state veterinarian when they are identified. These diseases are important for many reasons including their impact on herd health, public health (zoonotic diseases), or economics and marketability of the Wyoming livestock industry. The table below includes the number of cases reported by disease for the reporting period.

FY23 Incidence of Reportable Diseases in Wyoming

Reportable Disease	Total Number of Cases	Number of Species Affected	Type of Species Affected
Anaplasmosis	7	1	Bovine
Avian Influenza High Pathogenic	6	3	Wild Ducks, geese, turkeys
Bluetongue	1	1	Bovine
Bovine Leukosis	1	1	Bovine
Brucellosis abortus	14	1	Bovine
Brucellosis ovis	108	1	Ovine
Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis	2	1	Caprine
Equine Herpes Virus	3	1	Horse
Equine Influenza	1	1	Horse
Marek's Disease	1	1	Chicken
Ovine Progressive Pneumonia	1	1	Ovine
Paratuberculosis	65	3	Bovine, Ovine, Caprine

Plague	3	1	Feline
Q Fever	1	1	Caprine
Trichomoniasis	1	1	Bovine
Tularemia	4	1	Feline
West Nile Virus	1	1	Horse

Trichomoniasis continues to be a potentially economically significant disease impacting the cattle industry in Wyoming and other western range states. This venereal disease causes reproductive loss in female cattle, resulting in lowered, un-uniform calf crops and infertility. Trichomoniasis is a reportable disease in Wyoming and results in quarantine of infected herds with required culling of test positive bulls. One Trichomoniasis infected bull was found in the state during FY23.

FY23 Numbers of Bulls Tested for Trichomoniasis in Wyoming

	Total Bulls Tested	Negative	Suspect	Positive
TOTAL	10,023	10,022	0	1

Brand Unit – Brand Recording:

FY 23 was a brand renewal year. 6,068 brands were scheduled for renewal, and 4,652 brands were renewed by March 1, 2023. Brands that are not renewed are legally considered delinquent. A brand that is delinquent can still be renewed, after the delinquent owner pays the renewal fee, plus a delinquent fee of \$150.00. Non renewed brands from the 2023 renewal are considered by law to be delinquent and eligible for renewal until December 31, 2024. After that date, any delinquent brand will become an abandoned brand and eligible to be picked up on a first come, first serve basis. So far 137 delinquent brands from the 2023 renewal have been reissued and 10 from the 2021 renewal, for a total of 147 delinquent brands were reissued during FY23.

During the year, the recording staff took 6,619 phone calls, served 323 walk-in customers, reissued 378 abandoned brands, issued 109 new brands and did 849 brand transfers. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 27,382 active brands recorded in the state of Wyoming. This is a decrease of 735 brands, or 2.6% less brands from the same time last year.

We have worked with local Brand Inspectors and livestock industry groups to reach out to those producers who may have inadvertently let their brand recordings lapse. Most of the 147 delinquent brands reissued fall in to this outreach effort.

Brand Unit – Brand Inspection:

Retirements of Inspectors continues to be a challenge. Although the rate of retirements has slowed down, it still is a factor in recruiting and retaining quality employees. The agency also saw several young inspectors leave for higher paying jobs.

In FY 23, the Livestock Board was able to increase base salaries This should help the agency in being more competitive as we recruit quality replacements for our retiring inspectors.

Drought conditions in the summer and fall of 2022 impacted livestock inspection numbers. Many of the drought conditions of 2022 have been alleviated in the winter and spring of 2023. However, the impact of the preceding period, can adversely affect inspection numbers for the next few years.

Total Brand Inspections for Calendar Year 2022:

In 2022 there were 1,529,860 cattle inspected on all forms; 241,357 sheep inspected on all forms; 19,321 horses inspected on all forms; and 421 hides inspected, for a total of 1,790,959 head of livestock inspected, 48,389 brand inspection certificates were issued in the country, with the remaining inspections being done at the four licensed livestock markets in the state. Total livestock numbers were down compared to the previous year. Cattle inspections were down 167,811 head or 9.88% less. Sheep inspections were down 21,711 head or 8.25% less. Horse inspections also down 1,998 head or 12.07% less. Hide inspections were down 117 or 21.75%. The market for livestock hides is almost none existent and many custom slaughter plants are not selling or shipping hides. Total livestock inspections for the year were down 9.67% or 191,637 less than the preceding year. However, the number of Brand inspections calls was up 1.68% this year. This means inspectors are doing slightly more inspections but looking at less livestock. The livestock numbers for the next year are expected to be low also, since producers will be holding back replacement heifers to rebuild their herds and the national cattle inventory is low.

Law Enforcement Unit:

The core functions of the Law Enforcement Unit include conducting criminal investigations of suspected violations of State/Federal laws and Wyoming Livestock Board rules; investigating reported cases of livestock theft, illegal livestock movement, illegal import/export, animal cruelty/welfare; and training/educating and assisting other Wyoming law enforcement agencies.

An electronic case management system is used to track the number of reported violations, investigations and trainings. These would include Agency Assist calls, Brand Inspection and Animal Health Violations, trainings and missing and stolen livestock reports. This past year the Law Enforcement Unit has recorded 120 calls for service

It is important to note, that as cooperation is gained with local agencies, some producers made reports to local agencies. We continue to strive to coordinate activities and information with other law enforcement agencies, and prosecuting attorneys. The current Investigators have worked tirelessly to restore credibility and presence to the Unit.

W.S. 11-18-120 provided a one-time appropriation to create an account for the purpose of reimbursing county Sheriffs for expenses relating to the enforcement of livestock laws and for eligible expenses relating to in-state & out-of-state livestock investigations and training. WLSB has promulgated rules to implement this statute. This appropriation was carried over for the 2023-24 biennium. WLSB has developed an MOU with Sheriffs Offices, for targeted enforcement in high-risk areas. There are currently seven (7) counties with these MOU's which will continue until the end of the Fiscal 2024. These MOU's have contributed to the Livestock stops and citations written on behalf of WLSB Investigators. WLSB

Investigators have performed ride along with local agencies and roadside checks for additional training opportunities

WLSB Organizational Chart

