

**WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD (WLSB)**

**Agency 051  
Annual Report  
FY2017**

**Director's name and official title:** Steve True, WLSB Director and CEO

**Mailing Address:** 1934 Wyott Drive; Cheyenne, WY 82002-051

**Other Locations:** 610 Fairground Rd, Riverton, WY

**Web Address (URL):** <http://wlsb.state.wy.us/>

**Agency Contact Person:** Steve True, Director-CEO

**Agency Contact Phone:** 777-7515

**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 11-18-119

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:** BFY17-18 budget, adjusted for the Governor's 8% reductions and additional 2017 General Session reductions, is \$18,143,997 of which \$6,232,044 is general fund, \$424,659 from federal funds and \$11,487,294 which is producer-generated revenue from the Brand Recording and Inspection activities of the agency.

**Basic Facts:**

WLSB has four operational units with 16 full-time staff following a reduction in the Law Enforcement Unit funding during the 2017 General Session. The units include 6 in Administration, 4 in Animal Health, 6 in Brands, as well as 96 At Will Employment Contract (AWEC) Brand Inspectors. Currently, there are 13 full-time staff members in the Cheyenne Office. The Riverton Office houses 2 full-time general

funded staff members and 1 federal grant funded contract staff with primary focus of Brucellosis Program support. The remaining staff members 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, 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; inspection of livestock hides and pelts for brands and 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.

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

#### **Core System:**

The Agency has improved greatly in building an integrated computer system. Animal Health has implemented the use of a new module. Brand Inspection is complete with a module that communicates with Animal Health. 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 tablet 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.

As all aspects of the WLBMS system are live and operational, the goal of the agency is to increase integration and coordination of Agency units, to communicate more efficiently, and continue to streamline the process. We have supplied Brand Inspectors with smart phones and have Wi-Fi capability in order to efficiently operate the online uploading capabilities of their tablets in remote areas.

### **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 Brucellosis, Trichomoniasis, Scrapie, and other relevant topics. We held five 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, Big Horn Sheep/Domestic sheep interactions, zoonotic diseases, and emergency response. Visits were made to the 4 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 educate them about ID requirements, and to help management determine whether they should become approved tagging sites. The Director and WLSB veterinary staff also participated in USDA APHIS Animal Disease Traceability listening sessions.

WLSB Animal Health Unit personnel participated in numerous interstate and/or national meetings and teleconferences 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 Brucellosis, Trichomoniasis, Equine Piroplasmiasis, and bovine Tuberculosis.

The WLSB held four meetings (4 teleconferences) 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.

### **Performance Measure #3 is Program Management & Oversight:**

**Administration Unit:**

**Budget Management and Oversight:**

The BFY17 Agency Budget, after the Governor's 8% and 2017 General Session reductions, is \$18,143,997 which is designated as follows:

	<b><u>BFY17 TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>Expended FY17</u></b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$6,232,044	\$3,134,028
<b>Brucellosis</b>	\$910,732	\$358,860
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$ 424,659	\$251,270
<b>Agency Fund</b>	\$11,487,294	\$4,552,427
<b>Revenue received FY17</b>		<b>\$ 5,196,462 made up of:</b>
Brand Recording		\$ 2,257,048
Brand Inspection		\$ 2,766,760
Interest Income		\$ 172,654

**Statutes and Rules:**

WLSB staff conducted a thorough review of the current rules we administer. As a result of the Governor's rules initiative, all chapters of rules were reviewed by the agency. The Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules were put out for public comment at the end of FY 16 to amend one requirement which was adopted by the board and signed into effect by Governor Mead in January 2017. The board put the Chapter 8 Import rules and Chapter 14 Presentation Of Official Forms By Licensed And Accredited Veterinarians rules out for public comment on June 9 with the comment period due to end on August 4, 2017.

**Brand Inspection and Recording Rules:**

In FY 2017 the Brand division experienced a significant cut in general funding for the Brand Inspection unit. Although Brand Recording remains a totally self funded unit, Brand Inspection was cut \$1,226,951. In order to keep continuity of the program, the Livestock Board adopted a temporary increase in brand inspection and recording fees of approximately ten percent. This meant the Chapter 9 Rules, Brand Inspection and Recording Fees, were changed. The change in the fees will sunset August 15, 2018, and in the meantime, the Livestock Board has formed a working group from Board members and industry stakeholders to examine program changes to both identify possible program cuts, changes and fee increase to keep the program financially sound. One positive outcome this year was the 2017 brand recording period had 8,406 brands up for renewal, with over 6,700 brands renewed. It was a great aid to the program to have so many brands up for renewal. However, the next renewal is one of the lowest in terms of numbers due to be rerecorded.

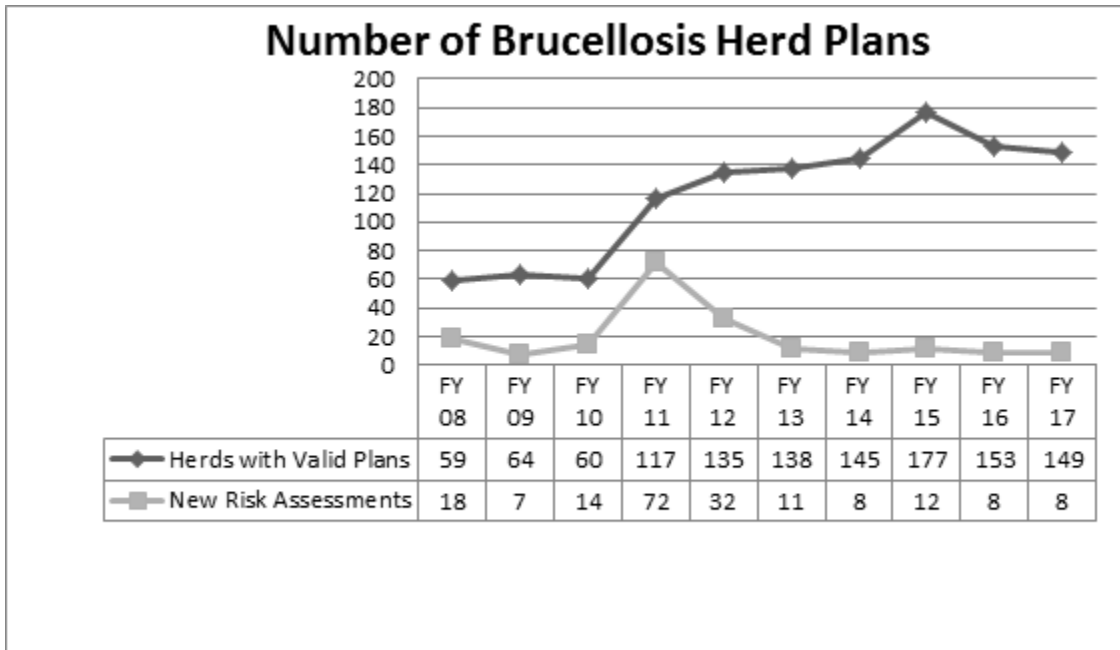
**Emergency Planning for Livestock:**

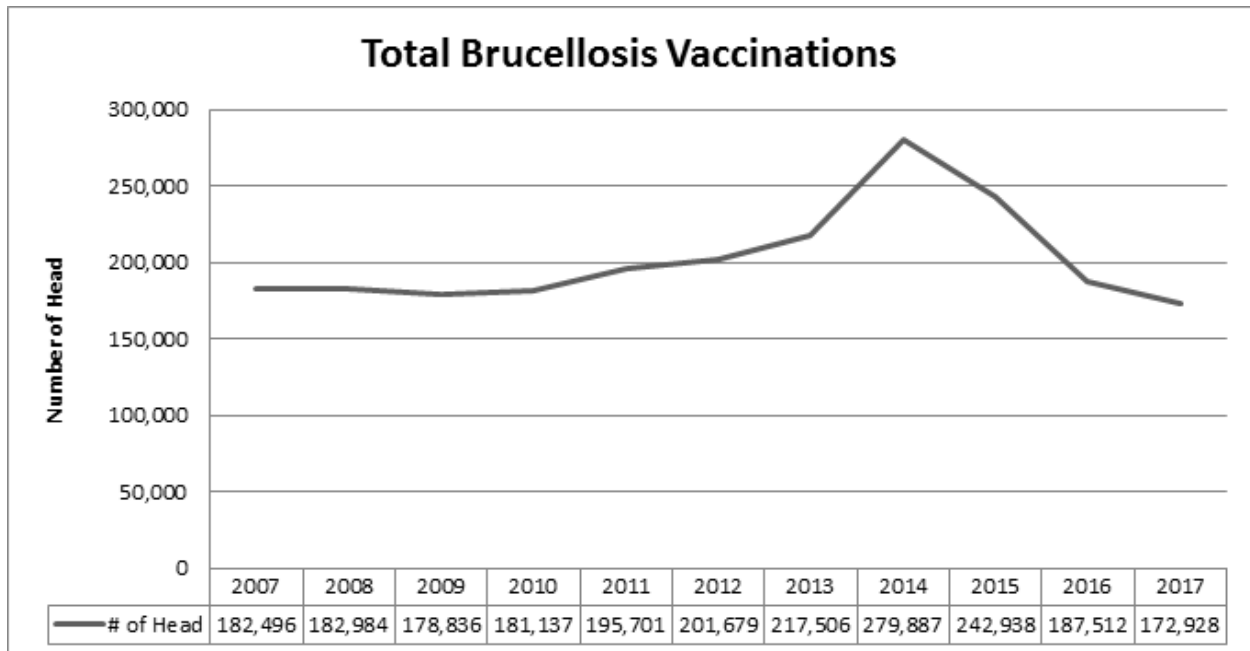
Work continued in the process of developing an MOU with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services to activate the National Veterinary Stockpile in the event of a major disease outbreak. This effort requires coordination between the WLSB and several other agencies, including WYDOT, WDH, and county emergency management coordinators, and is ongoing.

WLSB Animal Health personnel are continuing to work with the University of Wyoming’s Agriculture Extension Service on emergency management response and preparedness. 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.

**Animal Health Unit:**

**Brucellosis Measurables –**





FY17 Brucellosis Surveillance Statistics for Cattle Grazing in the Wyoming Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) and the Brucellosis Area of Concern (Big Horn county and Sheridan county)

45 veterinarians conducted testing for Brucellosis on cattle from the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) and the Brucellosis Area of Concern during Fiscal Year 2017. 36,134 DSA-origin cattle/bison were tested on Wyoming ranches and at livestock markets and 3,103 cattle were sampled at WY slaughter plants to comply with WLSB Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules. The two Brucellosis affected cattle herds found in October, 2015 were released from quarantine after achieving three consecutive negative herd tests. One was in Park County and one in Sublette County. WLSB staff veterinarians conducted herd testing on a herd in Niobrara County following a slaughter test traceback. The herd was test negative and was released from quarantine.

The WLSB paid approximately \$276,000 to veterinarians and slaughter plant managers to conduct Brucellosis testing, spaying of exposed heifers in infected herds, and vaccination of DSA and Brucellosis Area of Concern-origin cattle. In addition, the WLSB contracted \$101,915 with the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory during the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 for support of laboratory costs associated with brucellosis testing.

**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 WY livestock industry. The table below includes the number of cases reported by disease for the reporting period.

	<u># of Cases</u>	<u># of Species</u>	<u>Species</u>
Avian Influenza - Low Path	1	1	Swan
Bovine Leukosis	1	1	Cattle
Brucella ovis	15	1	Sheep
Campylobacter species	18	5	Cattle/Swine/Sheep/ Horse/Chicken
Caprine Arthritis			
Encephalitis	18	1	Goat
Enzootic Abortion of Ewes	1	1	Sheep
Equine Piroplasmiasis	1	1	Horse
Johne's Disease	6	2	Cattle/Sheep
Leptospirosis	1	1	Cattle
Marek's Disease	1	1	Chicken
Plague	1	1	Cat
Rabies*	18	3	Skunk/Bat
Trichinosis	1	1	Cattle
Trichomoniasis	3	1	Cattle
Tularemia	7	2	Cat/Rabbit
West Nile Virus**	7	2	Horse/Avian

\* Rabies information courtesy of Wyoming Department of Health and WSVL.

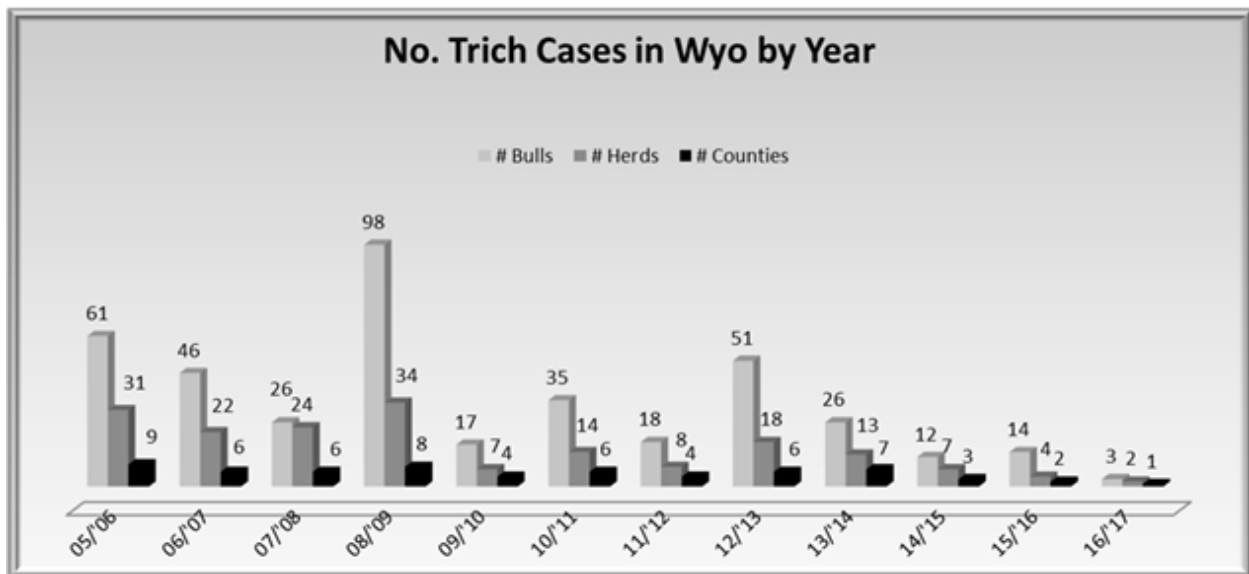
\*\*West Nile Virus information courtesy of Wyoming Department of Health.

The WLSB Animal Health staff cooperated with USDA APHIS to conduct an epidemiologic and testing response to bovine Tuberculosis traces from an infected South Dakota herd during the fiscal year 2017. One Wyoming cattle herd was tested as a potential "source herd" to the SD herd. Over 900 cattle were tested from this herd with all being test negative. We also had traces from the SD herd that had been sold into WY. 86 TB exposed beef heifers had been purchased from the SD herd and were imported into WY prior to the SD herd being identified by animal health officials as an affected herd. These animals were traced to a WY ranch where some of the animals remained. Others had been sold to other ranches in WY, CO, NE, and MT. Those that remained in WY were tested and although test negative, as per federal rule as exposed animals were required to be sent to slaughter with federal indemnity. Cattle in WY that had been exposed to the exposed heifers were also tested for TB and found to be negative and were released from quarantine.

Foreign Animal Disease investigations involved the following suspect diseases: Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza, and Equine Piroplasmiasis. Of these, one cluster of Equine Piroplasmiasis was found in a one owner/one trainer group of race horses in Uinta County. These animals remain under quarantine pending further testing. (*Foreign Animal Disease investigations information courtesy of Wyoming Area APHIS Office.*)

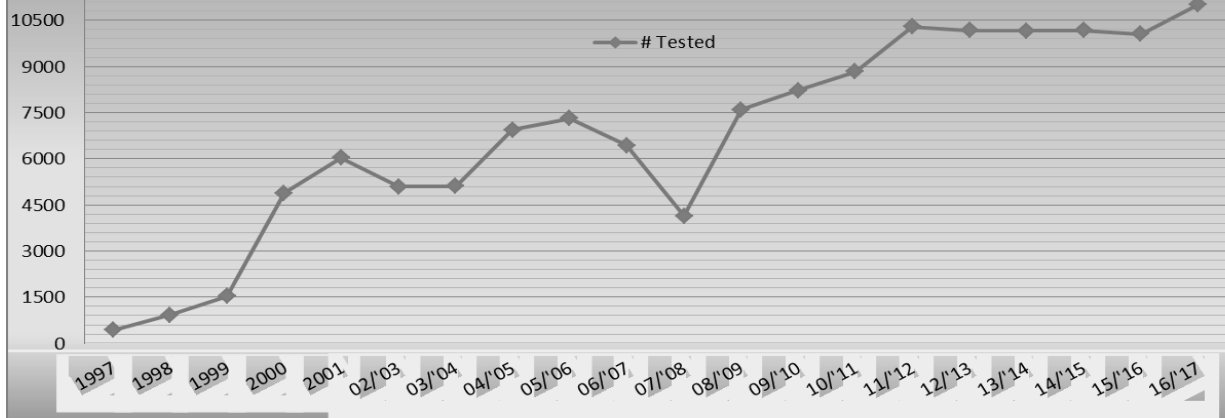
The WLSB conducts surveillance testing for Avian Influenza funded by a USDA APHIS cooperative agreement grant. This surveillance is important for both livestock and human health in Wyoming and the US. Avian Influenza is caused by viruses that can affect wild and domestic poultry, humans, and potentially other species and it is important to conduct surveillance testing for the protection of animal and human health. 16 county fairs and the state fair, and a few poultry premises were targeted for AI surveillance during FY2017. Samples were collected from 1,139 poultry during the period. No avian influenza was found in the state during FY17.

Trichomoniasis continues to be an economically significant disease impacting the cattle industry in Wyoming and other western range states. This venereal disease causes reproductive loss in female cattle thereby causing lowered and un-uniform calf crops and infertility. This is a reportable disease in WY and results in quarantine of infected herds with required culling of test positive bulls. From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, 11,005 bulls were tested and 3 infected bulls were identified. The positive bulls originated from (1) county and (2) Wyoming herds.

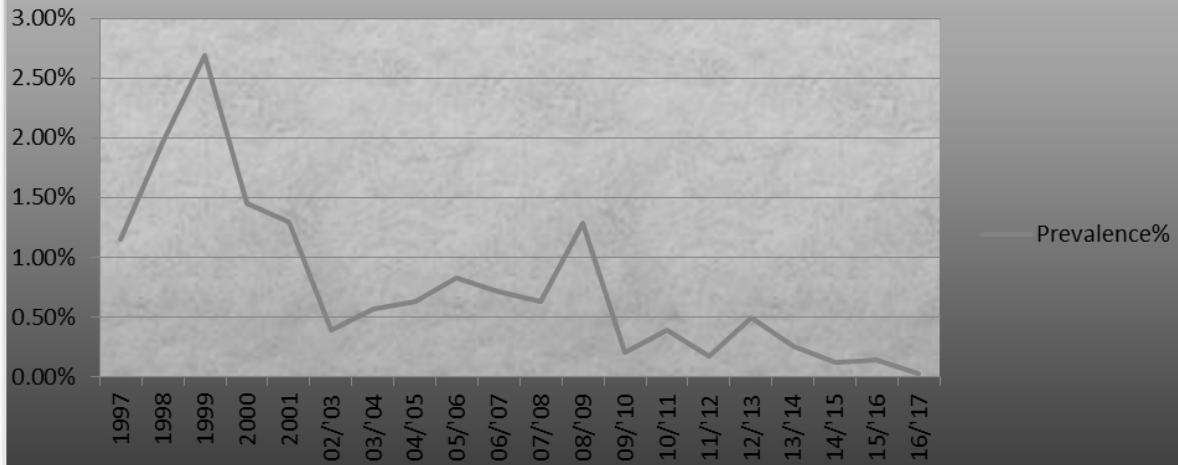




### Numbers of Bulls Tested in Wyoming



### % Positive of bulls tested for Trich in Wyoming



<b>Number of Quarantines Issued by Disease FY17</b>	
Brucellosis Positive	0
Brucellosis Test	1
Trichomoniasis Positive	3
Tuberculosis Positive	2
Equine Piroplasmosis	4
Tuberculosis Test	40
Adult Brucellosis Vac on Arrival	12
Calfhood Brucellosis Vac on Arrival	16
Scrapie Susceptibility Test on Arrival	5
Trichomoniasis Test on Arrival	10
<b>Total # Quarantines Issued/Continued for FY17</b>	<b>94</b>

**Tags Distributed by the WLSB for official identification purposes**

There were 16,560 Wyoming green tags or silver USDA tags distributed to Wyoming producers. There were 65,733 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Brucellosis Vaccination tags distributed to 54 Wyoming veterinarians during the Fiscal Year 2017.

**Brand Unit – Brand Recording:**

At the end of FY2017, 27,154 brands were recorded in Wyoming. Every tenth year after recording a brand, brand owners are required to rerecord the brand. At least sixty days preceding the expiration date of the brand, the Livestock Board is required to notify by mail the brand owner that the brand must be rerecorded. By statute, if a brand is not rerecorded within sixty days from the expiration date of the brand, a brand is considered delinquent. If a brand is not rerecorded during the delinquent period, the brand is declared abandoned and available to be applied for by the general public at the end of the renewal year.

In the 2017 recording period, 8,406 brands were up for renewal. 6,594 brands were initially renewed by the renewal deadline. 1,812 brands went into delinquent status. Of those delinquent brands, 133 have been rerecorded so far this year. This means 6,727 brands have been renewed, for a net renewal rate of 80.03 %. The agency has utilized office and field staff, the agency website, producer groups, press releases and Livestock Board members to let people know if their brands are on the delinquent list. There are currently 133 delinquent brands recorded since March 1, 2017. This compares to 164 for all of 2015. During FY 2017, 96 new brands were recorded, 209 abandoned brands were reissued and there were 484 other brands transactions including brand transfers, name changes, and other brand transactions.

**Brand Unit – Brand Inspection:**

The 2012 drought caused a sell-off of the Wyoming cattle inventory. This led to lower inspection numbers in 2013 and 2014. In 2014, inspection numbers on cattle bottomed out to

their lowest numbers in a generation and started to increase again in 2015 and 2016. While there have been drought conditions in certain parts of Wyoming, most of the state has had good conditions. Cattle inspections continue to rebound. This trend is expected to continue for the rest of 2017.

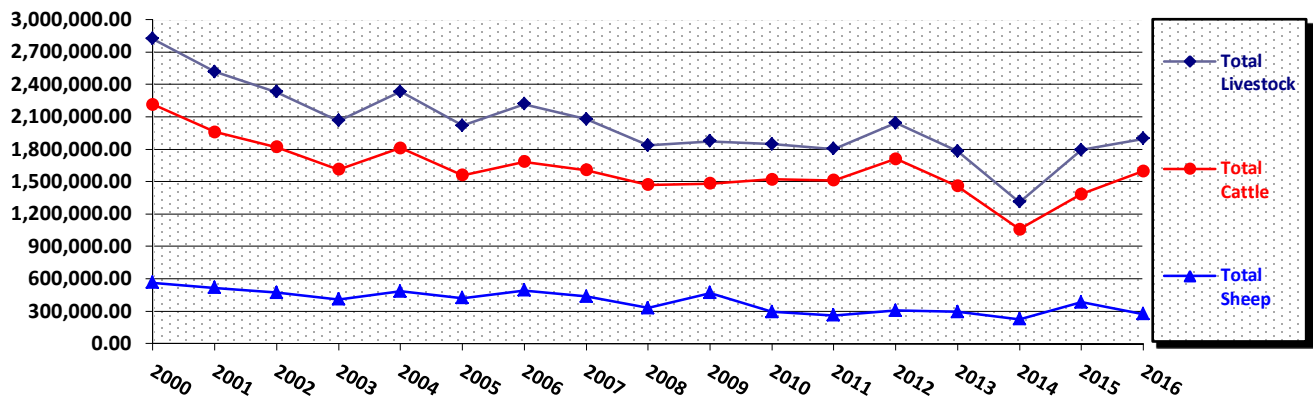
**Total Inspections for Calendar Year 2016**

In 2016 there were 1,597,856 cattle inspected, 274,975 sheep inspected, 22,228 horses inspected, and 1483 hides inspected for a total of 1,896,542 livestock inspections. 45,838 brand inspection certificates were issued in the country, with the remaining inspections being done at the 4 licensed livestock markets in the state. With the exception of sheep and hides, livestock inspections were up when compared with 2015. This follows a trend of livestock growers rebuilding their herds after the last drought period.

Cattle inspections were up 13.3 %. Sheep inspections were down significantly, by 39.82%. Horse inspections increased by 8.8 %. Total livestock inspections for the year were up 5.44%, and country inspections forms issued were up 14.43%. Livestock numbers are recovering gradually from the previous low of 2014. The following table contains calendar year information for comparison purposes for calendar years 2000 through 2016.

**WY Cattle and Sheep Inspections Calendar Year 2000-2016**

*Brand Unit – Brand Inspection: Total Livestock Inspected*



**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.

The table below provides information regarding cases worked in FY16.

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>Number Worked</b>
Animal Welfare	59
Brand Inspection Violations	36
Civil Matter	28
Missing / Theft Reports	67
Agency Assist	34
Animal Health Violations	29
Livestock Check Points	42
Citations	16
Warnings	20
Livestock Rustling	18
Training Classes Conducted	3
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>352</b>

# WLSB Organizational Chart

