

**WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD (WLSB)**

**Agency 051  
Annual Report  
FY20**

**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 11-18-120

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:** BFY19-20 Agency adjusted budget is \$18,221,344 of which \$5,345,282 is general fund, \$678,047 from federal funds, \$10,092,803 which is producer-generated revenue from the Brand Recording and Inspection activities of the agency and \$2,105,212 pass through dollars for predator Control Fees collected on behalf of the County Predator Boards. The significant adjustments to the overall 2019-2020 budget were a result of an increase in federal funding by the USDA/APHIS/VS for the mitigation and surveillance of brucellosis within the state plus an increase in spending authority from producer fees from the brand inspection unit.

### **Basic Facts:**

WLSB has four operational units with 16 full-time staff. The divisions include 6 in Administration, 3 in Animal Health, 1 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 Brucellosis division. Currently, there are 13 full-time positions in the Cheyenne Office. The 1 Law Enforcement Officer operates from our Casper office. The Riverton Office houses 2 full-time general funded positions and 1 federal grant funded contract staff with primary focus of Brucellosis Program support. 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; 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. 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 has improved greatly 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. 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 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 have images, this has been putting a strain on the system. Warehousing these older files will help the program system operate more efficiently.

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 full time 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. Several scheduled "in-person" meetings had to be cancelled or held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These meetings included producer education meetings on Brucellosis, Trichomoniasis, Scrapie, livestock ID, Vesicular Stomatitis and other relevant topics. We held two formal trainings and several virtual/electronic individual 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 Brucellosis, Trichomoniasis, bovine Tuberculosis, Equine Piroplasmiasis, Equine Herpes Virus Myeloencephalopathy, and Vesicular Stomatitis Virus.

The WLSB held 2 face to face and 4 teleconference 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.

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

**Administration Unit:**

**Budget Management and Oversight:**

The BFY19/20 Agency Budget, after the section 320 adjustments, is \$17,626,496 which is designated as follows:

	<b><u>Biennium</u> TOTAL</b>	<b><u>Expended/Distributed</u> FY20</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$5,345,282	\$3,104,943
(This includes :)		
<b>Brucellosis</b>	\$ 883,052	\$ 477,099
In Addition:		
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$ 678,047	\$ 401,670
<b>Agency Funds</b>	\$10,092,803	\$4,338,597
<b>Predator Fund</b>	\$2,105,212	\$1,035,830
<b>Revenue received FY20</b>	<b>\$ 4,758,122 made up of:</b>	
Brand Recording	\$ 217,914	
Brand Inspection	\$ 3,504,378	
Predator Fees	\$ 1,035,830	

**Statutes and Rules:**

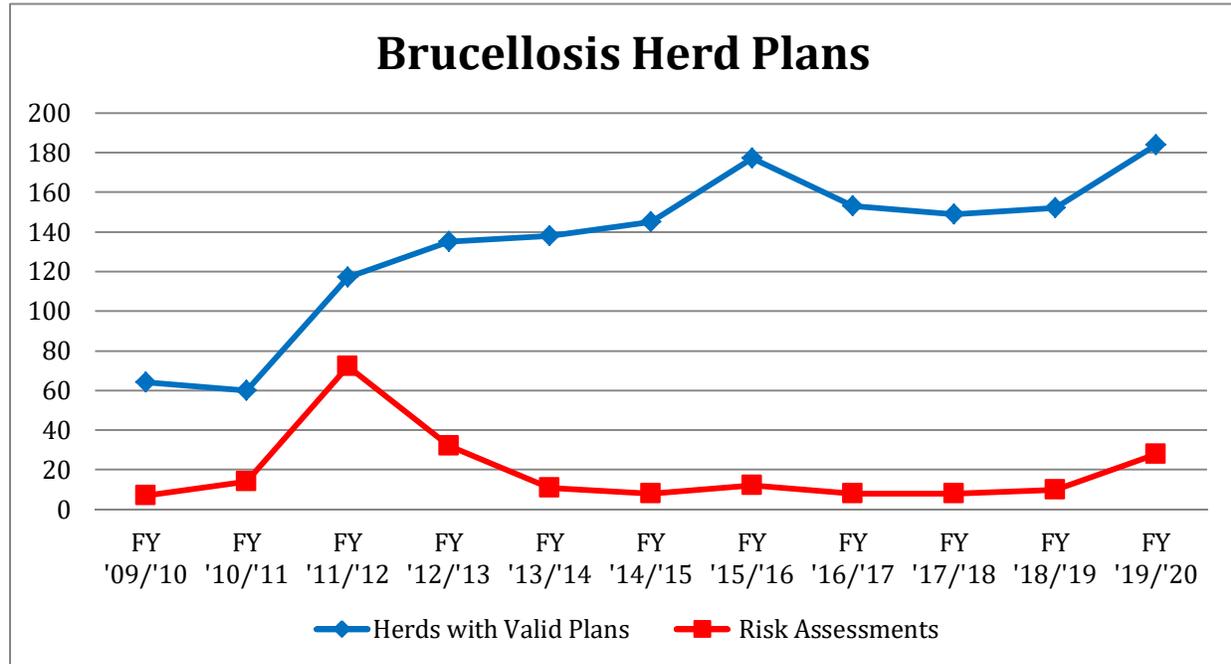
WLSB staff conducted a thorough review of the current rules we administer. As a result of the previous Governor's rules initiative, all chapters of rules have been reviewed and revised as appropriate.

**Emergency Planning for Livestock:**

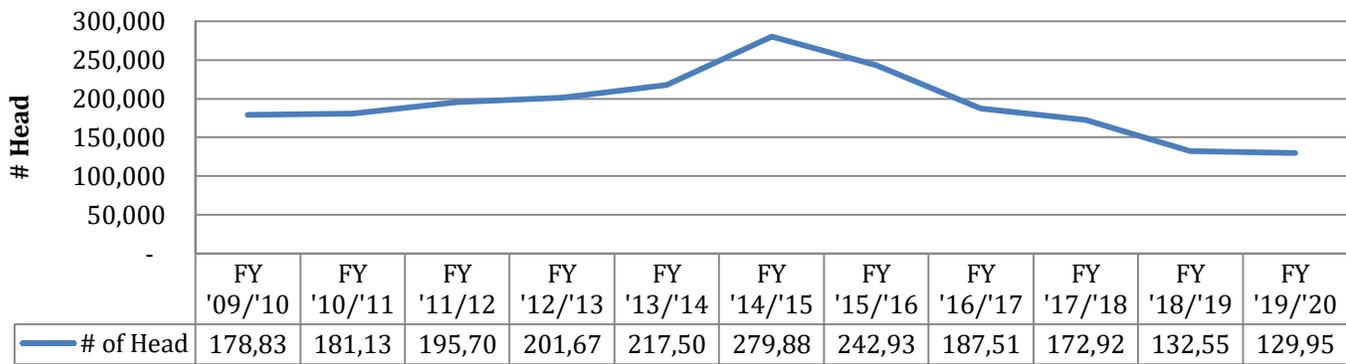
Work continued in the process of developing an MOU with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services to activate the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVSP) in the event of a major disease outbreak. This effort requires coordination between the WLSB and several other agencies, including WYDOT, WDH, and county emergency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

Efforts are underway 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. The Secure Sheep and Wool Supply Plan was developed during the fiscal year with four representatives (including the state veterinarian) of the Wyoming sheep industry participating. This is a national effort and resulting plans will be works in progress.

**Animal Health Unit:  
Brucellosis Measurable**



### Brucellosis Vaccinations



FY20 Brucellosis Surveillance Statistics for Cattle Grazing in the Wyoming Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) and the Brucellosis Area of Concern (WGFD Elk Hunt Areas 39, 40, and 41)

39 veterinarians conducted testing for Brucellosis on 80,407 cattle from the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) and the Brucellosis Area of Concern during Fiscal Year 2020. 72,662 DSA-origin cattle/bison were tested on Wyoming ranches and 7,745 were tested at livestock markets. An additional 1,898 cattle from greater Wyoming were sampled at WY slaughter plants for a grand total of 82,305 head tested to comply with WLSB Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules.

During FY20 Wyoming experienced 16 Brucellosis investigations of “non-negative” test results due to a change in the national Brucellosis screening test from the test that we had used for many years to a more sensitive type of test. This was due to USDA APHIS no longer being able to acquire reagents for the RAP test and therefore having to use the FPA test. Following a change in testing protocol to follow any non-negative FPA test with other serologic tests we were able to release all but four herds from movement restrictions. Four new Brucellosis affected herds were verified in the state during the FY20. Two herds were in Park County and two were in Sublette County. The brucellosis reactor (positive) animals were removed from all four affected herds and following three consecutive negative herd tests, three of the four herds were released from quarantine late in FY20. The WLSB paid indemnity for all of the reactors removed from each of the four affected herds and for “non-negative/reactor” cattle/bison from other herds that were investigated, for a total of \$13,490.09 expended from the indemnity account.

The WLSB paid \$349,072 from state funds for brucellosis testing and vaccination, \$164,446.25 from USDA Cooperative Agreement funds for testing and vaccination, and \$9,978 from USDA Cooperative Agreement funds for electronic submission bonuses for a total of \$523,496.25 in payments to veterinarians, sale barns, and slaughter plant managers to conduct Brucellosis testing, and adult/booster vaccination of DSA and Brucellosis Area of Concern-origin cattle.

**Other Animal Health Measurable**

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>
Brucellosis canis	1	1	Dog
Brucellosis ovis	1	1	Sheep
Campylobacter species	1	1	Goat
Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis	4	1	Goat
Listeriosis	1	1	Bovine
Johne’s Disease	10	2	Cattle/Sheep/Goat
Plague	6	2	Dog/Prairie Dog
Rabies	39	2	Bat/Skunk
Tuberculosis	1	1	Canine

Tularemia	2	1	Wildlife
Vesicular Stomatitis	160	2	Equine/Bovine
West Nile Virus	3	1	Equine

Foreign Animal Disease investigations and response activities were conducted on 32 reports potentially involving the following suspect diseases: Foot and Mouth Disease, Vesicular Stomatitis, and Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (wild rabbits). During the Vesicular Stomatitis outbreak, 67 laboratory investigations confirmed 44 cases. Another 106 cases in counties with previously confirmed Vesicular Stomatitis infection displayed clinical signs so characteristic of Vesicular Stomatitis that owners elected to abide by quarantine requirements without laboratory testing. Therefore, out of 173 suspected Vesicular Stomatitis cases, the agency managed 150 quarantined premises. Cases started in late July, peaked mid-September, and ended with a single case in November and a single case in December.

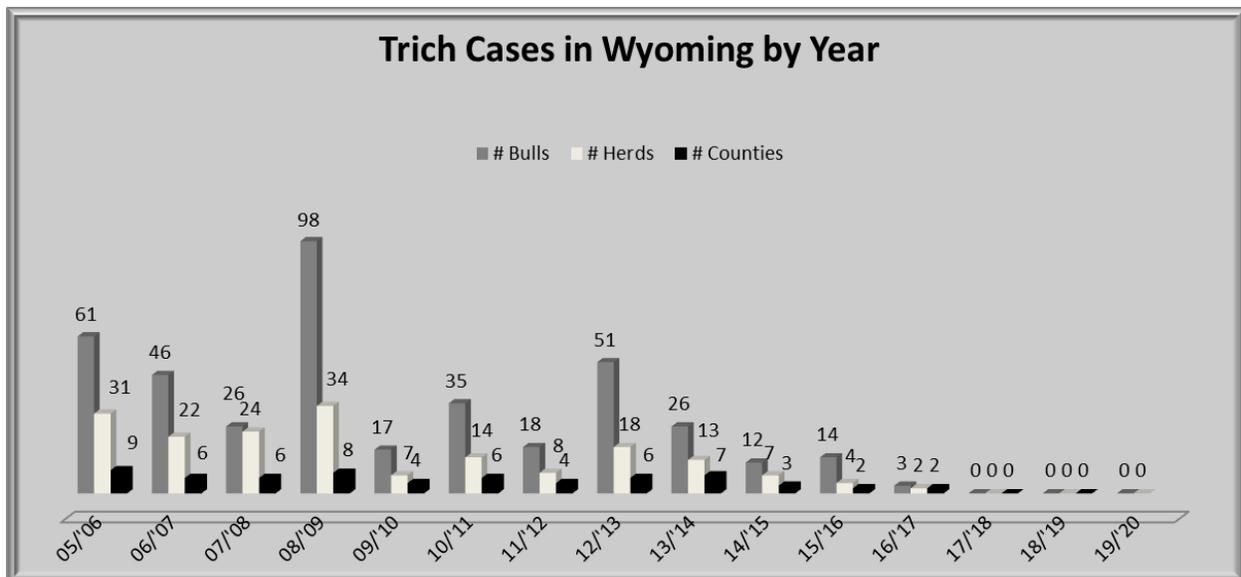
One premises in Uinta County with horses infected with Equine Piroplasmiasis remains under quarantine pending further testing and treatment following the disease being found in FY17. There were no other foreign animal diseases found in Wyoming during FY20. (*Foreign Animal Disease investigations information 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. Only poultry from the State Fair was targeted for passive surveillance for AI during FY20. Samples were collected from 136 poultry composing 32 sample pools from fourteen counties. No avian influenza was found in domestic poultry in the state during FY20

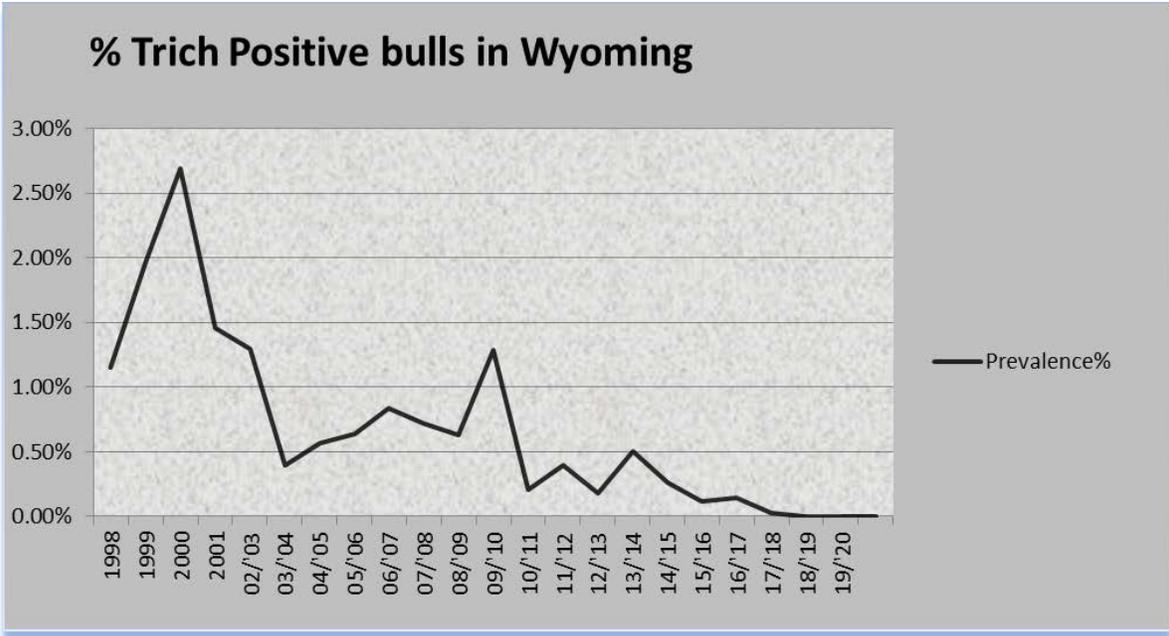
Trichomoniasis continues to be a potentially economically significant disease impacting the cattle industry in Wyoming and other western range states. This venereal disease causes reproductive loss in female cattle thereby causing lowered and un-uniform calf crops and infertility. This is a reportable disease in WY and results in quarantine of infected herds with required culling of test positive bulls. No Trichomoniasis infected bulls were found in the state during FY20. From September 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020, 9,484 bulls were tested.

## Numbers of Bulls Tested in Wyoming and its Trichomoniasis Special Focus Area (SFA)

	Total Bulls Tested	Negative	Suspect	Positive	Total Herds Tested	Special Focus Area
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9,484</b>	<b>9,484</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>976</b>	
	SFA Numbers					
Lincoln County	788					82
Sweetwater County	502	502	0	0		45
Uinta County	1,162	1,162	0	0		121
<b>Total SFA</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>248</b>

### Trich Cases in Wyoming by Year





### Number of Livestock by Species Imported by Permit into WY during FY20

Beef Cattle	Bison	Dairy Cattle	Foreign Beef Cattle	Foreign Rodeo Cattle	Rodeo Cattle	Goat	Sheep	Swine	Grand Total Animals	Total Permits
245867	613	3430	46	1650	6215	2966	24826	14096	299709	4626

<b>Number of Quarantines Issued by Disease FY20</b>	
Brucellosis Positive	5
Brucellosis Test Due	1
B. ovis Test Due on Arrival	2
Vesicular Stomatitis	160
Equine Piroplasmiasis	1
Tuberculosis Test Due on Dairy Calves	2
Adult Brucellosis Vaccination on Arrival	24
Calfhood Brucellosis Vaccination on Arrival	12
Scrapie Susceptibility Test on Arrival	1
Trichomoniasis Test on Arrival	4
Illegal Import	4
<b>Total # Quarantines Issues/Continued for FY20</b>	<b>215</b>

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

There were 17,324 silver USDA tags distributed to Wyoming producers. There were 102,928 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Brucellosis Vaccination tags distributed to 71 Wyoming veterinarians during the Fiscal Year 2020.

**Brand Unit – Brand Recording:**

There were several changes in the Brand recording laws in the 2020 session. If Brand owners have brands in different renewals, they will have the option of to combine their brands into the same future renewal, provided they meet the proper criteria. Brand owners will also have the option of renewing their brands active term for 10, 20 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or even 100 years. The fall of 2020 we will start the 2021 renewal period and it remains to be seen how many producers will take advantage of these new options. We anticipate this will increase recording revenues in the short term. Nonetheless, any gains in revenue now, will impact future revenue as those brands with extended renewal periods will not be part of future renewal periods.

In addition, these changes in the brand recording legislation required an extensive rewriting of our brand recording computer program to accommodate the changes in the laws. The staff worked closely with the programmers to get these changes implemented.

December 2019 marked the first time that the change to the delinquent brand statute went from one year delinquent to two years. We sent out a final notice on delinquent brands, however, people with delinquent brands from the 2019 renewal have all of calendar 2020 to renew their delinquent brands.

In 2019, the brand recording unit took 4,580 customer phone calls in 2019 and had 223 walk-in clients. In 2020, from Jan. 1 to June 30, the brand unit did 62 new brands, 259 brand transfers, 208 abandoned brands reissued, 113 pending brands and 7 delinquent brands reissued. The number of walk-in customers has declined sharply due to the COVID 19 virus impacts, but the number of customer phone calls is still similar.

### **Brand Unit – Brand Inspection:**

After several years of Brand Inspection numbers being steady, the end of FY20 and the start of FY 21 are shaping up as a very dry year. This is forcing producers to ship early and cut back on livestock numbers to meet changing pasture conditions. These weather conditions have a large fiscal impact on the program. Traditionally the first year of a drought or dry conditions equates to larger than normal inspections as people sell off portions of their herd and the next two years the numbers are low as producers slowly rebuild their livestock numbers, even if moisture levels are good.

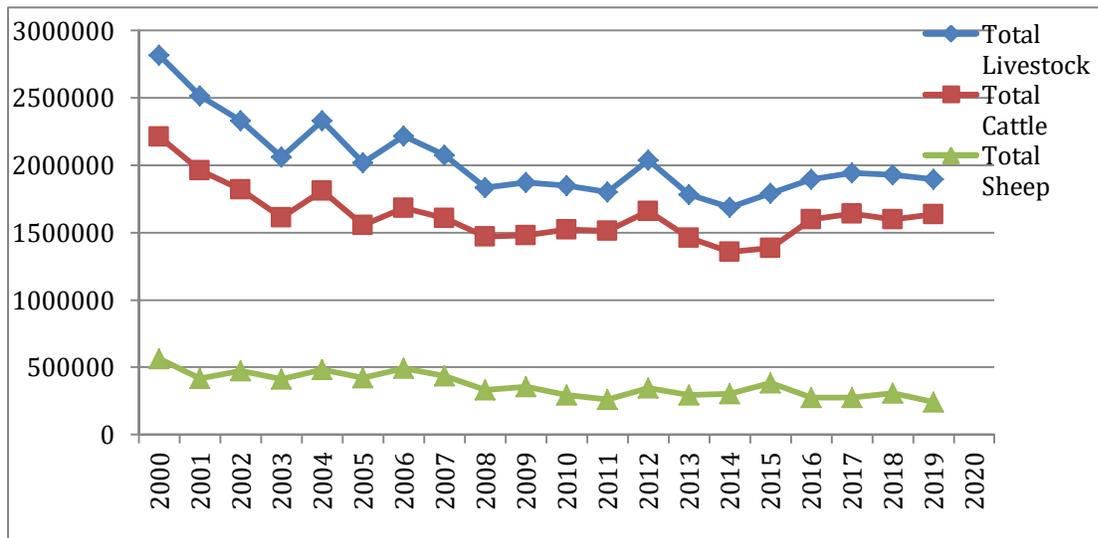
In addition market conditions, aggravated by COVID 19 issues, has gravely affected the sheep industry in Wyoming. Nationwide, lamb processing capacity has been severely impacted. This could potentially, drastically effect sheep inspection numbers throughout the state for years to come.

### **Total Inspections for Calendar Year 2019**

In 2019 there were 1,634,099 cattle inspected on all forms, 241,001 sheep inspected on all forms, 19,262 horses inspected on all forms, and 1,343 hides inspected for a total of 1,895,705 livestock inspections. 42,932 brand inspection certificates were issued in the country, with the remaining inspections being done at the 4 licensed livestock markets in the state. While cattle inspections were up, horse, sheep and hide inspections were down, while total livestock inspections were down compared with 2018. This indicates cattle numbers have stabilized since the last drought period. Specifically, Cattle inspections were up slightly, by 2.17%. Sheep inspections were down significantly, decreasing by -27.51%. This is probably a long term issue, as markets for wool and lamb processing have been severely impacted nationwide. Horse inspections decreased -10.55%, or about 2,032 head. Total livestock inspections for the year were down by -2.62%. Country inspections forms issued were down by approximately -4.42%. The following table contains calendar year information for comparison purposes for calendar years 2000 through 2019.

## WY Cattle and Sheep Inspections Calendar Year 2000-2019

*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 FY19.

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>Number Worked</b>
Animal Welfare	3
Brand Inspection Violations	11
Civil Matter	3
Missing / Theft Reports	49
Agency Assist	23
Animal Health Violations	10
Livestock Road Check	56
Citations	9
Warnings	11
Training Classes Conducted	7
Recovered Livestock	12
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>194</b>

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 Investigator has 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.

# WLSB Organizational Chart

