

**WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD (WLSB)**

**Agency 051  
Annual Report  
FY2019**

**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:** BFY19-20 Agency budget is \$17,626,496 of which \$5,330,732 is general fund, \$402,234 from federal funds, \$9,788,318 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.

**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, 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 has 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. These meetings included producer education meetings on Brucellosis, Trichomoniasis, Scrapie, livestock ID, and other relevant topics. We held two formal trainings and three 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 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 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 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 Infectious Anemia, and Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy.

The WLSB held 3 face to face 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:**

	<u>Biennium</u> TOTAL	<u>Expended/Distributed</u> FY19
<b>General Fund</b>	\$5,330,732	\$2,090,440
(This includes:)		
<b>Brucellosis</b>	\$ 883,052	\$ 405,748
In Addition:		
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$ 402,234	\$ 242,007
<b>Agency Funds</b>	\$9,788,318	\$4,115,820
<b>Predator Fund</b>	\$2,105,212	\$1,056,819

<b>Revenue received FY19</b>	<b>\$ 6,204,761 made up of:</b>
Brand Recording	\$ 1,625,790
Brand Inspection	\$ 3,522,219
Predator Fees	\$ 1,056,752

#### **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. Statutory changes from the 2019 legislative session have necessitated WLSB review and potential changes to some of the brand rules chapters which is in progress.

#### **Brand Inspection and Recording Rules:**

In FY 2019 the Wyoming Livestock Board adopted an increase in Brand Inspection fees to partially offset budget cuts taken in the preceding Legislative session. These increases went into effect on July 11, 2018. No increase in Brand Recording fees were implemented at the time. The Chapter 9 Rules, Brand Inspection and Recording Fees, were changed accordingly.

Due to extensive changes in the brand recording laws during the 2019 session, The Livestock Board needed to revise Chapter 21, Rules Governing the Recording and Renewal of Livestock Brands. The newest version of the rules will require a comprehensive rewrite.

After many decades of operating under Wyoming Livestock Board policies that have been instituted over the years, the Livestock Board and the agency have inserted these policies into the revised Chapter 21, Rules Governing the Recording and Renewal of Livestock Brands. These will help make the agency more transparent as to how brands are recorded, researched and issued to the general public.

In addition, the Board is in the process of developing new rules, establishing a process for defining, establishing, recording and regulating Permanently Recorded Brands. This new classification of Brand was established by new legislation that came out of the 2019 Legislative session. Despite the reference, these brands will be recorded for an extended but set amount of time. The Livestock Board anticipates there will be extensive public comment as these draft rules go out to public comment. In addition, changes in the brand recording legislation will require a rewriting of our brand recording computer program to accommodate the new categories of brands and the changes in record keeping.

### Emergency Planning for Livestock:

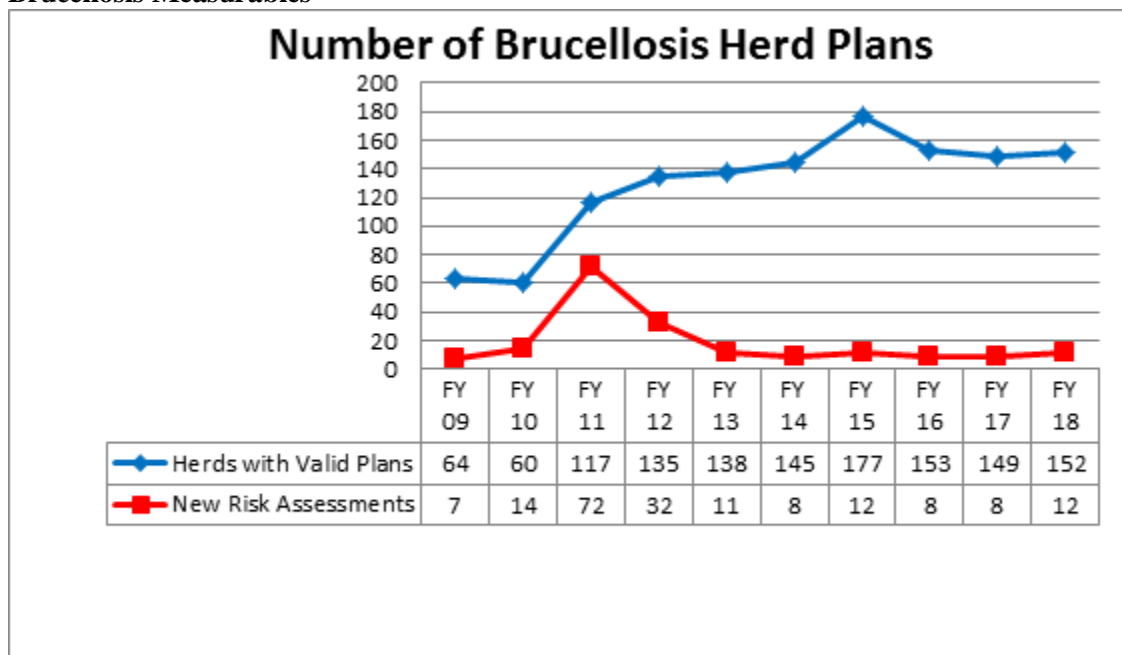
Work continued in the process of developing an MOU with USDA APHIS Veterinary Services to activate the National Veterinary Stockpile (NVSP) in the event of a major disease outbreak. This effort requires coordination between the WLSB and several other agencies, including WYDOT, WDH, and county emergency management coordinators, and is ongoing. The WLSB veterinary staff held a tabletop exercise with USDA APHIS on August 29, 2018 to evaluate our ability to receive the NVSP.

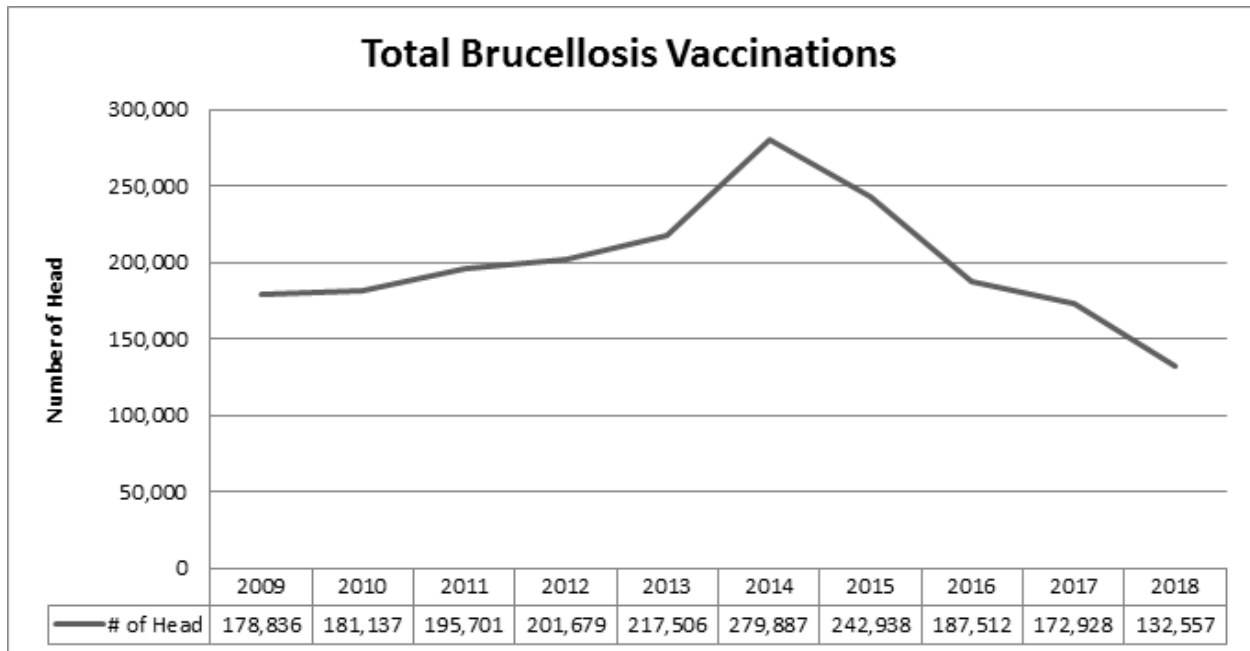
WLSB Animal Health personnel are continuing to work with the University of Wyoming's Agriculture Extension Service on emergency management response and preparedness. We participated in several training events during the fiscal year. We are also working with adjacent states in developing cross-border 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. This is a national effort and resulting plans will be works in progress.

### Animal Health Unit:

#### Brucellosis Measurables





FY19 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)

56 veterinarians conducted testing for Brucellosis in cattle from the Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) and the Brucellosis Area of Concern during Fiscal Year 2019. 57,125 DSA-origin cattle/bison were tested on Wyoming ranches and at livestock markets and 5,785 cattle were sampled at WY slaughter plants to comply with WLSB Chapter 2 Brucellosis rules.

During FY19 three new Brucellosis affected herds were found in the state. One herd was in Park county, one in Sublette county, and one in Teton county. The Teton county herd was voluntarily depopulated at the owner’s request with all cattle in the herd going to slaughter. The brucellosis reactor (positive) cattle were removed from both the Park and Sublette county herds (one had three reactors and one had two) and following three consecutive negative herd tests, those herds were each released from quarantine late in FY19. The WLSB paid indemnity for all of the reactors removed from each of the three affected herds for a total of \$7666.61 expended from the indemnity account.

The WLSB paid approximately \$315,902 to veterinarians and slaughter plant managers to conduct Brucellosis testing, and adult/booster 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, 2018 through June 30, 2019 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>
Brucellosis canis	1	1	Dog
Brucellosis ovis	6	1	Sheep
Campylobacter species	1	1	Goat
Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis	8	1	Goat
Echinococcosis	1	1	Cattle
Equine Herpes Virus	2	1	Horse
Equine Infectious Anemia	1	1	Horse
Histoplasmosis	1	1	Dog
Listeriosis	1	1	Bovine
Johne's Disease	9	3	Cattle/Sheep/Goat
Plague	4	2	Cat/Prairie Dog
Potomac Horse Fever	2	1	Horse
Rabies	18	4	Bat/Skunk/Fox/Raccoon
Scabies	1	1	Swine
Toxoplasmosis	1	1	Goat
Tularemia	2	2	Cat/Wildlife
West Nile Virus	20	2	Horse/Avian

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 feedlot steer during the fiscal year 2019. Two Wyoming beef cattle herds were identified as potential “source herds” to the SD positive steer. Both of these herds are of low statistical likelihood of having TB and owners have agreed to enhance TB surveillance of their herds. Some testing and epidemiologic investigation may continue into FY20. To

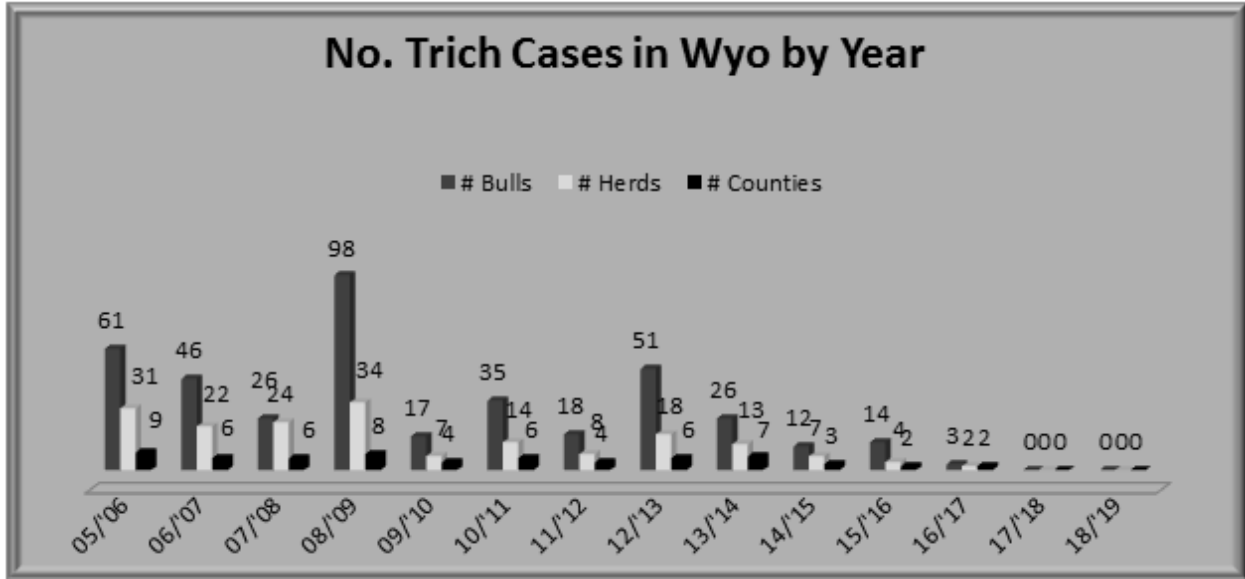
date, we have found no TB infected cattle in Wyoming. Foreign Animal Disease investigations and response activities were conducted on 7 reports potentially involving the following suspect diseases: Foot and Mouth Disease, Vesicular Stomatitis, Avian Influenza, Newcastle disease, Malignant Cattarhal Fever (MCF), and Talapia Lake Virus (TiLV). Of these diseases, only MCF and TiLV were actually diagnosed in the state. One premises in Uinta County with horses infected with Equine Piroplasmosis remains under quarantine pending further testing and treatment following the disease being found in FY17. An emerging disease, Talapia Lake Virus was traced to a Wyoming facility from a source in Idaho during the spring of 2019. The disease had not been found in the US prior to this case. The WY facility was placed under movement restrictions and could not accept or ship fish until all conditions of release were met in June 2019. There were no other foreign animal diseases found in Wyoming during FY19. (*Foreign Animal Disease investigations information courtesy of Wyoming Area APHIS Office.*)

In August 2018, the Colorado Department of Agriculture informed the Wyoming Livestock Board that a horse testing positive for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) had been transported to Wyoming illegally with no CVI and a pending EIA test. The horse was EIA positive. This resulted in the exposure of 41 Wyoming equine that were tested immediately. There were an additional 21 horses on 11 premises in 8 counties that were exposed to the positive horse in Colorado that had also come into Wyoming illegally. All horses were located and quarantined pending sixty day re-tests. In late October, the WLSB Field Veterinarian performed the 60-day re-tests with all negative results. The horses were all released from quarantine in late October/early November.

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 FY19. Samples were collected from 298 poultry from thirteen counties. No avian influenza was found in domestic poultry in the state during FY19.

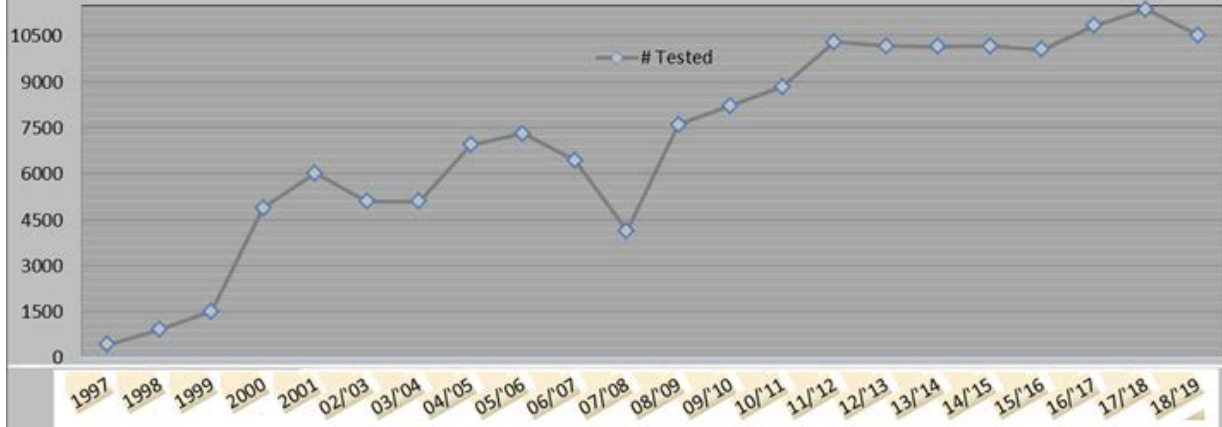
Trichomoniasis continues to be a potentially economically significant disease impacting the cattle industry in Wyoming and other western range states. This venereal disease causes reproductive loss in female cattle thereby causing lowered and un-uniform calf crops and infertility. This is a reportable 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 FY19. From September 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019, bulls were tested.



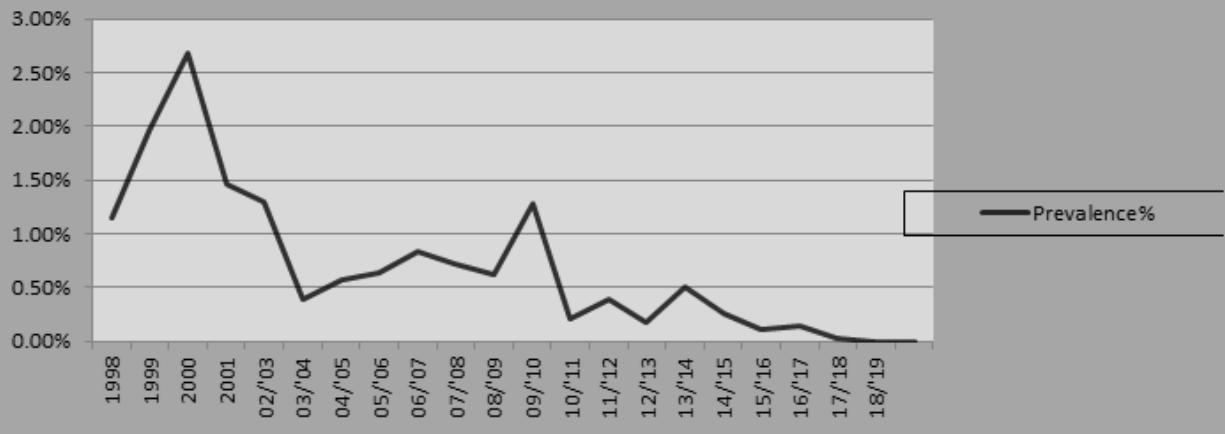


<b>Numbers of Bulls Tested in Wyoming and its Trichomoniasis Special Focus Area (SFA)</b>						
	Total Bulls Tested	Negative	Suspect	Positive	Total Herds Tested	Special Focus Area
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10,530</b>	<b>10,530</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>195</b>
	SFA Numbers					
Lincoln County	930				73	
Sweetwater County	480				18	
Uinta County	1,089				104	
<b>Total SFA</b>	<b>2,499</b>					<b>195</b>

### Numbers of Bulls Tested in Wyoming



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



<b>Number of Quarantines Issued by Disease FY19</b>	
Brucellosis Positive	3
B. ovis Test Due on Arrival	1
Trichomoniasis Positive	0
Tuberculosis Positive	0
Equine Infectious Anemia	12
Equine Piroplasmosis	1
Equine Herpes Virus	2
Tuberculosis Test Due on Dairy Calves	1
Adult Brucellosis Vaccination on Arrival	20
Calfhood Brucellosis Vaccination on Arrival	16
Scrapie Susceptibility Test on Arrival	12
Trichomoniasis Test on Arrival	3
Illegal Import	8
<b>Total # Quarantines Issued/Continued for FY19</b>	<b>79</b>

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

There were 26,124 silver USDA tags distributed to Wyoming producers. There were 71,254 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Brucellosis Vaccination tags distributed to 59 Wyoming veterinarians during the Fiscal Year 2019.

### **Brand Unit – Brand Recording:**

Fiscal 2019 was a brand recording year. We finished up the 2019 renewal on March 1, 2019. After the recording period was over, the Wyoming Livestock Board had over 27,000 brands recorded. By law, any brands not renewed at that time are delinquent.

This year's recording was one of the most successful in modern history. The extra steps we have taken to improve recordings have been fruitful. Historically, about 80% of brands are renewed. This year 5,039 brands were up for renewal. 4,115 brands were renewed by the deadline, which is a renewal rate of 81.66%. 924 brands went delinquent, which is the first time we have had less than a 1,000 brands that went delinquent during a renewal. Since the renewal ended an additional 58 delinquent brands have been renewed for a net renewal rate of 82.81%. This rate will increase even more as additional delinquent brands are reissued.

In the course of their duties, the brand recording unit took several thousand customer phone calls and served hundreds of walk-in clients. The Brand recording unit is also getting ready to publish the 2019 Brand Book.

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

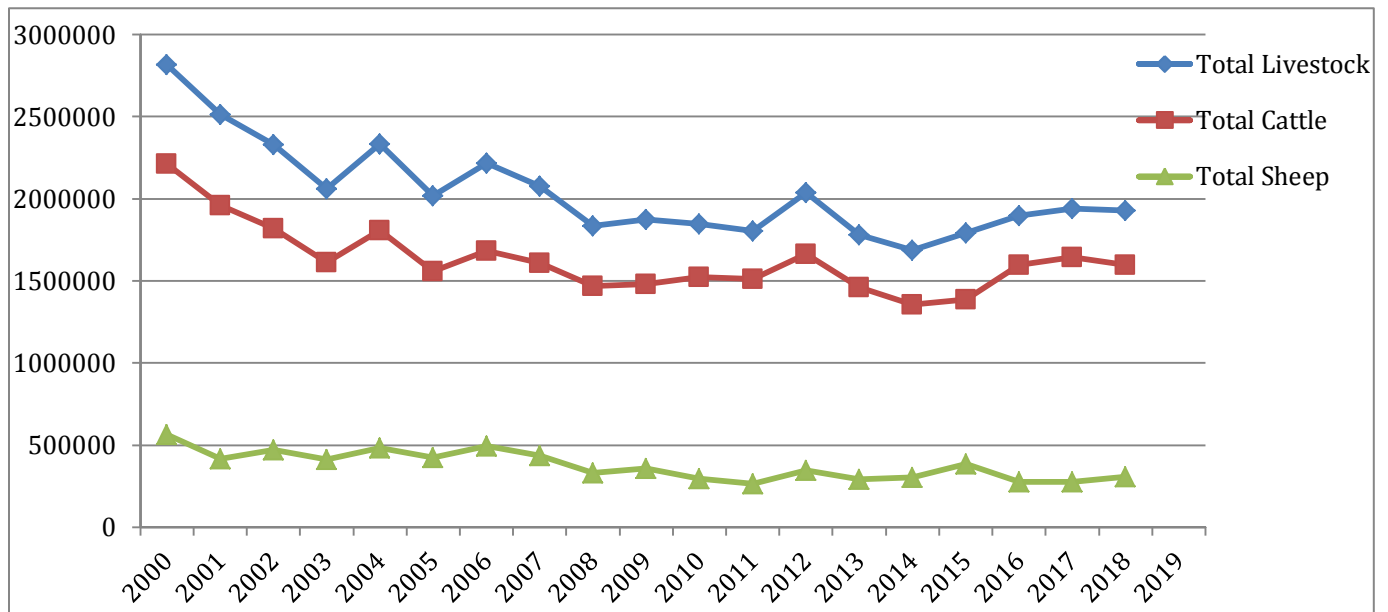
As anticipated, cattle inspections have leveled off. Since the historic lows of 2014, there were modest increases in livestock inspection in 2015-2017, but for the most part, in 2018 the numbers were slightly down. Most of the state has had good grazing conditions, which indicates numbers will remain steady in 2019.

### **Total Inspections for Calendar Year 2018**

In 2018 there were 1,598,637 cattle inspected on all forms, 303,804 sheep inspected on all forms, 21,299 horses inspected on all forms, and 2,163 hides inspected for a total of 1,929,408 livestock inspections. 44,831 brand inspection certificates were issued in the country, with the remaining inspections being done at the 4 licensed livestock markets in the state. While horse and sheep inspections were up, cattle and hide inspections were down, with total livestock inspections were nearly the same when compared with 2017. This indicates cattle numbers have been replaced since the last drought period. Specifically, Cattle inspections were down - 2.74%. Sheep inspections were up, increasing by a healthy 10.32%. Horse inspections increased 3.67%. Total livestock inspections for the year were down only -0.63%. Country inspections forms issued were down by approximately 2.62%. The following table contains calendar year information for comparison purposes for calendar years 2000 through 2018.

## WY Cattle and Sheep Inspections Calendar Year 2000-2018

*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 FY18.

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>Number Worked</b>
Animal Welfare	4
Brand Inspection Violations	18
Civil Matter	3
Missing / Theft Reports	51
Agency Assist	8
Animal Health Violations	9
Livestock Road Check	27
Citations	7
Warnings	15
Livestock Rustling	7
Training Classes Conducted	3
Recovered Livestock	1
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>153</b>

It would be important to note, the Agency Senior Criminal Investigator position was vacant from June 1, 2018 until January 1, 2019. Many producers either did not make a report or passed it on 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.

SF0066 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 is continuing the process of implementation.

# WLSB Organizational Chart

