

**WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD (WLSB)**  
**Agency 051**  
**Annual Report**  
**FY22**

**Director's name and official title:** Steve True, WLSB Director and CEO  
**Mailing Address:** 1934 Wyott Drive; Cheyenne, WY 82002-051  
**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 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 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  
Title 31, Chapter 5, Statute 31-5-102

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

**Budget Information:** The Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) has a FY22 budget of \$9,852,067; which consists of \$9,553,263 in State funds, and \$298,804 in Federal funds. Expenditures for FY22 total \$8,302,205; including \$8,063,729 in State funds, and \$238,521 in Federal funds.

**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 14 full-time positions in the Cheyenne Office. 1 Law Enforcement Officer operates from Laramie and 1 from Cowley. The Riverton Office was closed during 2021. 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 stray livestock or the proceeds of the sale of stray 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. 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 Chromebooks 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 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 face to face and 4 teleconference/zoom 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 BFY 21/22 Agency Budget, after Covid-19 and Furlough Pay adjustments, is \$19,034,125 which is designated as follows:

	<b><u>Biennium</u> TOTAL</b>	<b><u>Expended/Distributed</u> FY21</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$5,040,514	\$2,254,563
(This includes :)		
<b>Brucellosis</b>	\$ 982,252	\$ 391,111
In Addition:		
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$ 437,402	\$ 210,205
<b>Agency Funds</b>	\$11,450,997	\$4,268,316
<b>Predator Fund</b>	\$2,105,212	\$1,158,287
<b>Revenue received FY21</b>	<b>\$ 6,617,877</b>	<b>made up of:</b>
Brand Recording	\$ 1,862,718	
Brand Inspection	\$ 3,563,852	
Predator Fees	\$ 1,158,287	
Animal Remedies Fees	\$ 33,020	

**Statutes and Rules:**

WLSB animal health 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:**

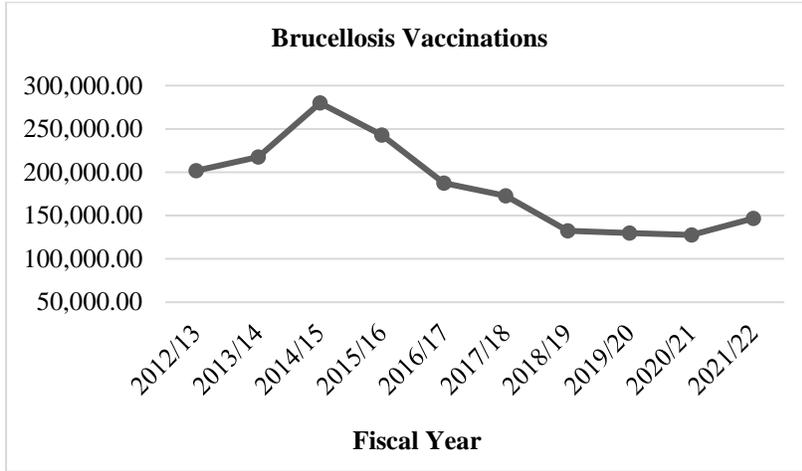
WLSB and USDA APHIS met monthly to continue updating state emergency response plans, focusing on swine facilities throughout 2022. WLSB is also participating in the United States Swine Health Improvement Plan, a platform established to safeguard, improve, and represent the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, states, and regions, supporting current and future health assurance needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century US pork industry. WLSB continues to coordinate with University of Wyoming's Agriculture Extension Service on emergency management response and preparedness and Wyoming Department of Homeland Security. 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.

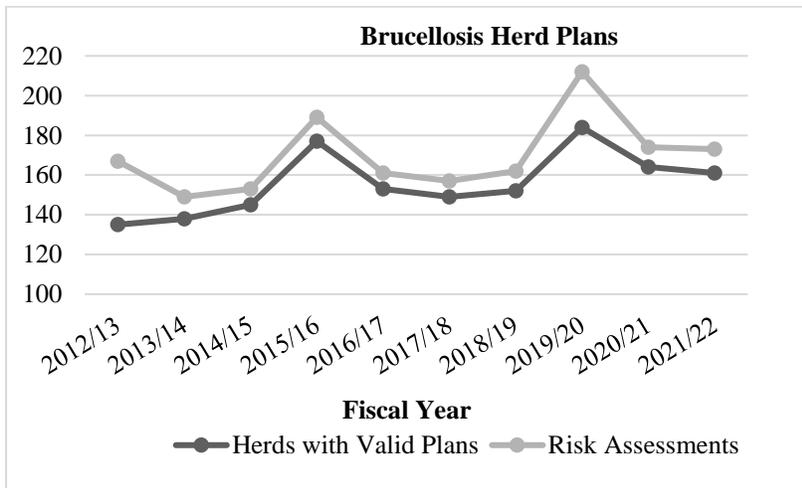
**Animal Health Unit:**

**Brucellosis Measurable**

Wyoming cattle are required to be vaccinated for brucellosis. The graph below includes the previous 10 years of brucellosis vaccination data in the state of Wyoming.



Producers grazing in Wyoming’s Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) are strongly encouraged to assess the risk of brucellosis to their cattle herds, and develop herd plans to mitigate such risk. The graph below includes the previous 10 years of data including the annual count of valid herd plans and annual count of brucellosis risk assessments filed with the WLSB.



### **FY22 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 FY22.

### **FY22 Brucellosis Testing in Wyoming**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Head Positive</b>
DSA Ranches	51,972	0
Livestock Markets	9,024	0
Custom Slaughter Plants*	10,544	0
Non-DSA Ranches	3,921	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75,461</b>	<b>0</b>

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

None of the 75,461 cattle tested were Brucellosis positive. The herd affected by Brucellosis last year has cleared quarantine. Therefore, no indemnity payments were made during FY22.

The WLSB paid \$427,027.25 from state funds for brucellosis testing and vaccination, \$31,448.00 from USDA Cooperative Agreement funds for testing and vaccination, and \$8,643.75 from USDA Cooperative Agreement funds for electronic submission bonuses for a total of \$467,119.00 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.

### **FY22 Incidence of Reportable Diseases in Wyoming**

<b>Reportable Disease</b>	<b>Total Number of Cases</b>	<b>Number of Species Affected</b>	<b>Type of Species Affected</b>
Anaplasmosis	7	1	Bovine
Bluetongue	6	1	Caprine
Brucella ovis	64	2	Caprine, Ovine
Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis	4	1	Caprine
Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease	2	1	Yak

Equine Herpes Virus	1	1	Equine
Equine Influenza	4	1	Equine
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	368	5	Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Guineas
Paratuberculosis (Johne's disease)	21	2	Bovine, Caprine
Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus	2	1	Rabbit
Tularemia	1	1	Feline
West Nile Virus	4	2	Bovine, Equine

Foreign Animal Disease investigations and response activities were conducted on 29 reports potentially involving the following suspect diseases: Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Vesicular Stomatitis (VSV), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Bluetongue, and Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV2). RHDV2 is now considered as “a stable endemic” disease in the US.

WLSB and USDA APHIS conducted foreign animal disease poultry investigations resulting in eight confirmed highly pathogenic (HPAI) premises. Staff depopulated 137 poultry, with a total of 368 birds affected by HPAI on the eight premises.

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. County and state fair poultry were targeted for passive avian influenza surveillance during the summer of 2021. Approximately 500-600 samples were collected from poultry in fourteen counties.

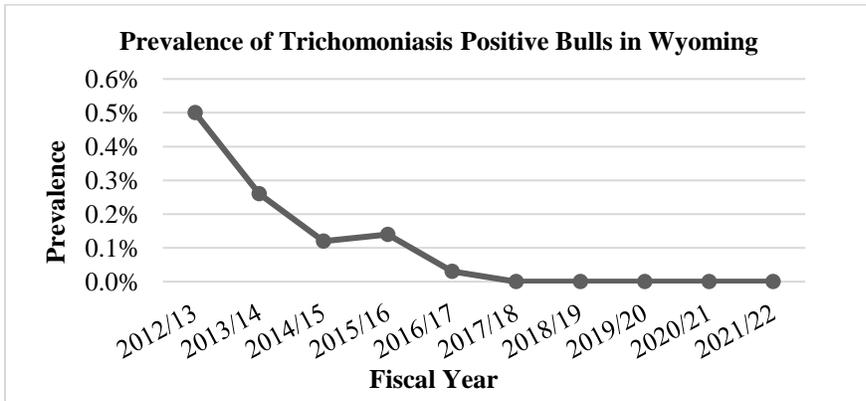
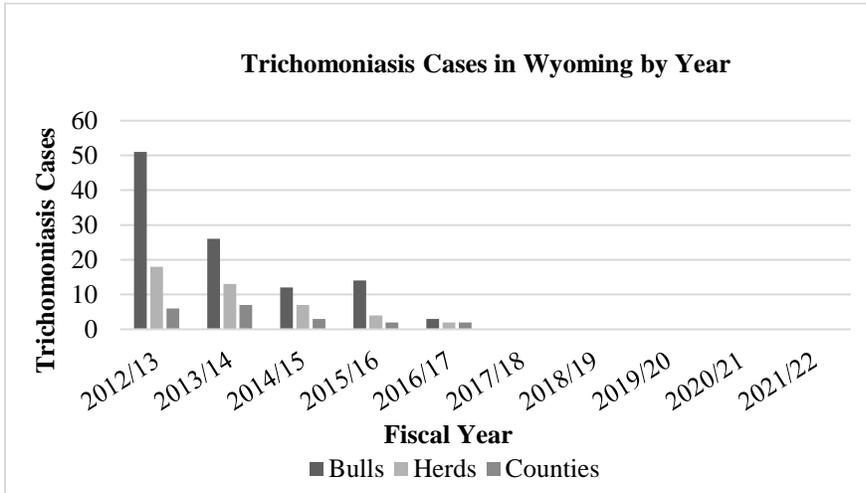
### **FY22 Foreign Animal Disease Investigations in Wyoming**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Number of Investigations</b>
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	14
Vesicular Stomatitis Virus	10
Other	5

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. No Trichomoniasis infected bulls were found in the state during FY22.

**FY22 Numbers of Bulls Tested for Trichomoniasis in Wyoming**

	Total Bulls Tested	Negative	Suspect	Positive
<b>TOTAL</b>	9,764	9,764	0	0



The WLSB is also responsible for managing the importation of livestock into the state. This includes issuing permit numbers for entry, issuing commuter permits for livestock that graze between Wyoming and an adjacent state, as well as confirming health requirements for import have been met. The two tables below include data from the number of entry permits and commuter permits issued in FY22.

### FY22 Livestock Permits Issued for Import into Wyoming

	Beef Cattle	Dairy Cattle	Rodeo Cattle	Foreign Beef Cattle	Bison	Goat	Sheep	Swine	Yak	TOTAL
<b>Number of Permits</b>	4,126	30	100	30	33	351	454	302	3	<b>5,429</b>
<b>Number of Animals</b>	250,709	1,368	2,756	2,620	555	2,478	15,069	1,189	8	<b>276,752</b>

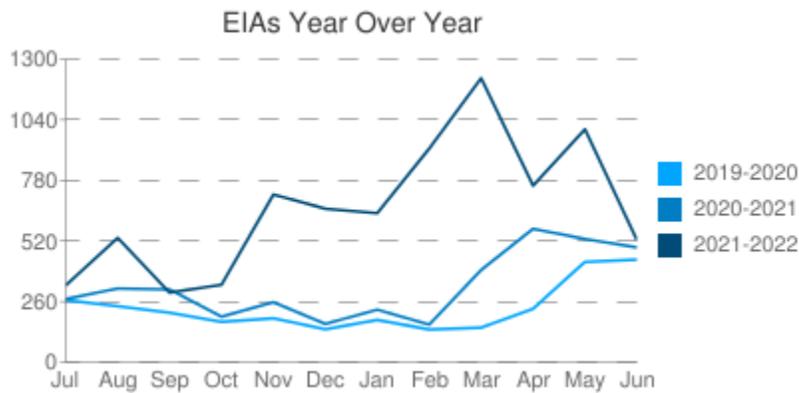
### FY22 Commuter Permits Issued by WLSB

State of Origin	Number of Permits Issued
Wyoming	48
Utah	79
South Dakota	13
Nebraska	1
Montana	24
Idaho	23
Colorado	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201</b>

Importation of livestock into Wyoming requires a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). Below is a graph which includes the past three years of CVI data issued for import, export, and interstate movement through Wyoming.



Importation of horses into Wyoming requires a negative Equine Infectious Anemia test (EIA, also known as a Coggins test). The graph below includes the past three years of EIA tests performed on Wyoming horses for the purpose of interstate movement.



The WLSB is responsible for taking action when health requirements for import are not met, or a reportable infectious disease is identified within the state. Quarantines are issued for both reasons, and the table below includes data on the quarantines issued by the WLSB in FY22.

**FY22 Quarantines Issued by Disease**

Reason for Quarantine	Number of Quarantines Issued	Sum of Animals Quarantined
Adult brucellosis vaccination on arrival	29	1,129
Brucellosis vaccination/spay on arrival	4	276
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	8	368
Equine Herpes Virus	2	56
Scrapie susceptibility test on arrival	1	2
Tuberculosis test due – foreign origin cattle	3	69
Tuberculosis test due- roping stock	4	107
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2,007</b>

**Tags Distributed by the WLSB for Official Identification Purposes:**

The WLSB distributes official identification tags to livestock producers, including Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Brucellosis Vaccination tags, official RFID tags, silver tags, and trichomoniasis tags. The tag numbers distributed in FY22 are displayed in the table below.

## **FY22 Official Tag Distribution**

<b>Type of Official Tag</b>	<b>Number Distributed</b>
RFID Brucellosis Vaccination	70,584
Official RFID	5,252
Silver	14,547
Trichomoniasis	12,906

### **Brand Unit – Brand Recording:**

There are currently 28,117 active brands recorded in the State of Wyoming. In FY22, the Brand Recording unit faced a lot of turnover due to retirements. As a result, new staff was hired and have been training to be ready for the upcoming 2023 brand renewal. Approximately 6,036 brands will be up for renewal. Some of the activities performed in FY22 included an address verification and mail out to see if the addresses match those in the brand recording record files. 528 address notices were sent out and 130 returned with address confirmations. As brands are renewed for at least 10 years, it is a constant challenge to see if producers have supplied the agency with the correct address.

During FY22 the Wyoming Livestock Board voted to increase brand recording fees and a few Brand Inspection fees. The fee increase is intended initiated to counteract program cuts due to the decrease in General Funds for the brand inspection unit and the effects of inflation on the program. Minor fee increases were also implemented to horse insertion fees and range permits, although the main inspection fees for cattle and sheep remained the same. Fees had not been increased since 2018.

During the last year, the Brand Recording Unit issued 179 new brands, did 537 brand transfers, and had 393 abandoned brands reissued. 68 delinquent brands were reissued during this time.

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

Retirement of long-term brand inspectors was a big issue in FY22. Sixteen new Brand Inspectors were hired to replace those that retired or left for other jobs in FY22. This trend started a few years ago and accelerated in the last year. Overall, approximately one third of the workforce consists of new inspectors.

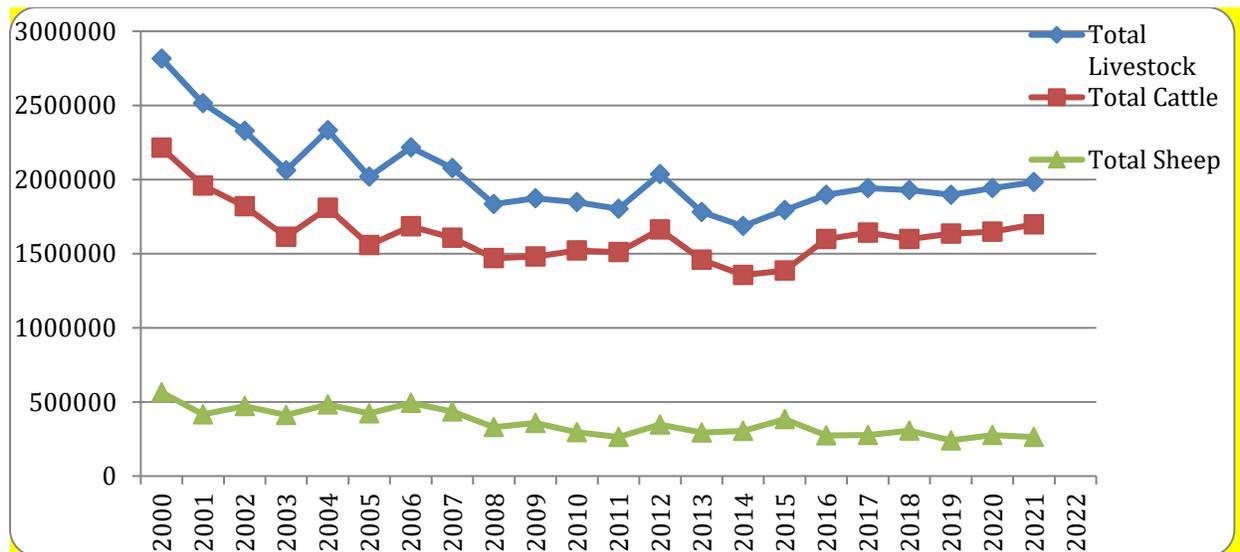
Drought conditions around the state have again impacted livestock inspection numbers. Drought conditions in FY22 were somewhat regional. Some areas that had deficient moisture in FY21 were better in FY22 and other areas that had adequate moisture in FY21 were extremely dry in FY22. Overall, drought affected enough areas that inspection numbers were impacted. Because the drought has been affecting different areas, we are anticipating this will force some producers again to ship early and cut back on their inventory. This has caused an initial increase in numbers. This will most likely be followed by a sharp decline in inspection numbers in the future. This is what is being observed in inspection numbers. We are anticipating that this coming year will see a year of selling off livestock numbers.

### Total Brand Inspections for Calendar Year 2021:

In 2021 there were 1,697,671 cattle inspected on all forms, 262,551 sheep inspected on all forms, 20,839 horses inspected on all forms, and 538 hides inspected for a total of 1,982,264 livestock inspections. 47,574 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 inspections were up compared with 2020. Cattle inspections were up slightly and sheep inspections were down. Horse inspections were up significantly, while hide inspections were down. The hide market is so depressed; many custom slaughter plants are not shipping hides. Specifically, cattle inspections were up by 2.95%. Sheep inspections were down, decreasing by -5.06%. The sheep industry continues to decline in Wyoming, due to several contributing factors. These include the loss of markets, and the retirement of sheep producers as they age or go out of business. In fact, the numbers of sheep brand inspected last year was a new low. This is a continuation of a long-time trend in the State's sheep industry. Most indications are that this is due to producers liquidating sheep herds, and the long-term impact will be that sheep numbers are going down. Horse inspections rebounded from an all-time low in 2020. Overall, the number of horse inspections increased by 20.31%. This increase is likely related to the easing of the COVID 19 pandemic restrictions, as many summer activities that were canceled, were resumed during the year. This will likely continue in the next fiscal years as Wyoming will host several large equine events, like the National High School Finals Rodeo, for the next several years. Total livestock inspections for the year were up by 2.05%. Brand inspection forms issued in the country were up by approximately 6.19%. The following table contains calendar year information for comparison purposes for calendar years 2000 through 2021.

### WY Cattle and Sheep Inspections by Calendar Year 2000-2021

*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 FY21.

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>Number Worked</b>
Animal Welfare	2
Brand Inspection Violations	15
Civil Matter	2
Missing / Theft Reports	34
Agency Assist	12
Animal Health Violations	5
Livestock Road Check	108
Citations	10
Warnings	18
Training Classes Conducted	11
Recovered Livestock	4
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>211</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 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. 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 2022. 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

