

WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD
March 4, 2026
Thyra Thomson Bldg., Turntable Room
Casper, WY

Board Members Present:

Mary Owens, President
Hugh Hageman, VP
Lindsay Wood
Weston Jones-via zoom
Lexie Painter-via zoom
David Julian-via zoom

Staff Present:

Steve True, Director
Dr. Hallie Hasel, State Veterinarian
Dr. Rose Digianantonio, Assistant State Veterinarian
Dr. Teckla Webb, Joel Douglas, Lee Romsa
Renae Krakow, Jennifer Butler, Lindsay Johnson
Doug Leinart, Alyssa Meyers, Darrick Jurden
Aspen Nesvik, Tim Fenster, Glenn Gordon
JD Sater, Attorney General Rep.

Board Members absent: John Eversole

Call to order:

President Mary Owens called the meeting to order at 10:00am on March 4, 2026. A quorum of the board was in attendance.

Lindsay Wood moved to approve the minutes from November 18, 2025. Hugh Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brand Inspection/Recording updates:

Lee Romsa discussed Brand Recording: For the 2025 renewal period, 4,239 of the 5,529 eligible brands (approximately 77%) were renewed. Since March 2, 2025, we have issued 195 delinquent brands, bringing the total renewal rate to 80.2%. Throughout 2025, the brand unit also issued 178 new brands, recorded 434 abandoned brands, and processed 663 brand transfers along with various address and name changes. Staff managed 5,443 phone calls, assisted 205 walk-in customers, and sold 59 of the 2023 brand books and 17 of the new 2025 brand books.

While we are pleased with the quality of the 2025 books, we have identified some registered brands, primarily those recorded or transferred in 2024 that are missing from the publication.

So far in 2026, we have issued 4 delinquent brands, 18 new brands, and 38 abandoned brands. We have also handled 599 phone calls, served 22 walk-in customers, issued 10 seasonal brands, and sold 25 of the 2025 brand books. Preparations for the 2027 renewal cycle are underway. This includes conducting an address search for brands scheduled for re-recording and preparing final delinquent notices, which must be sent at least six months before the delinquent period ends.

Brand Inspection:

Lee stated that he is currently recruiting for several Brand Inspector positions. Interviews have been conducted for a full-time position in Thermopolis, and we are evaluating candidates for a full-time role in Torrington as well as part-time positions in Lander/Riverton and Torrington.

Total inspection numbers for 2025 remain consistent with 2024 and 2023; a detailed report will be available shortly. We are also planning the District Brand Inspector meetings tentatively scheduled for May. Board members are welcome to attend the meetings in their respective areas.

Additionally, as this is a contract year, we have begun working with the Human Resources Division to prepare contracts for the next biennium.

Director updates:

Director True reported that Lee Romsa, Cody Meyers, and Chris Strang along with 2 sheriff's deputies from Laramie and Sublette County were attending the Western States Livestock Enforcement convention in Reno.

Director True also stated that the vulnerability of baby calves to theft due to high market prices are around \$900 to \$1200 for a 50-to-70-pound calves.

Legislative update:

Director True provided legislative updates including budget approval with raises for state employees, approval for a new veterinary position, and \$131,040.00 for disease mitigation. He also mentioned the Rural Veterinary Medicine Education Program received \$550,000.00 funding to support veterinary education for 5 students at Kansas State to help address rural veterinarian shortages.

Comment from public:

Bill Klein, Nick Kennedy and Kelly Kennedy reported ongoing cattle theft issues in their area. Producers requested more investigators presence in the area and faster notification to law enforcement and sale barns when cattle are reported missing.

Director True will coordinate with local law enforcement to improve response to cattle theft in the area. The Board acknowledged the need for better communication.

Animal Health update:

Dr. Hasel reported that there are two backyard flocks that have been diagnosed with Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza, one in Carbon County and one in Park County.

Two herds remain quarantined for brucellosis, one in Park County and one in Sublette County. Herd testing is ongoing.

Livestock Board veterinary staff and Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator, Joel Douglas, have been performing education outreach at multiple events. Dr. Digianantonio spoke at the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the Johnson County Cattlewomen's meeting. Dr. Webb spoke at the Fremont County Cattlemen's meeting, Fremont County Farm and Ranch Days, and at a Wyoming Public Health Preparedness Partners meeting. Drs. Hasel and Digianantonio presented at the Wind River Veterinary Seminar. Mr. Douglas trained veterinarians and their staff on the use of electronic reporting in the northeast and eastern sections of Wyoming.

Brucellosis Review:

Jessica Jennings from Wyoming Game and Fish Department presented on brucellosis surveillance and elk movement. Ms. Jennings presented maps showing brucellosis endemic and exposure areas within Wyoming and explained feedground and non-feedground surveillance programs for brucellosis in elk. She also shared data from elk movement studies showing no observed movement between the DSA and the Bighorn Mountains or eastern Wyoming.

Brucellosis Vaccination Requirements:

Dr. Webb presented a cost-benefit analysis of brucellosis vaccination in non-endemic areas of Wyoming and explained that only 3-4 states in the US require brucellosis vaccination and there is virtually no risk of disease in eastern Wyoming.

Dr. Hasel went through the motion from the July 26, 2024 board meeting regarding brucellosis vaccination requirements at the request of Board members.

A few board members expressed concerns about the potential risk of elk movement despite the data presented from Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Lindsay Wood moved to make brucellosis vaccination optional in the eastern part of Wyoming and vaccination will remain mandatory in the DSA and surrounding counties. Dave Julian seconded the motion. Yes~ Lindsay, Weston and Dave No~ Hugh and Lexie. Motion carried.

Rules:

Director True and Dr. Hasel explained that USDA has approved a Wyoming specific metal brucellosis vaccination tag for use within the State. They explained that veterinarians will order the tags directly from National Band and Tag and they clarified that the tag can only be used for official calfhood vaccinates of heifers that are 4-12 months of age and only within Wyoming. Dr. Hasel explained the limitations of the tag, including that it cannot be used for interstate movement or regulatory testing.

Hugh Hageman moved to approve making the Wyoming metal tag available as an option along with EID or not vaccinating for heifers between 4-12 months of age. Lexie Painter seconded the motion. Yes~ Hugh, Lexie, Dave, Weston and Lindsay, motion carried.

The Board decided to do no action on Chapter 2 Brucellosis Management and Mitigation rules until the next meeting so the staff can update chapter 2 rules to align with the board's decisions on brucellosis vaccination and metal tag requirements.

Dr. Hasel stated that she would like to plan for June 1st for the Wyoming metal tags to be implemented and this would give the veterinary staff time to educate veterinarians, producers, and stakeholders.

Hugh Hageman moved to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Lindsay Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lindsay Wood moved to exit out of executive session. Hugh Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chapter 41 Bison Designated as Wildlife

JD Sater recommended amending the rules to change "official individual identification" to "board approved individual identification" to align with the metal tag decision.

Lindsay Wood moved to accept the amendment to change the definition of "Official individual identification" back to the previous term "Board approved individual identification" and also change the substance of the definition in Section 6. Hugh Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lindsay Wood moved to amend the last sentence of the memo of the summary of comments and responses to read: "After consideration of all public comment received, the Department and the

Livestock Board made additional changes regarding Board approved individual identification to this draft regulation.” Lexie Painter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The amended rules will be presented to the Game and Fish Commission at their upcoming meeting.

Board Business:

The board will hold the next meeting virtually on April 22, 2026 at 8:00am to review updated rules.

Adjournment:

The board moved to adjourn the public meeting. Motion carried.

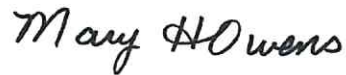
With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25pm

Respectfully submitted by:



Renae Krakow
WLSB Recording Secretary

Approved by:



Mary Owens
WLSB President