

# WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD NEWSLETTER

October 2010

STATE OF WYOMING

Volume 18, Issue 4

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Wyoming Livestock Board Meeting  
September 29, 2010—Cheyenne, WY
- ◆ 2011 Brand Renewal must be post-  
marked by March 1, 2011
- ◆ Need Scrapie Tags Call 1-866-USDA-  
TAG

## WLSB Welcomes New Assistant State Veterinarian

Recently, Dr. Bob Meyer joined the Wyoming Livestock Board as the Assistant State Veterinarian. Dr. Meyer is a 1974 graduate of Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and received a Masters degree in veterinary epidemiology from Colorado State University in 1988. He practiced large and small animal veterinary medicine in northeastern Colorado for five years following graduation.

Since 1979, Dr. Meyer has worked for USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services in vari-

ous positions throughout the country conducting brucellosis, TB, and foreign animal disease investigations, epidemiology, and training. He is a member of the United States Ani-



mal Health Association where he takes an active role in the Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, and Wildlife

Committees. Dr. Meyer also serves as a member of the TB Scientific Advisory Committee for that organization. His professional interests include conducting evaluations of promising new diagnostic tests for diseases in livestock, particularly TB, that potentially could have severe consequences for our livestock industries. Dr Meyer is looking forward to meeting new veterinary colleagues and livestock producers throughout Wyoming.

He may be reached at (307) 777-6440; E-mail: [bmeyer@state.wy.us](mailto:bmeyer@state.wy.us).

## The Wyoming Livestock Board

The Livestock Board is divided into six different divisions. They are the Board Members, Administration, Animal Health Unit, Law Enforcement and Homeland Security Unit, Brand Recording Unit, and the Brand Inspection Unit.

Our Animal Health Unit issues Import Permits for qualified movements into the State of Wyoming. If the livestock are going to another state, they have to get the proper health certification and permits from the

state they will be going to. They also test for diseases, issue quarantines, and help with disease trace backs to track the movements of livestock. The brand inspectors are also involved in making sure the animals do not get moved when quarantined.

The trace backs are requested by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). The Animal Health Unit as well as the Brand Inspection Unit are involved in trying to trace all the movements of certain

animals, or herds. Quarantines are issued where the diseased animals have come into contact with other animals, to try to prevent the spread of disease.

The Law Enforcement Unit is involved in calls for stolen or missing animals. They use copies of brand inspections to try to track down the whereabouts of the missing livestock. They are also called to investigate animal cruelty, vehicle accidents involving livestock, random

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## The Wyoming Livestock Board Continued



**Cheyenne Office**

spot checks to ensure all the right paperwork is with the movement of livestock. They testify in court and issue citations.

Most of the staff at the Wyoming Livestock Board is also constantly being trained by Homeland Security for Agra Terrorism. Just like with 911 a terrorist group can easily destroy this country and Wyoming by attacking our livestock and our food source. This is an ongoing threat and so the training will also be on going. The more sophisticated the terrorist gets the more sophisticated the Livestock Board must be to combat their terrorist attacks.

The Brand Recording Unit issues new brands, does brand transfers, and the change of ownership of all the State of Wyoming Brands. There are nearly 30,000 brands currently recorded in the State of Wyoming. The brands are on a staggered renewal rate of every 2 years. A certain percentage of the brands are renewed for a 10 year period. The current cost to renew a brand in Wyoming is \$300.00 which averages out to \$30.00 per year. Brands are used to identify ownership of livestock as well as tattoos, earmarks, and vaccination tags.

It is important to keep your address current with the Livestock Board if you own brands, because the renewal notices are sent to the last known address on record. If we do not receive the renewal of the brand by the renewal date, the brand is considered abandoned. It is then put in a

pool of abandoned brands and is offered for sale to the public for \$300.00. The renewal date is based on the original issue date of the brand. A new brand book is printed every 2 years.

Brand inspections are done to verify ownership, prevent and return strayed or stolen livestock to the right owner. Inspections are done on horses, mules, cattle, and sheep. An inspection is needed to move livestock from one county to another and to leave the State of Wyoming. Inspections are also required to take animals to a Livestock Market to sale and to an established slaughter house. These inspections to show change of ownership and movements are invaluable tools for trace backs.

Change of ownership inspections are done during daylight hours or any condition that allows the inspector to adequately see the brands. The shipper must furnish proof of ownership at the time of inspection. The State of Wyoming does not recognize the different registration papers as proof of ownership, only a brand inspection.

There are different forms for different types of inspections.

The form BIC is a multipurpose inspection form which combines form A, D, and H forms into one form.

An A form is used for a one time movement of livestock in state or out of state, pasture change, recreation, to a non-designated market, and when a change of ownership occurs.

A D form is used for the movement of hides and is only good for one movement.

An H form is used for the movement of work, show, or rodeo livestock instate only, and are valid for one year from the date of issue. It is void upon the change of ownership.

Form G is used for the movement of livestock in state to a Wyoming Livestock Market and movement to the two designated South Dakota Markets (St. Onge and Belle Fourche only). It can only be issued within three days of the movement.

Form B is a form issued at the Wyoming Livestock Markets or other licensed sales in Wyoming as a title and clearance to the destination.

Form L is a form issued for the movement of horses, cattle, and sheep in state and out of state for the life of the animal. It is void upon change of ownership.

There are also accustomed range permits for instate and out of state movements of livestock. These are good for one calendar year (January to December). So if you get a permit in November it is only good until December of the same year.

Truck fleet permits are issued as an extension of an original brand inspection certificate when the shipment involves more than one vehicle.

An R form is a summary of the brand inspections done and the fees collected.

By: Sonja Haller

**Riverton Office**



## Brand Renewal

The brand recording unit will begin the 2011 brand renewal process in mid October 2010. The first renewal letters will go out around October 14, 2010. A second and final notice will go out the second week of January 2011.

The fee for renewal is \$300.00 for 10 years which averages out to \$30.00 a year. The renewal fee can be paid by check, money order or credit card. Cash is also accepted if paid in the office; please do not send cash through the mail. We now except visa,

master card or discover. We do not accept credit cards for renewal over the phone; we need the card holder's signature on the renewal slip. We also need a phone number to contact the card holder if there are any problems.

The renewal fee can be paid as soon as the renewal notice is received or must be post-marked March 1, 2011. Any renewal payments received postmarked after March 1, 2011 will be considered abandoned.

The renewal notices will be mailed to the last known address, so please update your address to insure you receive your renewal notice.

If you have any questions concerning your brand or the 2011 brand renewal please call 307-777-7515 and ask for the brand unit.

Thank you  
Connie Hinesley  
Brand Recording Unit

## LCCC Ag Expo

The Laramie County Cowbells hold an Ag-Expo every year at the Laramie County Community College for third and fourth graders. School districts 1 & 2 participate over a three day period. The Ag-Expo was held on September 21, 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year and was a great success.

The Wyoming Livestock Board has participated the last 6 years. It is a great experience for our staff and for the young children we work with. We have such a variety of children,

some that have very little agriculture experience to children that have grown up or are growing up on ranches. It is a great opportunity to share our knowledge and educate these children on the many different aspects of the Wyoming Livestock Board.

We tell them a little bit about our Agency and then let them draw their own livestock brands. We provide them with little western notebooks to draw their brand in. We also display branding irons

with pictures of livestock that have been branded. We explain the importance of branding for proof of ownership and how important it is to design a good brand.

These children are Wyoming's future and need to be exposed and educated on the many different aspects of Agriculture.

We always have a wonderful time and are looking forward to next year.

Connie Hinesley  
Lead Brand Recorder

## Port of Entry Training

For the past few weeks, Dale Bratton, Paula Bivens, Vern Poage and Jimmy Siler have been involved with Port of Entry Personnel training sessions furnished through the Wyoming Dept. of Transportation. In all we will have communicated with over 100 individuals throughout Wyoming who work in our Port of Entries throughout the State.

The training has been a success in the fact that Port of

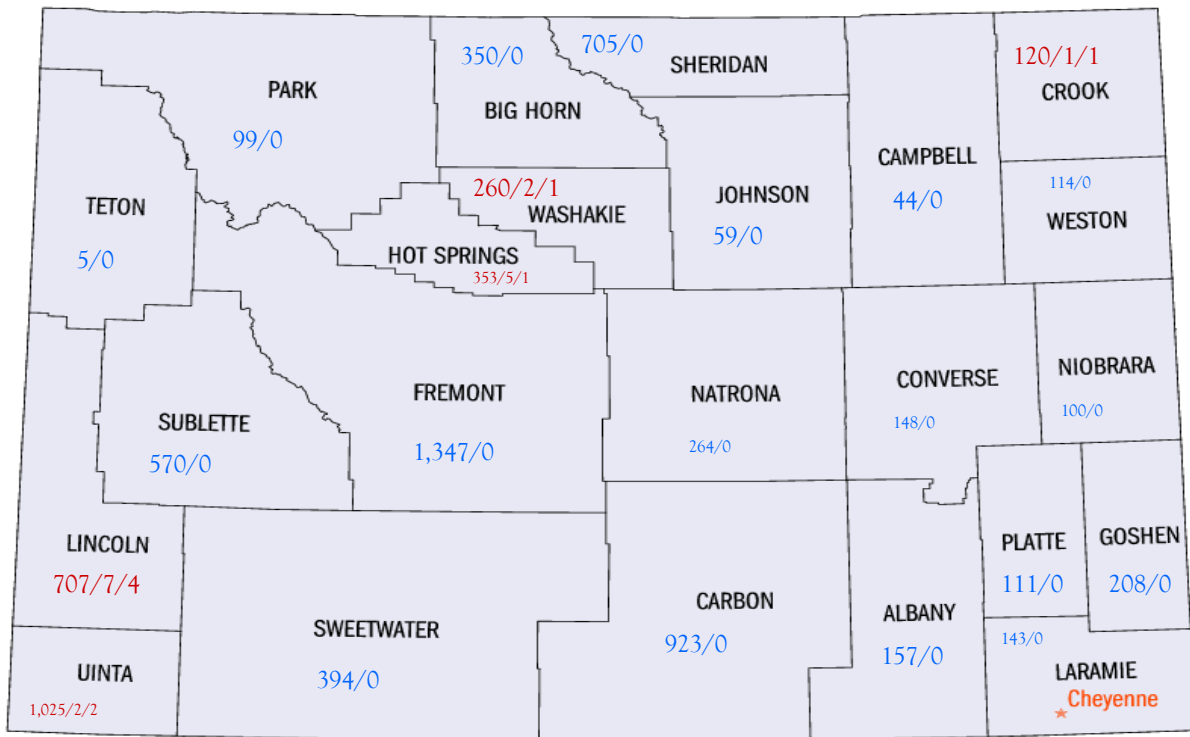
Entry's are the Wyoming Livestock Boards first contact with incoming livestock shipments. In our training, we review different types of livestock entering the state, requirements for these animals, health certificates from other states and what they look like as well as where they can find the information needed, from these documents, for filling out their contact information screens. This information is

then download into a shared system between the two agencies. We also review export requirements concerning health certificates and brand inspection forms they may see when livestock leave our state or cross county lines. Another topic we felt important to review has been the Agriculture Terrorism possibilities that could plague our state.

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can be paid as  
soon as the  
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## Trichomoniasis by the Numbers



September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010

First number in counties on map indicates total number bulls tested in the county, second number indicates the number Positive out of that total and third number indicates number of Premises with Trich in that county.

Positive Trich Cases are in Crook, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Uinta and Washakie counties.

Total number bulls tested in State of Wyoming:	8,222	Head
Number bulls tested negative:	8,205	Head
Number bulls tested positive:	17	Head
Number bulls certified clean after 3 tests:	267	Head

**Trich Tags  
are Green for  
2010/2011**

Subsequent positive bulls after initially tested negative:

Positive on 2 <sup>nd</sup> test, after negative on 1 <sup>st</sup>	3	Head
Positive on 3 <sup>rd</sup> test, after negative on 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2	Head

By: Lindsay Johnson

## Anaplasmosis Diagnosed in Beef Cattle

The Wyoming Livestock Board advises that Anaplasmosis has recently been diagnosed in beef cattle in Campbell County, Wyoming via serologic testing. No clinical evidence of disease was reported in the herd, but positive disease titers usually indicate previous exposure. Since January, 2010, 147 serologic cases of Anaplasmosis have been reported in cattle herds located in 6 counties; Sheridan, Johnson, Natrona, Campbell, Fremont, and Park.

Anaplasmosis is spread by biting insects, most notably ticks. However, biting flies have also been incriminated as spreading the disease.

Anaplasmosis can infect a variety of ruminants including sheep, goats, and bison, but cattle are usually the most severely affected. Generally, younger cattle are less severely affected than are older cattle. Pregnant cattle may abort and often there is excessive bleeding at calving. The urine may be brown, and animals may lose condition rapidly. They may appear weak and uncoordinated. Untreated animals may die rapidly. The disease typically manifests itself in summer and fall, but latent cases may appear at other times of the year. This disease is not directly contagious; a biting insect such as a tick or biting fly is needed for trans-

mission. Thus, the disease may be prevented by diligent use of insecticides, and affected animals usually respond well to antibiotic therapy if administered before the disease becomes too severe. Dehorning and castration equipment or needles contaminated with infected blood may also result in disease transmission.

If you suspect Anaplasmosis in your herd, contact your local herd veterinarian for consultation and advice. Veterinarians should also immediately report suspicious cases to the Wyoming Livestock Board at (307) 777-7515.

## “Elect To Participate” (ETP) Program

The USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Wyoming area office recently received updated guidance for the veterinary accreditation “elect to participate” (ETP) program. Accredited veterinarians need to complete a new VS Form 1-36a, Accreditation Application, to elect to continue their accreditation. As we all know, the original deadline to submit the new applications was August 2, 2010, but that deadline has been extended. The latest guidance received by the VS Wyoming area office is:

1. The submission deadline for ETP accreditation applications has been extended to “indefinite.” A new deadline date will be established in the near future.
2. ETP accreditation applica-

tions are still being accepted by USDA APHIS VS.

3. No currently accredited veterinarians’ accreditation will expire at this time. An expiration date will be established in the future for those veterinarians who do not submit ETP accreditation applications.

The VS Wyoming area office recommends the following:

1. If you are a currently accredited veterinarian and have already submitted your ETP application, but haven’t heard anything about your application being received and processed:
  - a. Don’t panic. Your accreditation is still in effect and is not in jeopardy.

- b. You may call the VS Wyoming area office regarding the status of your application. They can tell you if your application has processed or not. If it has not, they are maintaining a list of veterinarians who have inquired about their applications and will contact you when your application has processed.

- c. Please do not send in another accreditation application.
- d. If you have a copy of the accreditation application that you sent in, feel free to send it to the VS Wyoming area office. They will treat it just as they would a telephone inquiry and contact you when it has processed.

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**IF YOU SUSPECT  
ANAPLASMOSIS IN  
YOUR HERD,  
CONTACT YOUR  
LOCAL HERD  
VETERINARIAN FOR  
CONSULTATION AND  
ADVICE.**

## Wyoming's Scrapie Health Status and Disease Surveillance

Scrapie is a chronic, debilitating, invariably fatal neurological disease of sheep and goats. Scrapie is related to other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis (BSE "Mad Cow") and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Although the causative agent has not been fully characterized, it is conventionally believed to be a deformed prion protein. Prions are small cellular protein particles that exist normally in animals. The deformed, rogue prion can cause otherwise normal prions to undergo a structural change which renders them resistant to normal metabolic breakdown and predisposed to accumulation. We begin to observe neurological signs of Scrapie when rogue prions form "sheets" of the accumulated deformed prion in the brain. Typical signs include incoordination, unexplained weight loss, gait abnormalities, nervousness, behavioral changes, and, classically, rubbing and wool loss beginning at the hind end. The rogue prion proteins are very stable and usual methods of disinfection, including surgical sterilization, are ineffective.

The disease is usually transmitted from an infected dam to

susceptible offspring at or just after birthing via birth products and fluids which contain vast numbers of deformed prions. The newly infected lamb/kid will undergo a lengthy incubation period, usually about three years, before starting to show any signs of the disease. Unfortunately, this means that infected dams can unknowingly propagate the disease for several years before clinical signs are first exhibited. However, we can detect the disease in most infected animals as young as 14 months through small eyelid or rectal mucosal biopsies.

Wyoming, the second largest sheep producing state in the nation, has made tremendous progress in eliminating Scrapie within our borders and has had no Scrapie cases, nor any exposed "traces", in nearly 3 years. This is largely due to our producers' forward thinking and early adoption of Scrapie genetic resistance as a tool for flock health improvement. Sheep containing at least one "R" at codon 171 on the gene that codes for prion protein are resistant to the predominant "strain" of Scrapie affecting sheep in the USA. Sheep that are "RR" at codon 171 are not only resistant, but all of their offspring will also be

resistant to the predominant "strain" of Scrapie. Genetic resistance in goats has NOT yet been characterized. Limited cooperative agreement funds are available to subsidize Scrapie testing. Please call the WLSB (307-777-7515) or your local veterinarian for details.

At this point, Scrapie surveillance, which is composed of sheep/goat identification and testing, is of paramount importance to Wyoming and our livestock industry. The USDA is presently establishing minimum numbers of sheep/goats that must be tested negative for a State to retain USDA's Scrapie consistent status. We get credit for every sheep/goat that is tested that has a Wyoming Scrapie ID device. USDA provides, free of charge, ID devices and applicators to all sheep/goat producers (1-866-USDA-TAG/866-873-2826). For the sake of our State's status, sheep/goat livestock industry and animal health, please make sure to identify all sexually intact sheep/goats that are or may be utilized as breeding stock with Scrapie ID before these sheep/goats change ownership.

By: Dr. John Duncan, USDA-APHIS-VS and Dr. Jim Logan, WSV



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NATIONAL SCRAPIE EDUCATION INITIATIVE  
www.eradicatescrapie.org

## “Elect To Participate” (ETP) Program Continued

2. If you are a currently accredited veterinarian and have not yet submitted your ETP application:

Complete a new VS Form 1-36a, Accreditation Application, and mail it to the VS Wyoming area office.

- a. The application is available on the USDA APHIS website ([www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)). If you have difficulty finding it or cannot access the form, call the VS Wyoming area office to obtain the

application.

The VS Wyoming area office point of contact for the National Veterinary Accreditation Program is:

USDA APHIS VS  
Rick O’Neill  
5353 Yellowstone Rd, Room 209  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
(307) 432-7960  
Richard.l.o’neill@aphis.usda.gov



## Port of Entry Training Continued

In return, we have learned a lot about what they need from us, such as how the computer program works and what needs changed. They have educated us on the different ways they handle overloaded livestock trucks, drivers without paperwork, and even drivers who cannot speak English. During these sessions of information trading, one thing that stood out was the need for communication as well as contact information. I am positive that this training has helped bridge that gap and will continue to grow between the two agencies. When talking about communication, the most positive thing we heard over and over again was how much they appreciated the professionalism and commit-

ment they can count on from our Law Enforcement Investigators, Livestock inspectors and Animal Health persons.

We will be furnishing these folks with agency directories, cheat sheets to be used when a livestock hauler enters their Port as well as a promise that our agency will make it a point to become more familiar with the Port of Entry persons in their area and assist them in their efforts to enforce the proper paperwork when an importation of livestock into Wyoming occurs. We have committed to making ourselves more available to them in situations where our expertise will prove valuable to all involved in livestock situations.

With this training will come more communication between our staff and Port of Entry staff on dealing with livestock issues. If you receive a call from a Port of Entry in your area, please assist them to the best of your ability even if that means contacting someone else within the agency.

As the training comes to an end on Sept. 28, 2010, we have been extremely thankful for the opportunity to participate. We would like to thank Richard Smith, Rick Peterson, as well as the Supervisors for the Port of Entry’s in Wyoming for inviting us to participate and get to know these wonderful individuals.

By: Paula Bivens

1934 WYOTT Drive  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: 307-777-7515  
Fax: 307-777-6561

## Department of Health Offers Rabies Prevention Reminders

### World Rabies Day is September 28

To help Wyoming residents avoid a deadly disease for themselves, pets and livestock, the Wyoming Department of Health is promoting rabies awareness and offering prevention strategies.

Despite being almost entirely preventable, it is estimated that 55,000 people die worldwide from rabies each year. "This is approximately one person every ten minutes," said Dr. Karl Musgrave, state public health veterinarian with the Wyoming Department of Health.

"Rabid bats were identified recently in Washakie, Sheridan and Natrona counties," Musgrave said. "Rabid skunks have also been confirmed this year in Campbell and Sheridan counties."

Eighteen skunks, six bats and two calves have tested positive for rabies in Wyoming so far in 2010. "When encountering bats or skunks, Wyoming residents should always keep in mind the potential for rabies infection," Musgrave said.

Musgrave said rabies can infect any mammal, including dogs, cats, livestock, small wildlife and humans. The virus affects

the central nervous system, causing paralysis and ultimately death in infected animals. Symptoms include behavior changes, including aggression and agitation, and also excessive salivation.

Musgrave reminded people about the importance of animal vaccinations. "This can keep pets (including horses) from getting rabies, and provide a barrier of protection to the pet owner should the pet be bitten by a rabid wild animal," he said.

"Treatment of people after a rabies exposure involves five or six shots, depending on the protocol used, that are given over a month so it's definitely something best avoided," Musgrave said. "The total cost can range from several hundred dollars to several thousand."

Tips for preventing rabies:

- \* Vaccinate dogs, cats, ferrets, horses and other selected livestock for rabies and keep vaccinations up-to-date.
- \* Keep pets under direct supervision in a yard or on a leash to minimize contact with wild animals.

- \* Enjoy wildlife such as skunks, bats, raccoons and foxes from a safe distance.

- \* Never adopt wild animals or bring them into the home. Do not try to nurse sick or injured animals - call animal control for help.

- \* Teach children to never approach unfamiliar dogs, cats or wildlife, even if they appear friendly.

- \* Report animals acting strangely to city or county animal control departments.

- \* Treat any animal bites with soap and water and contact a medical professional immediately.

- \* People waking to find a bat in their room or a child's room should contact a medical professional immediately as bats have such small teeth even unknown or minor contact with bats has led to rabies infection.

For more information on rabies prevention or what to do if bitten by an animal, visit the Centers for Disease Control web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/> or call Musgrave at 307-777-5825.