

WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARDS' ANNUAL REPORT

Quality of Life Result: Wyoming natural resources are managed to maximize the economic, environmental and social prosperity of current and future generations. Wyoming values the unique aspects of its western heritage, providing residents and visitors expanding access to cultural, historical and recreational experiences.

Department: Wyoming Livestock Board

Contribution to Wyoming Quality of Life: The Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) works in collaboration with other state agencies such as the State Veterinary Laboratory, the Department of Agriculture, the Game and Fish Department, the Department of Health, law enforcement agencies, and the Department of Homeland Security as well as USDA-APHIS and other federal agencies to protect the livestock industry, all other animals, and the general public from disease and theft.

The WLSB educates producers and the public about diseases and animal identification requirements, monitors and inspects animal imports and exports for compliance with movement requirements, investigates alleged infractions of state law and agency rule and brings violators to the attention of the judicial system.

The WLSB protects the livestock industry by verifying livestock ownership through recorded brands and brand inspection. Brand inspectors issue title documents on livestock transactions and verify livestock ownership on interstate and intrastate livestock movements and help to recover lost or stolen livestock. This is a deterrent to theft and loss.

The WLSB is developing the National Animal Identification System in Wyoming. This system will be able to trace back animals involved in disease outbreaks within 48 hours. The ability to trace livestock back to their original herd is becoming a necessity for foreign and domestic trade. This system will also assist in theft prevention. The WLSB is uniquely positioned to design and implement an animal identification system since both animal health and livestock identification are among our primary responsibilities.

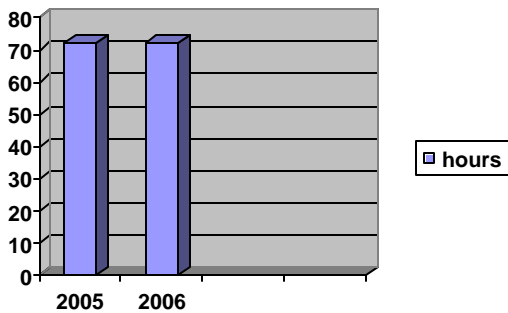
By doing these things, the WLSB is vital in maintaining the economic vigor of the livestock industry. This in turn maintains Wyoming's western heritage and insures that private lands are left undeveloped for scenic and environmental benefits.

Basic Facts: WLSB has 17 full-time staff, one contract law enforcement officer, 100 AWEC brand inspectors, one AWEC fiscal personnel, one contract animal health/law enforcement support staff, two animal ID AWEC staff, one part-time contract Animal ID veterinarian and one part-time contract Brucellosis veterinarian. The biennial budget for 2005-2006 is \$10,840,121.00 of which \$1,845,118.00 is general funds and \$8,995,003.00 is earmarked special funds.

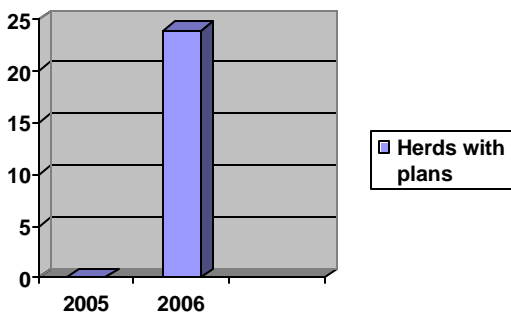
Five Primary Functions of our Agency include:

- Investigating, preventing, and controlling outbreaks of regulatory livestock diseases
- Developing an Animal Identification System that works for Wyoming and meets national standards
- Enforcing animal health regulations and identification requirements
- Preventing and investigating livestock theft and illegal movements
- Educating veterinarians and the public about diseases and disease related regulations

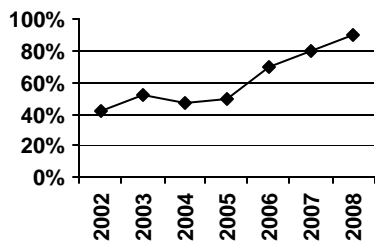
Performance:



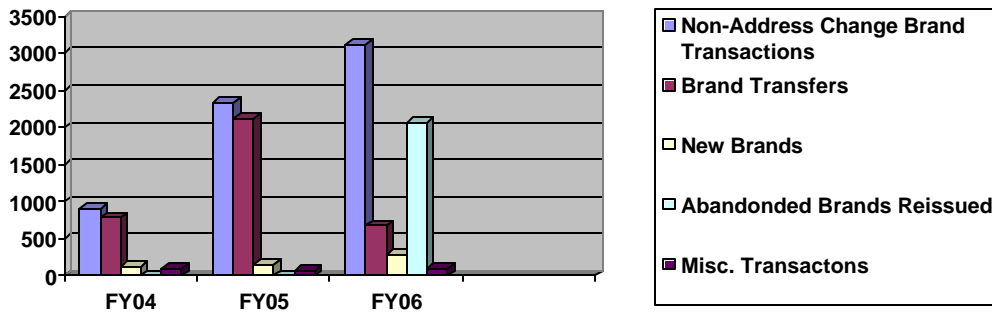
1. Average time to trace back brucellosis suspects and reactors



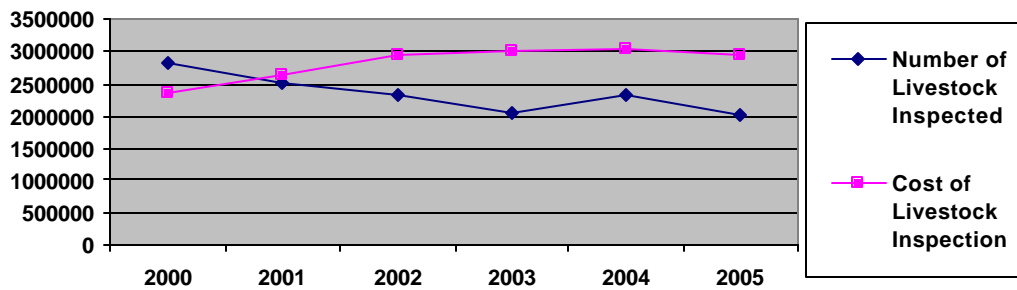
2. Projected number of cattle herds with a brucellosis management plan



3. Missing Livestock Investigation Closure Rate



4. Increase in Percentage of Brands Renewed and Decrease in Brands Abandoned



5. Livestock Inspected vs. Cost of Brand Inspection Program*

* Livestock inspected are recorded on a calendar year basis, while program costs are calculated on a state fiscal year basis. The WLSB is currently transitioning to a system that will track livestock inspected on a fiscal year basis.

Story Behind the Last Year of Performance:

Performance Measure 1. It currently takes three (3) days on average to trace back to the ranch of origin cattle that test as brucellosis suspects or reactors at slaughterhouses. This is unacceptably long and may lead to the disease spreading. Our current system does not allow us to conduct trace-backs efficiently. Livestock dealer registration and recordkeeping requirements were incorporated into state statutes by the state legislature and signed by the Governor in the 2006 election year. Additionally, agency rules have been modified, and will go into effect upon being signed by the Governor. The WLSB expects trace-back time to decrease with better record keeping in the very near future.

Performance Measure 2. Wyoming’s cattle were brucellosis-free as designated by USDA/APHIS since 1985. In 2003, the WLSB identified an infected herd; additional herds were identified in 2004 and this led to the state losing its brucellosis-free status. The Governor’s appointed Brucellosis Coordination Team recommended that ranches in the Greater Yellowstone Area work with the state veterinarian’s office and USDA/APHIS to develop individual herd management plans to prevent transmission from wildlife to livestock. Management plans are designed to protect livestock from brucellosis and to prevent the disease from spreading if it does

get introduced. At the beginning of the fiscal year, the WLSB did not have any management plans finalized (about a dozen were in draft form); now there are 24 plans signed and in place with another 15 in draft form. There are many other producers interested in developing herd management plans.

Performance Measure 3. Last year's law enforcement performance remained the same regarding case closures. The Law Enforcement Unit was able to continue its upward progression of closing out cases. This demonstrated a strong commitment by the law enforcement personnel. During this time frame, there was a loss of personnel, requiring investigators to take on a larger caseload.

Performance Measure 4. Prior to the 2005 brand renewal period, 30,541 brands were recorded in the state. During the renewal, 27,397 were renewed and 3,144 brands were abandoned. Both of these figures represent a significant improvement. Currently, 29,058 brands are recorded with 2,058 brands being reissues of brands abandoned during the renewal period. In early 2005, the WLSB decided to allow the reissuing of abandoned brands under certain conditions. This has helped improve the number of brands renewed and decreased the number of abandoned brands. This policy allows customers to get a quality brand faster. Many of these brands are also more desirable because they are single iron brands. Finally, the reissuing of abandoned brands has increased Brand Recording revenues significantly.

Performance Measure 5. Wyoming is in the sixth consecutive year of drought, and this factor continues to heavily influence livestock numbers throughout the state. This means fewer livestock to inspect but does not mean lower demand for inspection calls. Because program fees are based on a per head assessment, this significantly effects the revenues collected. While the overall number of livestock inspected was down, the number of forms written for ranch site inspections increased 34 percent. This means that while brand inspectors looked at fewer head of livestock, the number of inspection calls actually increased.

What has been Accomplished?

Performance Measure 1. The WLSB was successful in passing legislation requiring livestock dealer registration and record keeping requirements, though it has not yet been implemented. (See above.) This should greatly improve efficiency in brucellosis suspects and reactor trace backs in the near future. This will not require an increase in spending above current levels, as this will not increase workload or expenditures.

Performance Measure 2. Developing herd plans has required increased personnel time. The WLSB has used grant funds from USDA/APHIS to hire additional personnel to work in conjunction with APHIS staff to conduct interviews and develop herd plans with ranch managers.

Performance Measure 3. The Law Enforcement Unit has accomplished the goal of continuing to close out cases. Efforts have been slowed as larger scale cases are being received. This requires additional investigative hours for travel, witness interviews, and prosecutive jurisdiction.

Performance Measure 4. In FY06, the 2005 Brand Book was published. The brand book was published in traditional hardcover copy and for the first time is available on CD. Printing costs for traditional hard cover books continues to increase. Brand books on CD allow the Board to provide a low cost alternative that can be generated on demand. The reissuing of abandoned brands has also given customers a fast and popular alternative to getting a new brand issued. Abandoned brands reissued have brought in over \$215,000.00 in additional revenue to the brand program.

Performance Measure 5. The cost of running the Brand Inspection Program was reduced from \$3,026,515.62 in FY05 to \$2,946,352.99 in FY06; a decrease of \$88,163.63. Program costs were decreased mainly through attrition in personnel. Mileage expenses and insurance benefits continue to increase affecting the program adversely.

The 2006 Legislature created new legislation to fund the program. This included a temporary increase in all inspection and recording fees. In addition, a new Seed Stock Permit Law will eliminate the need to make multiple trips to inspect the same livestock. The legislature also established a Brand Task Force [BTF] to study the program and make recommendations to ensure long-term financial stability. The BTF recognized that brand inspectors are statutorily required to perform duties for the State of Wyoming that go beyond brand inspections. Although these responsibilities benefit the general population, the time and expenses have been paid for by inspection fees putting an additional strain on already limited resources.

Supplemental Budget Implications:

There are no Supplemental Budget Implementations for Performance Measures 1, 2 and 4.

Performance Measure 3. A supplemental budget was submitted to provide funding for overtime. The Law Enforcement Unit conducts between 300 and 400 cases per year. The investigators are tasked with large area of responsibilities, which generate an extensive amount of travel and overtime worked by the investigators. The current system uses compensation time accrualment for hours worked as overtime. Compensation time creates a loss of manpower as investigators use their earned time. This creates additional problems when investigators are using their compensation time, and other investigators are needed to cover the vacant investigative area. This in turn creates even more compensation time generated, as investigators attempt to provide coverage to an even larger area of responsibilities.

Performance Measure 5. The BTF has met three times and will continue to work and make its final recommendations to the legislature by October 30, 2006. To date, the BTF has made two recommendations that have supplemental budget requests.

Brand inspection field personnel are AWEC employees and have not had a cost of living adjustment to their salaries in several years and do not receive fully paid retirement benefits. In the last three (3) years other state employees have received a cumulative 9.5 percent increase in cost of living adjustments. The task force recommended the WLSB ask for a supplemental increase of \$423,821.40 to provide for cost of living adjustments and a retirement benefits.

Livestock Board

The BTF also recommended a supplemental budget request in the Animal Health and Law Enforcement budgets to cover the salary and mileage expenses of inspectors that are performing animal health and law enforcement functions.

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