

## General Information

- Agency name: Wyoming Livestock Board
- Director's name and official title: James L. Schwartz, WLSB Director and CEO
- Agency Contact person: James L. Schwartz, Director-CEO
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- Mailing address: 2020 Carey Avenue 4<sup>th</sup> Floor; Cheyenne, WY 82002-051
- Web address (URL): <http://wlsb@state.wy.us>
- Other Locations (Street addresses not required.)
- 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 11-18-118

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 (Not the number of clients served, just the type of clients.): Livestock producers, licensed veterinarians, and general public.
- Budget Information (Expenditures for FY08.) Use whole dollar amounts: \$7,470,410.00

## WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARDS' 2008 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 use recorded brands to verify ownership and issue title documents on livestock transactions and verify livestock ownership on interstate and intrastate livestock movements. This also enables the WLSB to recover lost or stolen livestock. The recorded brand is the bedrock of the system as well as a tangible part of Wyoming's western heritage. For decades, brands were renewed every 10 years in the year ending with the number five [5]. The inevitable changes that occur in a ten-year period lead to many unintentionally abandoned brands because the WLSB was unable to contact the brand owners at their address of record. Consequently, the historical renewal rate has only been 78 percent. These situations lead to many problems up to and including litigation from people who did not intend to abandon their brands. In 2005, brand recording began a new legislatively mandated staggered system where a portion of the recorded brands would be renewed every two years. The agency made a concerted effort to improve the rate of renewed brands and decrease abandoned brands.

The WLSB is developing an 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 its primary responsibilities. At this point in time, priority emphasis is given to premise identification.

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 ensures that some private lands may be left undeveloped for scenic and environmental benefits, including open space.

**Basic Facts:** WLSB has 19 full time staff, 98 AWEC Brand Inspectors, 1 AWEC part time law enforcement position, 4 AWEC personnel through federal cooperative agreements. The biennial budget for 2007-2008 was \$9,627,667.00 of which \$4,419,045.00 is general funds, \$2,136.00 is federal funds and \$5,206,486.00 is earmarked special funds.

Three Primary Functions of our Agency include:

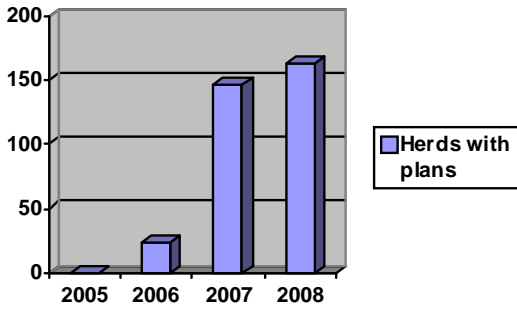
Prevention. The Wyoming Livestock Boards' goal is to prevent the introduction of disease into livestock populations when possible. Many programs and rules are directed at preventing disease introduction into the state's livestock. The WLSB also works with individual livestock producers on a voluntary basis to develop herd plans to prevent the introduction of brucellosis. Generally speaking, the WLSB makes every effort to prevent diseases in Wyoming livestock. One recurring problem in the brand program occurs when producers inadvertently fail to renew a brand. Brands are important to producers as a tool for verifying ownership, ensuring that health requirements are met, preventing theft, and as a symbol of their western heritage. All efforts are made to guarantee that the public will have safe, quality food.

Surveillance. In collaboration with private veterinarians and other agencies the WLSB conducts surveillance for important diseases to discover, as quickly as possible, when they have been introduced. Many brucellosis herd plans have a surveillance component. The WLSB also conducts law enforcement surveillance to assure that people are obeying the rules and regulations concerning animal movements and humane treatment.

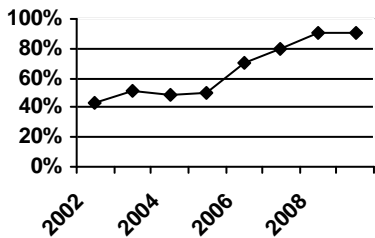
Response. If a new disease is found through surveillance, a response is developed (often with USDA/APHIS/VS) to try to control or eradicate the disease quickly. The WLSB also works with other agencies to educate the public about the disease and its implications to the animals and people of the state. Likewise, when it is discovered that people are breaking the laws that protect the livestock industry from disease, theft, and abuse, the WLSB responds by pressing the appropriate charges, quarantining or seizing the animals, and ensuring that the animals are receiving proper treatment and care. Response is the primary function of the WLSB when livestock are reported missing. The WLSB responds and attempts to locate the livestock and presses charges when theft is involved.

**Performance:**

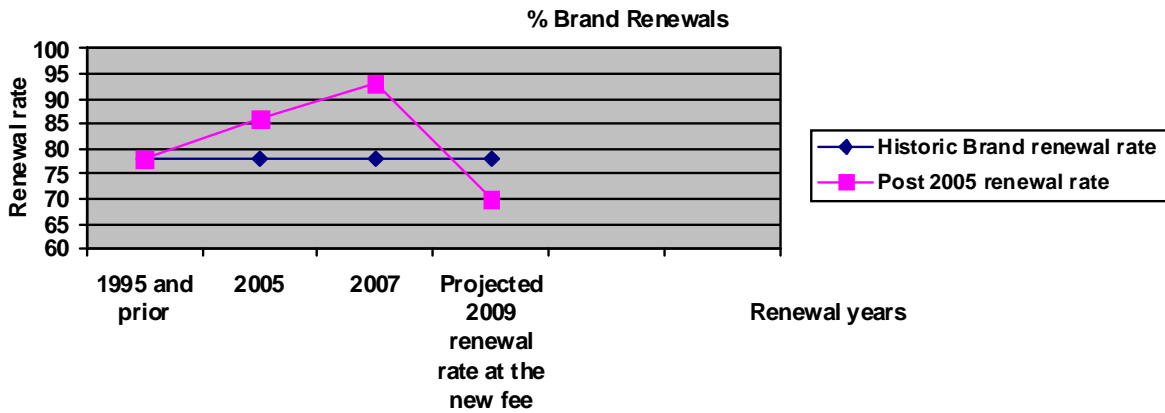
**1. Number of cattle herds with a brucellosis management plan**



**2. Missing Livestock Investigation Closure Rate**



**3. Increase in Percentage of Brands Renewed**



## **Story Behind the Last Year of Performance:**

Performance Measure 1. 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-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. These are voluntary, and some producers choose not to develop them. At the beginning of fiscal year 2006, the WLSB did not have any management plans finalized (about a dozen were in draft form); now there are 163 plans signed and in place with more in draft form. There are many other producers interested in developing herd management plans. We need to convince producers to develop herd plans, one way to do this might be to offer management incentives or cost sharing of expenses related to herd plan development. The herd near Daniel that was found to be infected in June 2008 did not have a herd plan. Brucellosis might have been prevented in that herd if a herd plan was followed.

Performance Measure 2. Last year's law enforcement performance showed a slight raise regarding case closure. After the loss of personnel the law enforcement personnel made the commitment to ensure this goal did not fall. Investigator's accepted the larger case load without loss to the quality of investigation.

Performance Measure 3. Prior to the 2007 brand renewal period, 28,457 brands were recorded in the state. During the 2007 staggered renewal, 8,052 of those brands were scheduled for renewal. 7,302 brands were renewed and 750 brands were abandoned, a renewal rate of 91 percent. Both of these figures represent a significant improvement over the traditional renewal rate of 78 percent. Currently, 28,931 brands are recorded with 474 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 to 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. Fall of 2008 will be the beginning of the 2009 Renewal. This renewal will be the first renewal to be affected by the new fee schedule adopted by the 2007 legislature. The current fee for renewing a brand is \$300.00. Prior to the fee change the fee for renewing a brand was \$120.00. The Livestock Board is projecting a decrease in the Brand renewal rate to 70% solely on the basis that many brand owners will not renew their brands at the new higher rate.

## **What has been Accomplished?**

Performance Measure 1. Developing herd plans has required increased personnel time. The WLSB has used grant funds from USDA/APHIS to hire additional contract personnel to work in conjunction with USDA/APHIS staff to conduct interviews and develop herd plans with ranch managers. In three years' time, 163 herd plans were developed. The WLSB recognizes that the absolute number of herd plans is not as important as having herd plans for the operations most at

risk for contracting brucellosis. The WLSB is in the process of taking the lead role in herd plan development and is identifying those operations most likely to have cattle commingling with infected wildlife.

Wyoming's livestock industry is changing at a rapid pace for a number of reasons as follows. Transportation systems allow rapid movement of livestock across our nation. For example, within three days of one livestock sale in the eastern part of the state, Wyoming livestock can be in over 20 states. Secondly, we are seeing an increased threat of Foreign Animal Diseases. In each of the last four years we have experienced disease outbreaks of diseases not considered endemic to Wyoming's livestock. Visitors to other countries do not always take the necessary precautions to prevent disease introduction to this country. More importantly, these potential diseases continue to be an agro-terrorism threat to this nation and our state. Indeed, threats to release foot and mouth disease virus at Wyoming events have been made by extremist groups. Thirdly, the consumers are demanding evidence that their food is safe and nutritious; many wish to know where their food was produced. They are very concerned and they rely on us and other agencies to provide the confidence that they need. Fourth, the size of agriculture operations is being reduced due to sub-divisions. The average size of a ranch in Wyoming used to be nearly 300 mother cows and now it is less than 80 head. Many new producers are not well educated on numerous animal husbandry practices including vaccination. The fifth change is related to the enforcement of animal health and brand regulations. In the past, we had port of entry personnel, deputy sheriffs and highway patrolmen that were tied to agriculture and understood rules and regulations on animal agriculture. Today, this knowledge is nearly non-existent in the law enforcement community; this must be addressed. Our agency only has four law enforcement officers; we need to rely on local law enforcement to enforce our laws. These officers and port of entry personnel must receive training by us on our regulations and animal husbandry practices.

Next two years:

WLSB will seek additional financial and human resources to be prepared for any type animal disease outbreak. This effort will include proposed legislation for state resources, research grants and cooperative agreements, review of current resources with potential re-organization of the agency. Stronger partnerships will be developed with private veterinarians, sale barn veterinarians, law enforcement personnel and ports of entry. The brand program will be computerized within the next year, which will increase the efficiency of trace backs on animals exposed to diseases. The WLSB will also initiate a state animal identification program immersed within the brand program that will serve to rapidly trace back of animal diseases as well as meet the criteria for country of origin labeling. A more effective information/education program will be developed and implemented on animal diseases for the general public. Closer coordination with other state and federal agencies will be developed. The WLSB will improve its ability to use improved technology with relations to geographic information systems in order to make improved scientific decisions. Needed research will be identified and promoted wherever possible. The WLSB will seek an account with the Governor's office that would be available in the course of an animal disease emergency.

Performance Measure 2. The Law enforcement Unit continues to reach their goal of case closures. This goal continues to put additional investigative hours for travel, witness interviews, and prosecution onto the investigators.

Performance Measure 3. In FY08, the 2007 Brand Book was published. The brand book was published in traditional hardcover copy and is also available on CD format. Printing costs for traditional hard cover books continues to increase. Brand books on CD allow the WLSB 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. The Board policy of allowing non-duplicate abandoned brands to be reissued have also brought in over \$86,898.00 in additional revenue to the brand program.

## Wyoming Livestock Board Organizational Chart

