WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD (WLSB)
Agency 051
Annual Report
FY25

Director's name and official title: Steve True, WLSB Director and CEO
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Statutory References: The agency's statutory authority was established under Chapter 85, Laws 1933. Its activities are described in:

Title 6, Chapter 6, Statute 6-3-402, 6-3-601 through 6-3-612, 6-3-1001 to 6-3-1010, 6-9-202
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 11-18-121
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
Chapter 48, Statutes 11-48-101 and 11-48-102
Title 21, Chapter 17, Statute 21-17-308
Title 31, Chapter 5, Statute 31-5-102

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

Budget Information: BFY25-26 Agency budget was $21,066,569 of which $6,063,369 is general fund, $536,546 is from federal funds, $12,201,390 is producer-generated revenue from the Brand Recording and Inspection activities of the agency, and $2,265,264 are pass through dollars for Predator Control Fees collected on behalf of the County Predator Boards. The agency's FY25 expenditures were $3,608,003 of general funds, $262,569 of federal funds, $1,063,403 of producer-generated revenue, and $1,011,789 to the County Predator Boards. The significant adjustments to the overall 2025-2026 budget were a result of pay raise and inflationary appropriation increase.

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 Animal Health. Currently, there are 15 full-time positions in the Cheyenne Office. One Law Enforcement Officer operates from Casper and 1 from Cowley. 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, prevention, and 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 mitigation, quarantine, and surveillance, livestock disease tracing, emergency management and response, outreach activities/education, and development and management of cooperative agreements with federal agencies. The Unit is 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; determination of ownership and or return estray livestock or the proceeds of the sale of estray 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 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 in both poultry and dairy cattle, brucellosis, trichomoniasis, scrapie, livestock identification, import regulations, 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 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, veterinary staff visited designated feedlots located throughout the state to perform inspections and provide education regarding livestock identification requirements.

WLSB Animal Health personnel participated in numerous intrastate and national meetings, both virtual and in person, to foster coordination with other states, USDA APHIS, and national organizations to promote 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 identification requirements, agency rules and interstate movement requirements, and to provide updates and information on reportable diseases, including highly pathogenic avian influenza, brucellosis, trichomoniasis, and equine infectious anemia (Coggins).

The WLSB held seven (7) Board 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 #2 Agency Computerization:

Core System:

The Agency continues to improve in building integrated computer systems. Animal Health implemented new management software, providing real-time data and livestock import information. 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.

Statutes and Rules:

WLSB staff are reviewing Wyoming's livestock rules and statutes. Updates include development of an electronic format for brucellosis reimbursement utilized by veterinarians, livestock markets, and state slaughter facilities, and revised import rules for livestock and pets. Updated verbiage for some of our livestock rules will be incorporated into the promulgation process during the coming year.

Emergency Planning for Livestock:

WLSB is 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 21st century US pork industry. WLSB continues to coordinate with the Wyoming Department of Homeland Security regarding emergency response planning. We participated in several training events during the fiscal year.

WLSB joined the Western Alliance, a group of states spanning the western half of the United States working together for livestock disease prevention, management, response, and eradication. State animal health officials from the member states organized the alliance for collaborative emergency planning and livestock disease response.

Animal Health Unit:

FY25 Brucellosis Surveillance in Wyoming:

Cattle in Wyoming's Designated Surveillance Area (DSA) are required to be tested for brucellosis prior to leaving the DSA or changing 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 FY25.

FY25 Brucellosis Testing in Wyoming

Brucellosis Testing Numbers	DSA	Non-DSA	Total
Livestock Markets	9034		9034
Producer Unit/Farm/Ranch	53088		53088
Slaughter Plant	772	8071	8843
Grand Total	62894	8071	70965

The WLSB paid $398,403 from state funds for brucellosis testing and vaccination, $11,159 from state funds for electronic submission bonuses, $106,761 from USDA Cooperative Agreement funds for testing and vaccination, and $3,711 from USDA Cooperative Agreement funds for electronic submission bonuses for a total of $511,034 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.

FY25 Incidence of Reportable Diseases in Wyoming

Reportable Disease	Total Number of Cases	Number of Species Affected	Type of Species Affected
Anaplasmosis	7	1	Bovine
Anthrax	4 Prem 200 Bovine	1	Bovine
Avian Influenza Highly Pathogenic	1 Dairy Prem 10 Poultry Prem	2	Bovine – Dairy Poultry
Bovine Leukosis	1	1	Bovine
Brucella abortus	9	1	Bovine
Brucella ovis	10	1	Ovine

Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis	1	1	Caprine
Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy	2	1	Equine
Equine Influenza A	1	1	Equine
Paratuberculosis (Johne's Disease)	34	3	Bovine, Ovine, Caprine
Strep equi (Strangles)	8	1	Equine
Trichomoniasis	1	1	Bovine
Tularemia	1	1	Equine
West Nile Virus	4	1	Equine

Trichomoniasis continues to be an economically significant disease impacting the cattle industry in Wyoming and other western states. This venereal disease causes reproductive loss in female cattle, resulting in lowered 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. One Trichomoniasis infected bull was found in the state during FY25.

FY25 Bulls Tested for Trichomoniasis in Wyoming

	Total Bulls Tested	Negative	Positive	Accessions
TOTAL	9,199	9,198	1	810

Brand Unit – Brand Recording:

FY25 was a renewal year. Brand renewals are a major source of revenue for both the Brand Recording and Brand Inspection units. There were 5,529 brands up for renewal, and 4,239 brands were initially renewed. That is about 77% of the eligible brands. Brands that are not renewed go into the delinquent brand category. At this point, brands can still be renewed by the former recorded owners if the renewal fee plus a delinquent fee is paid. Delinquent brands can still be renewed from March 2, 2025 until December 31, 2026. At that time, they are moved to the abandoned brand category and can be applied for by anyone.

The agency has worked with field brand inspectors, Wyoming Livestock Board members and industry groups to contact producers who have brands on the delinquent list to see if they still want to renew them. To date, 151 delinquent brands have been reissued. This brings the total renewal rate up to 79.4%.

The Brand Recording unit has also seen significant turnover as employees have reached retirement.

The unit staff continue to serve thousands of customers through phone calls, email, postal mail and walk-in visitors. These services include researching and issuing new brands, abandoned brands, and brand transfers, legal name changes and address changes. We are also in the process of publishing the 2025 State Brand Book.

Brand Unit – Brand Inspection:

Brand Inspector district trainings were completed in all 6 districts in late April and May. Inspectors received trainings on animal health issues, new legislation, agency and brand inspection updates and helped identify producers that had delinquent brands. Several Livestock Board members participated in these trainings.

Brand Inspection numbers for the past year were very close to the previous year, except for horse inspections and total brand inspections. A summary of the 2024 annual report on brand inspections is as

follows: Total livestock numbers were 1,860,909. This is an increase of 2.33% from the previous year. Total cattle numbers were 1,628,078. This was an increase of 2.78%. Sheep numbers were 228,217, an increase of 1.85%. Horse numbers were 20,528, which was a decrease of 27.17 % from the year before. Probably because of the lower number of horse inspections, total brand inspection forms written was down to 39,141 forms, a decrease of 6.93%.

We continue to meet and coordinate with our counterparts in our neighboring states. This consists of joint conferences and meetings, frequent conference calls and joint projects whenever the opportunity arises.

The unit continues to see a significant amount of turnover in the work force as employees retire, or leave for other jobs.

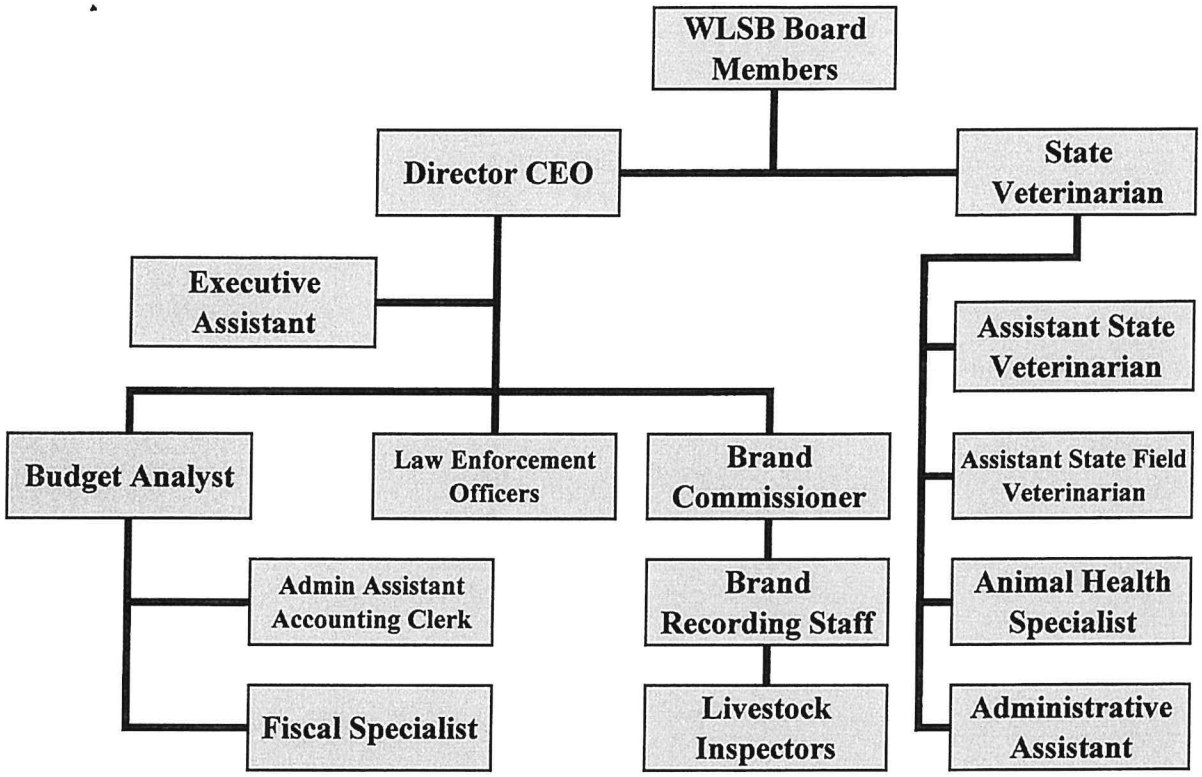
Law Enforcement Unit:

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. These would include Agency Assist calls, Brand Inspection and Animal Health Violations, trainings and missing and stolen livestock reports.

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. This appropriation was added to our standard budget in the 2024 budget Session. WLSB has developed an MOU with Sheriffs Offices, for targeted enforcement in high-risk areas. There are currently twelve (12) counties with these MOU's which will continue until the end of the Fiscal 2026. These MOU's have contributed to the Livestock stops and citations written on behalf of WLSB Investigators. WLSB Investigators have conducted 12 trainings, as well as, performed ride along with local agencies and roadside checks for additional training opportunities.


WLSB Board Members
Director CEO
State Veterinarian
Executive Assistant
Assistant State Veterinarian
Budget Analyst
Law Enforcement Officers
Brand Commissioner
Assistant State Field Veterinarian
Admin Assistant Accounting Clerk
Brand Recording Staff
Animal Health Specialist
Fiscal Specialist
Livestock Inspectors
Administrative Assistant