

Wyoming Livestock Board Chapter 9 Brand Inspection Fees Rules and Regulations

Statement of Reasons

During its 2017 legislative session, the Wyoming Legislature made a significant funding cut to the Wyoming Livestock Board Brand Inspection Program. The cut in funding was made to the State generally funded portion of the Brand Inspection Program budget with the intent that these cuts would then be offset, at least partially, by increases in user fees. To allow for the Livestock Board to raise its user fees, the Legislature passed Enrolled Act 34, which increased the Boards ability to raise user fees in a fiscal year, from the current 20% allowable increase in a year, to a potential 25% increase in a year. Failure to increase fees to offset the cuts made will necessitate curtailing services to livestock producers, which could hinder their ability to market livestock at the optimum time. Essentially, the State laws requiring inspections prior to sale have not changed, but the funding to provide inspectors to provide those inspections has. The Chapter 9 rules currently in effect were revised in 2013 with a slight decrease in In State Accustomed Range permits. Fees have not been adjusted since 2013, and fees have not seen a significant increase since 2008.

The amendments to the rules are in underline and strikeout format and can be summarized as follows:

Section 6. Brand Inspection fees will temporarily increase approximately ten percent, while the Wyoming Livestock Board establishes a committee of Board members, staff, livestock producers, and other stakeholders to review the Program. The Program review will seek to identify where Program cuts or changes are feasible and how any cuts would affect the delivery of services. The fee increases will sunset on August 15, 2018, and revert back to the current levels, unless the Board takes action to adjust them again.

Section 7. The rules also set the fee charged for the use of the G-Form transportation permit for movement to an authorized out of state market from \$0.90 a head to \$1.00 a head.

Section 8. Changes the Accustomed Range Permit fees from \$60.00 for the first permitted county movement allowed, to \$70.00, and changes the fee for additional counties added from \$50.00 per additional county to \$60.00.

Section 9. The rule would increase the current Brand Recording fees by ten percent. This affects new brands issued, seasonal brand permits, brands that are reissued and transfers of ownership of a brand. Please note, the fee for rerecording a delinquent brand will not change.