



Corral Notes

2014

By Greg Lawley, Bureau Chief



Corral Notes provides you with updates from the Bureau of Livestock Identification each time you renew your brand. In this issue, we'll provide information on electronic renewals and payment, Mobile Inspection Application update, pertinent enforcement activities, Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) information and how to contact your brand inspector.

Electronic Renewal & Payment – Brand renewals may be completed and paid electronically using American Express, MasterCard or Visa via the Internet at www.californiabrand.com if you would like to receive future renewals electronically, enter your e-mail address on your current renewal form when you return it.

Mobile Inspection Application – For nearly 100 years (since July 1917), Brand Inspectors for the Bureau of Livestock Identification have been inspecting cattle using procedures that have basically been unchanged since that time. An inspector will look at the cattle to verify the brand and legal ownership, hand-write the brand inspection certificate, collect the money and at the end of each week mail a large package containing the appropriate documents and money from all of the inspections that week to Sacramento.

Within the next few months, that entire procedure will change dramatically. We are finally jumping into the 21st century and embracing technology that will make us more effective and efficient. We have been working for nearly a year developing a mobile application that will allow a brand inspector to collect the information electronically on a mobile device in the field. The objective is to consolidate all brand inspection services, transactions and paperwork under one mobile iPad-based application and electronically consolidate all data at CDFA Livestock Identification Headquarters.

The benefits will be the elimination of paper-based overhead, tracking and error. It will increase accuracy and delivery of certifications, fees and registrations. All inspection activities will be easily traceable through the entire production cycle. Inspectors will have access to brand registrations that are always up-to-date. And finally, we will have faster response with up-to-date data in emergency animal health situations.

Sample Transaction:

Brand Inspector arrives at ranch, inspects cattle and calls up ownership records on application, completes destination information, records number of head, brand and location, sex and color of cattle, notes Beef Council fee and any other charge if necessary. Inspector collects fees or prints invoice and automatically prints brand inspection certificate to accompany cattle and a copy for seller.

All summaries of that day's transactions automatically transmit to headquarters – no paperwork. Fees collected or due are also accurately summarized and presented. At a future inspection, consignor can see their own past inspections.

Enforcement Activities – When you pay your brand inspection fee, you are paying for much more than just an inspection. You're paying for the time the inspector, supervisor and/or investigator spend identifying lost, stolen or strayed cattle. Your fee also pays for time spent assisting local law enforcement with the investigation and prosecution of individuals suspected of cattle theft.

Listed below are some of the theft cases that local authorities and the Bureau were successful in obtaining arrests in 2012:

San Joaquin County – Michael Wayne Carr was sentenced to six years in state prison after the culmination of six years of investigations and court proceedings embezzling \$1.5 million from several cattle producers.

Tehama County – Peter Fracchia was arrested for debtor fraud and ordered by the judge to pay the victim \$87,000.

AB 924 – Assembly Member Bigelow's legislation was signed by Governor Brown and became effective January 1, 2014 in the California Penal Code sections 487a and 489.

487(a) *Every person who feloniously steals, takes, carries, leads, or drives away any horse, mare, gelding, any bovine animal, any caprine animal, mule, jack, jenny, sheep, lamb, hog, sow, boar, gilt, barrow, or pig, which is the personal property of another, or who fraudulently appropriates that same property which has been entrusted to him or her, or who knowingly and designedly, by any false or fraudulent representation or pretense, defrauds any other person of that same property, or who causes or procures others to report falsely of his or her wealth or mercantile character and by thus imposing upon any person, obtains credit and thereby fraudulently gets or obtains possession of that same property, is guilty of grand theft.*

Statistics July 2012 – June 2013

Cattle Inspected	– 3.43 million head
Recorded Brands	– 21,460
Brand Inspectors	– 48
Missing and Stolen Cattle Reported	– 1,357 head
Value	– \$860.00 per head
Stray Cattle Returned	– 1,518 head
Value	– \$755.00 per head

489. Grand theft is punishable as follows:(b) *If the grand theft involves a violation of Section 487a, by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year or pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170, or by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment. The proceeds of this fine shall be allocated to the Bureau of Livestock Identification to be used, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes relating to the investigation of cases involving grand theft of any animal or animals, or of the carcass or carcasses of, or any portion of the carcass or carcasses of, any animal specified in Section 487a.*

California Cattlemen's Association Reward Program – With cattle prices where they are today, the issue of cattle theft and rustling remains a significant concern. To help address that concern, the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has partnered with the Bureau of Livestock Identification to sponsor a reward program as a service to all cattle producers.

For more than 16 years, the CCA program has assisted the Bureau's investigations and local law enforcement by paying rewards for information leading to the arrest of persons stealing, maiming or illegally slaughtering cattle in California. Rewards paid by CCA in beef or dairy theft cases provide incentive for individuals to report suspicious behavior and help reduce the incidence of rustling. Individuals with this type of information are encouraged to call the California Bureau of Livestock ID's anonymous toll free hotline at **(800) 671-4327**.

You can support the reward program as well as CCA's other efforts to protect the state's cattle herd by joining as members of the statewide association. Interested individuals should contact the CCA office at (916) 444-0845 or visit the CCA web site at www.calcattlemen.org.

Meet Marina Jackson, Brand Inspector, Fresno/Madera County



Marina was born in Germany and immigrated to America with her family in the mid-1950s. About 10 years later, her family moved to California. She and her husband Del were married in 1967 and have two sons, Benjamin and Ethan, two wonderful daughters-in-law and six exceptional grandchildren (with the seventh due in August).

Marina began working for the Bureau in 1984 as a relief brand inspector and later transitioned into a part-time brand inspector. She eventually promoted to a full-time brand inspector in 2008 primarily serving as the lead inspector in Fresno and Madera Counties.

Marina says that when she started her career as a brand inspector, that there “couldn't have been any better schooling than covering all of the different aspects of this job”. After an outstanding 30-year career, Marina retired in January. In her parting comments, Marina says “it has been an honor and privilege serving the livestock industry and all of the wonderful people in it”. Marina's efforts and dedication have been greatly appreciated by the Bureau.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) – is a chronic debilitating contagious disease of cattle caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. It can be transmitted to humans and other animals. The cooperative Federal-State-Industry effort to eradicate infection from cattle in the U.S. has made significant progress since its inception in 1917. Disease has nearly been eradicated from the livestock population; however, the ultimate goal remains elusive as we continue to detect infection.

Seven TB-affected herds were detected in the U.S. last year: four beef and three dairy herds. One of the dairy herds is in California and remains on a test-and-removal program to eradicate infection. In addition, three TB-infected cows detected during routine slaughter inspection in California last year (one dairy, one beef and one still to be determined) are under investigation.

California has detected 11 TB-affected herds in the last 11 years; six during routine slaughter inspection and five during trace-testing. These affected herds represent seven different introductions of bovine TB into California's cattle. Despite extensive investigation and testing, the source of these introductions has not been determined. None were isolated from U.S. cattle prior to their detection in California. In addition, the current three investigations represent two unique TB-strains. Good slaughter surveillance and animal traceability are critical in eradication efforts.

Livestock ID Contact Info

Mailing Address - 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone Number - (916) 900-5006
FAX Number - (916) 900-5335
Bureau's Home Page -
http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Livestock_ID/

Regional Supervisors

John Romano – Northern California - Cottonwood
(530) 347-5721
David Fischer – Central California – Oakdale
(209) 845-8352
Richard Wright – Southern California - Tulare
(559) 685-3505

Brand Inspector Directory

www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Livestock_ID/pdfs/Brand_Inspector_Directory.pdf