State of California
Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Department of Food and Agriculture
A. G. Kawamura
Secretary

Division of Animal Health and
Food Safety Services
Annette Whiteford, D.V.M.
Director

California Brand Book

2010

Bureau of Livestock Identification
Greg Lawley
Chief

Livestock Identification Advisory Board
Jack Sparrowk
Chairman

Hank Van Exel   Jim Keegan   John Lacey
Matt Echeverria Max Olvera Walter Bledsoe
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Northern Region

John Romano
Regional Supervisor
P. O. Box 1975
Cottonwood, CA 96022

Christine Johnson
Agricultural Aide
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Fax: (530) 347-7120

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Kristen Smith
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Fax: (559) 685-3580

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Susan Seats
Agricultural Aide
Office: (209) 845-8352
Fax: (209) 845-8197

Special Acknowledgment to Johnny Tran of Animal Health Branch for technical assistance
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**Supervisor John Romano  530-204-7807**

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**Supervisor David Fischer  209-605-0180**

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<td>Williams, Wayne</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>Brawley</td>
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Patrick Taylor
Assistant Bureau Chief / Brand Registrar

John Suther
Senior Special Investigator

Janus Gustafson
Office Services Supervisor II

Mila Matthews
Staff Services Analyst

Judy Garig
Account Technician

Chuck King
Office Technician

Meriam Tkalec
Account Clerk II

Austin Borgman
Office Technician

Andrea Anderson
Office Assistant

General Correspondence
Department of Food & Agriculture
1220 “N” Street Room A-130
Sacramento, CA 95814
Ph. (916) 654-0889
Fax (916) 653-5190

Cashier
Department of Food & Agriculture
Bureau of Livestock Identification
P.O. Box 942872
Sacramento, CA 94271
The Bureau of Livestock Identification is Working for You

Your cooperation and assistance is needed so the Brand Inspector may improve service provided to you.

1. Advance notice of your inspection needs will permit better scheduling by the Inspector.

2. Twenty-four hours minimum notice is requested. Adequate notice will improve the Inspector’s ability to be available when requested.

3. Cattle shipments should be scheduled Monday through Friday whenever possible.

4. Telephone messages to the Inspector should normally be made between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

5. Cattle should be ready for inspection at the scheduled time. The Inspector usually has several inspections scheduled and may not be able to wait for you. Your delays hold up all other shippers in the area.

6. Sunday inspection requests should be avoided. Services on Sunday may be provided in emergency situations. The Inspector must be notified by noon on Saturday for necessary Sunday inspections.

Immediately Report Your Missing or Stolen Livestock

to the Local Brand Inspector

and Local Law Enforcement Agency

• It establishes that a problem exists or that a loss has occurred.
• It assists the Brand Inspector in recovering your losses.
• It advises the department as to the extent of cattle theft and assists us in an effort to prevent or deter future crimes.
Agricultural Code Sections
Pertaining to Brand Inspection

Branding:
20604 It is unlawful for any person to brand any animal except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

20605 It is unlawful for any person to use an unrecorded, forfeited, or canceled brand.

20606 It is unlawful for any person to apply a recorded brand in any location on the animal except that which is specified on the brand registration certificate. The use of a brand on any location except that which is specified on the brand registration certificate is the same as the use of an unrecorded brand.

20222 Any person who uses an unrecorded, forfeited, or canceled brand shall pay a penalty upon a first violation of one hundred dollars ($100); upon a second violation within the same 12-month period, a penalty of two hundred dollars ($200); and upon a third or subsequent violation within the same 12-month period, a penalty of five hundred dollars ($500), which is in addition to any other penalty provided by law.

Documents Required for Transporting Cattle
(All cattle shipments must have one of the following)

1. Brand Inspection Certificate
   This certificate must always accompany the shipment when the cattle are subject to brand inspection under conditions prescribed in the Food and Agricultural Code.

21051 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, cattle shall be inspected as follows:
   (a) Whenever cattle are sold or ownership is transferred.
   (b) Prior to movement out of state.
   (c) Prior to movement out of any designated modified point-of-origin inspection area, for purposes other than sale or slaughter and no change of ownership is involved.
   (d) Exception to above: If cattle are moved to a destination point (sales yard, slaughterhouse, or registered feedlot), they will be inspected at the destination point instead of point of origin.
   (e) Upon entry into a registered feedlot.
   (f) Prior to slaughter.
   (g) Prior to release or sale from a public salesyard or public or private cattle sales market.
   (h) Prior to transportation or movement from premises designated as quarantine, restricted, or isolated areas pursuant to Section 9565.

21051.5 When brand inspection is not required under Section 21051, any person, upon his request, shall receive brand inspection of cattle. Any such person who requests the inspection shall pay to the secretary a time and mileage charge established by the secretary to equal the cost of providing such an inspection. Nothing in this section shall exempt any person from any other inspection requirements for the same cattle at any later time under Section 21051, nor shall such a person be exempt from any statutory inspection fees provided for by this division.

VI
# BRAND INSPECTION CERTIFICATE

**FROM:** Consignor  
John Rancher  
Name  
3279 Prospect Road  
Address  
Mariposa, CA 95548  
Mariposa City  
CA 95548 State  
Zip Code  
Phone Number  

**TO:** Buyer  
Agri Beef  
Name  
P.O. Box 6640  
Boise, ID 83707-6640  
Boise City  
ID 83707 State  
Zip Code  

**Authorized Agent:**  

**Number of Hides:** 72  

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**Total Cattle & Calves:** 72 Hides

- **Service Charge:** $12.00
- **Brand Inspection:** $75.60
- **CA Beef Council Fees:** $72.00
- **Exemption Code:**
  - A - Hides
  - B - No Ownership Change
  - E - Re-Sold, Ten Days or Less
  - Mileage: $0.00

**Total Due:** $159.60

Date Fees Received: 3/1/10

To Avoid Late Fees, Send All Payments Due to the Brand Inspector Within 30 Days

---

I hereby certify that I have personally inspected the above livestock and have accurately recorded the brands and marks thereon.

Joe Inspector  
Print Name  
Signature of Brand Inspector  
Address  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
City  
CA 95814 State  
Zip Code  
Phone Number  
916 654-0889

---

John Rancher  
Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent

---

If Certificate Issued for Proof of Ownership - Retain Blue Copy  
This Certificate is VOID if Altered

White Copy: Office (LID)  
Blue Copy: Buyer  
Pink Copy: Consignor/Shipper  
Yellow Copy: Inspector

---

74043 (Rev. 10/06)
2. **Proof of Ownership**

16521 An inspector shall seize any bovine animal, horse, mule, or burro, or the hide or carcass of any such animal, which is within any of the following classes:

(a) Found in the possession of a person that cannot prove ownership.

(b) Presented for inspection and which is not claimed by the consignor or consignee.

16522 Evidence of ownership of an animal or hide may include any of the following:

(a) A recorded brand registered in the name of the person in possession of the animal or hide.

(b) A brand inspection certificate.

(c) A bill of sale from the owner of the brand on the animal or hide.

(d) In the case of an unbranded animal or hide, a bill of sale which gives a description of the breed, sex, color, and natural markings, if any.

(e) A dairy exemption number.

16522.5 (a) A dairy exemption number shall be evidence of ownership of cull beef cows and bulls of a recognized dairy breed presented for sale at a registered or posted salesyard, or licensed slaughter plant for immediate slaughter. Any person owning a dairy farm as defined in Section 32505 may apply to the secretary for an exemption number.

(b) Every five years, the secretary may charge a fee to cover the cost of issuing and renewing a dairy exemption number. The fee may not exceed fifty dollars ($50). The secretary may refuse to issue such number to persons who have violated any provision of Division 9 (commencing with Section 16301), Division 10 (commencing with Section 20001), or Division 11 (commencing with Section 23001) of the Food and Agricultural Code, or to persons convicted of livestock theft.

(c) The dairy exemption number shall be written on the bill of consignment, defined in Section 21703, when the cattle and consignment slip are presented to an inspector at the registered or posted salesyard, or licensed slaughter plant. The salesyard operator shall display the letters “EX” in the description line of the salesyard outbilling. An exemption number shall be deemed to meet the identification information requirements of Section 21703. The cows shall be consigned, owned, and sold in the name of the person having the exemption number.

(d) The secretary may revoke the dairy exemption number of any person who violates any provision of the Food and Agricultural Code or who is convicted of theft.

32505 “Dairy farm” means any place or premises upon which milk is produced for sale or other distribution and where more than two cows or six goats are in lactation.

3. **Bill of Sale or Consignment**

21066 Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (b) and (h) of Section 21051, all cattle transported within the state for pasture or feeding purposes with no change in ownership shall be accompanied by a certificate of consignment which contains the information specified in Section 21703.

21702 A person shall not buy, sell, or accept any animal, unless the seller or donor gives, and the buyer or donee receives, at the time of the delivery of the animal, a written bill of sale or written instrument from the owner or his agent which gives the number, kind, breed, sex, and, if branded, the brand and location of the brand on each animal.

21703 Except as provided in Section 21058, bills of sale or consignment required by any provision of Division 9 (commencing with Section 16301) or Division 10 (commencing with Section 20001) shall include the following:

- The name and address of the owner.
- The brand.
- The number of the animal.
- The sex.
- The breed.
- The age.
- The location of the brand.
- The date of the consignment.
- The signature of the owner or his agent.
20001) shall be made on the “Bill of Sale or Consignment” form approved by the secretary, and shall state all of the following information for animals sold or consigned:
(a) The date of sale or consignment.
(b) The loading point.
(c) The name and address of the owner or the consignor, or both.
(d) The destination.
(e) The number and description of the animals including their brands, if any.
(f) The name and address of the buyer or consignee, or both.
(g) The name of the transporter or carrier and the license number of the vehicle used to transport the animals.
(h) The signature of the owner or his authorized agent.

**State of California**

**Bill of Sale or Consignment**

Approved and Distributed by: Bureau of Livestock Identification, Department of Food and Agriculture

1220 "N" Street, Room A-130, Sacramento, CA 95814 - Phone: (916) 554-0889

**For Use Within California Only**

**Transported by:** Acme L/S Hauling - ATE1342

**Loaded at:** Fresno

**Destined for:** Sacramento

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I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, that the information provided is true and correct, and that all eligible female cattle are Brucellosis vaccinated and bear the evidence of such vaccination as required by the California Food & Agricultural Code, Sections 10351 and 10512. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, none of the cattle described herein are adulterated within the meaning of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (i.e., none of the cattle have been fed any feed containing proteins derived from mammalian tissues, e.g. meat and bone meal, not in compliance with 21 CFR 589.2000 and none of the cattle have an illegal level of drug residues).

This document is subject to the provisions of any underlying sale or consignment agreement.

Joe Rancher

Owner's Name

123 Cowtrack Lane

Sacramento 95814

Owner’s Address

City State Zip Code

Sacramento 916-321-7654

Phone No.

Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent

---

**Strays and Estrays**

**Strays**

21175

The shipper or person in charge of cattle being shipped or offered for inspection is responsible for sorting out stray animals and identifying such strays to the brand inspector prior to inspection.

(a) Any expense for feed and transportation incurred in the recovery of stray animals shipped without inspection, or shipped for inspection at destination, without the knowledge and consent of the owner, shall be recovered from the person responsible for the shipment.

(b) Any person failing to cut out or identify stray animals which are shipped without inspection or shipped for inspection at destination shall pay a penalty upon a first violation of fifty dollars ($50) for each animal; upon a second violation within the same 12-month period, a penalty of one hundred dollars ($100) for each animal; upon a third violation within the same 12-month period, a penalty of two hundred dollars...
($200) for each animal; and upon the fourth or subsequent violation within the same 12-month period, a penalty of five hundred dollars ($500) for each animal to the Bureau of Livestock Identification which is in addition to any other penalty provided by law.

(c) For purposes of determining subsequent violations, each shipment of cattle to a single destination point in one calendar day constitutes one violation.

Estrays

17041 Except as provided in Article 5 (commencing with Section 17121) of this chapter, any person that finds any estray domestic animal upon his premises, or upon premises to which he has the right of possession, or upon any highway which is adjacent to such premises, may take up the animal and have a lien for all expenses which are incurred in taking up, keeping, and caring for it.

17042 Any person that takes up an estray animal shall confine it in a secure place, and shall immediately file with the secretary a notice containing all of the following:

(a) A description of the animal seized.
(b) The marks and brands, if any.
(c) The probable value of the animal.
(d) A statement of the date and place where it was taken up and confined.

Areas Devoted Chiefly to Grazing

Cattle on the Road Way

16902 A person that owns or controls the possession of any livestock shall not willfully or negligently permit any of the livestock to stray upon, or remain unaccompanied by a person in charge or control of the livestock upon, a public highway, if both sides of the highway are adjoined by property which is separated from the highway by a fence, wall, hedge, sidewalk, curb, lawn, or building.

Grazing Areas

17122 In any county or part of a county devoted chiefly to grazing and so declared pursuant to this article, a person shall not have the right to take up any estray animal found upon his premises, or upon premises to which he has the right of possession, nor shall he have a lien thereon, unless the premises are entirely enclosed with a good and substantial fence.

17123 The following counties or parts of counties are declared to be devoted chiefly to grazing:

(a) That portion of Trinity which is outside of the area described in Section 17125.
(b) That portion of Shasta outside of the area which is described in Section 17126.
(c) Siskiyou, Lassen, and Modoc.
(d) Any county or part of a county which is declared to be devoted chiefly to grazing pursuant to Section 17124.

17124 The board of supervisors of any county may by ordinance declare that such county, or part of such county, is devoted chiefly to grazing.
Recording of Livestock Brands

It is unlawful to use a brand upon livestock in California without first recording the brand with the California Bureau of Livestock Identification, Sacramento, California. The entire State of California is one branding district.

To record a new brand, an application shall be filed with:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Bureau of Livestock Identification
P. O. Box 942872
Sacramento, CA 94271-2872
(916) 654-0889

The application shall contain:
(a) A facsimile of the brand sought to be recorded.
(b) A statement of location on animal where brand is to be applied.
(c) Name and address of applicant.
(d) Signature of parent or guardian if applicant is under age 18.

A mark may be recorded only with a brand.

When the application is accepted by the Bureau, and the fee has been paid, the brand will be recorded, and one Duplicate Cattle Brand Registration Certificate will be returned to the applicant. Fees are subject to change.

The payment of the fee for recording a brand confers upon the owner of the brand the right to use it until the following April 1st. For the right to continue to use a brand, the owner thereof shall, on or before April 30 after its recordation, pay to the Bureau a renewal fee.

Should the right to use a brand be suspended due to failure to pay fee, it may be reinstated within one year from the date of suspension, upon payment of a reinstatement fee. When the right to use a brand is suspended for more than one year, it is forfeited and the brand may be re-recorded by the owner or applied for by another person according to the Food and Agricultural Code.

There is a fee for recording the transfer of a brand and such fee shall include a new certificate. No transferee of any brand shall use such brand until the transfer has been recorded by the Bureau.

A brand registration certificate confers upon the person to whom it is issued the right to use the recorded brand in a given location on an animal, until the right is forfeited or cancelled. Such right is a property right and may be sold or transferred. A recorded cattle brand may be used on all classes of livestock if not in conflict with a prior recording.

The renewal period is every two years beginning April 1 and ending March 31. Renewal fees must be paid by April 30 of the renewal year to retain the use of the brand.
The Art of Branding

Even though hot iron branding has been around for more than 4,000 years, it is just as tricky a thing to do today as it was for the ancient Egyptians. We have attempted in this chapter to alleviate some of the frustration and aggravation of getting a good brand on the hide of live cattle by passing on a little information from the experts.

First, you should select a proper design...One that is plain enough that anyone can tell whether it is XYZ or 493 and not one that is just a jumble of ridges. In other words, you should select a brand that will not blotch and that anyone can read when it is properly applied.

**Blotching.** This running together of the lines on your iron can be prevented if you keep your design simple and keep the blotching problem in mind. Some suggestions to help you guard against blotching are:

- Avoid a complex design or one with many corners, angles and small circles.
- A circle should be even larger if a figure is placed inside, otherwise it is apt to burn together because the iron surrounds an area of hide and the heat alters the hair follicles in all the area inside the circle if it is too small.
- Parallel lines or nearby elements of a brand should be at least 1 inch apart. This will prevent merging.
- In intersecting lines or elements, leave a small gap where they join to prevent a blotch. The gap for angles should be at least 1/4 inch. An iron may change direction without a gap by using a curve or bending the iron, as in the letter “L” made as a single element. The curve should be formed in a radius of at least 7/8 inch.

**Edge Width.** Also of great importance is the edge width of the iron that forms the burning or branding surface. Remember that a brand makes its design apparent by causing a warping or dislocation of the hair follicles and that the new hair growth at different angles from the natural hair makes the design on the animal. If the iron surface is too narrow, it will not disrupt enough hair follicles and the brand will not be legible. On the other hand, if the iron surface is too wide, it is more apt to blotch because of the increased heat applied in the general area. It also is more difficult to hold the iron in position. The wider the branding edge, the greater the tendency of the iron to slip and blur or blotch the brand. The recommended iron width is 3/16 to 1/4 inch. A width of 3/16 inch of burning surface will make a very legible brand and can be applied with little or no slippage, if reasonable care is used.
Using the Brand

Heating the Iron. One mistake a novice makes when first using a brand on cattle is misjudging temperature. Sometimes these mistakes require years to rectify. The branding iron may be hot enough to burn only the hair without making any permanent mark on the hide, and a year later there will be no legible brand. This may be worse than no brand at all because it may appear different from the recorded iron.

How can you tell when an iron is too hot or too cold? Color is the secret. An iron heated in a flame will accumulate carbon early and appear very black. A very black iron is too cold. It may be hot enough to burn or singe the hair but not hot enough to deform the roots of the hair follicles, which is so essential for a permanent mark. It is also a mistake to get the iron too hot. How, then, do we tell when the branding iron is the right temperature?

A gray color is the secret. A gray color means the iron is hot enough to burn away the carbon deposits and yet not so hot that it will ignite the hair. There is a considerable range of temperature in which the iron can be gray; at the very low range it will be something less than satisfactory. Avoid this. If the iron is so hot that it is just nearly red, it is too hot. Only experience can show you the gray at which you can best maintain the heat and use the iron. It is important that it is not at the low or the high range in the gray shades. If the branding iron is copper, it will not appear gray but will show its natural dull copper color when hot; however, it will collect carbon and appear darker when cold.

Moisture. One factor that can affect the quality of the brand is wet hair on the animal at the time of branding. A rainy day is definitely not the time to brand. It is harder to maintain the fire and keep the irons at the right temperature, and the wet hair can blur the brand despite the perfect temperature of the iron. If the hair is wet when the brand is applied, two things may prevent a good brand:

1. The iron loses temperature rapidly, especially on the surface in immediate contact with the hair, because moisture conducts heat to its own surface.
2. The moisture and hair tend to form a flake of material when the heat is applied. This prevents penetration of the heat to the hair follicles in the hide.

Remember that a brand is a burn, not a scald, and that in branding, fire and water do not mix. While it is true the animal’s hair or hide does not have to be completely dry to make a satisfactory brand, it is far more difficult and requires a great deal more care and time if hair and hide are very wet.

Dirt. An excess amount of sand or dirt on the hide will also affect the quality of the brand. Too much dirt will prevent the surface of the branding iron from coming into direct contact with the hide and will act as an insulation between the hide and the iron.

Electric Branding Iron

The electric branding iron continues to become more popular. The electric branding iron is made of the same material as the heating element of an electric stove and is about the same width ... 3/16 to 1/4 inch. There is also a built-in thermostat set at the proper temperature to control the heat of the iron. This overcomes two common branding problems. The iron remains at the proper temperature, not too hot or too cold, and is wide enough to burn a good design on the hide.

Some people claim that the electric iron slips more than other irons. This will change with experience. Since the electric iron is not heated by fire, a residue from burnt hair and dirt may build up on the iron. This will greatly affect the iron as the dirt acts as an insulation and will prevent the iron from burning the hide properly. It may be necessary to keep a wire brush nearby to brush off the residue. Rubbing the iron in a bucket of fine sand is also successful.
Branding Of Livestock

The brand of a Cattleman is his trademark for his line of production. The most successful cattlemen take great pride in branding their livestock.

Your brand is your Livestock's return address.....
How to Read the Brand Book

The brand book is in a brandabetical order, starting with numbers 2 thru 9, followed with letters A through Z, then symbols, with miscellaneous symbols being last. The numeral 1 is filed under the letter I.

Letters, Numbers & Symbols are sorted in a clockwise order, there are 8 positions.

Quarter circles turn in, reverse quarter circles turn out and there are 8 positions. They rotate in a clockwise order with Letters, Numbers and other Symbols.

Secondary Symbols

| Bar | Quarter Circle | Rafter | Slash | Bench | Shining | Flying (Wings) | Millirion | Pothook | Walking |
Reading Brands and Earmarks

**BRANDS**

Brands are read:

- **Left to right**: A – B
  - Letter A side bar
  - Letter B

- **Top to bottom**: A
  - A over bar
  - over letter B

- **Outside to inside**: A
  - Circle inner letter A

**EARMARKS**

- **Right**
  - Illegal ear mark
  - Double under fork
  - Swallow fork, Double under split
  - Shoestring, Swallow fork
  - Under 7, Under 7

- **Left**
  - Crop split, Shoestring
  - Swallow fork under 7, Crop
  - Under split, Keyhole
  - Hole punch, Steeple fork
  - Under bit, Under slope

- **Others**
  - Over slope, Jingle bob
  - Crop, Upper half crop
  - Double under split, Swallow fork
  - Under half crop, Over bit
  - L 7, Crop

- **Others**
  - Split, Over fork
  - Crop, Under slope
  - Double over split, Double under fork
  - Swallow bit, Split
  - Double split, Over bit
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Brand Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>

**Legend:**
- Shield
- Shining (Sunrise)
- Slash
- Sled
- Spade
- Spanish
- Spring (Coil)
- Spur
- Star
- States
- Staple
- Steps
- Stirrup
- Stump
- Tadpole
- TeePee
- Track (Turkey)
- Tree
- Triangle
- Wine Glass
- S Wrench
- Wrench (Wagon)
Cattle Rustling Still Alive in the West

Cattle rustling is defined as the act of stealing livestock. Some people think that cattle rustling is confined to the past, but it is very much alive today. The cattle industry has changed over the years from predominately open range to fenced grazing operations or confined facilities, such as dairies. The methods used by cattle rustlers also have changed, from driving cattle off their natural range to loading livestock in the darkness of night in a trailer and transporting the cattle long distances, in a short period of time. Another method a thief will use is to steal another rancher’s cow to raise its calf, then sell the calf annually and return the cow several years later.

At one time, cattle rustling was considered a very serious offense. In the ‘Old West’, cattle rustlers may have been lynched on the spot, or vigilantes would take the law into their own hands. Over the years, however, more serious offenses have taken priority with local law enforcement. Criminals caught stealing cattle today have received short prison sentences or in many cases just probation. Producers demanding stricter sentences from their local law enforcement officials may influence a reversal of this trend.

Each year continued urbanization has created a shortage of grazing land, with a corresponding decrease in the number of cattle. With business costs rising, less grazing land available, and losses due to cattle theft, it has become increasingly difficult to keep an operation profitable. When a cow is stolen, the producer not only loses the value of the animal itself, they also lose the potential value of the offspring that the animal would have produced for up to 10 years. Some producers spend extra time and money on particular bloodlines in order to produce top quality animals in order to compete for top dollar in the marketplace. A producer suffers an even greater loss when one of these valuable animals is stolen.

From 2007 to 2008 there was a 25% decrease in the number of cattle reported stolen or missing. This was due, in part, to road enforcement activities performed by the Bureau of Livestock Identification and the California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force. In addition, the Bureau produces a weekly bulletin that is distributed to brand inspectors and law enforcement agencies throughout the western United States and Canada. From 2008 to 2009 there was a 5% increase in the number of cattle reported stolen or missing, which many believe is primarily attributed to the downward turn of the economy.

There are several forms of identification that can be used to deter cattle rustlers. The best identification is to brand your livestock. If done properly, a brand is a permanent mark that is not easily altered. Branding your livestock is a great way to ensure that even if your cattle stray or are stolen, they can be returned to you. Remember, that it’s important to take your time when branding to ensure the brand is clear and legible. A blotched brand is as good as no brand at all.

Other ways to identify your livestock are: Identification tags with your name and phone number or RFID tags (the downside is they can be easily removed), tattoos, ear marks, waddles and photographs. In addition to brands, all of these identification methods may be used to recover your livestock.

Cattle rustling prevention tips:

♦ Brand all your cattle and brand calves as soon possible. Branding is permanent and hard to alter.
♦ Check your cattle often and get a regular count.
♦ Keep good records so that if your livestock comes up missing you can provide an accurate description
♦ Keep your local Brand Inspector’s and law enforcement officer’s phone numbers handy.
Anyone with information regarding the following livestock, please contact the Bureau of Livestock Identification, 1220 "N" Street, Room A-130, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 654-0889, or the reporting Brand Inspector.

Greg Lawley, Bureau Chief
CA’ITLEMEN’S
ASSOCIATION
OFFERS A
REWARD
FOR SUBSTANTIAL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON
PERSON(S) STEALING, MAIMING OR SLAUGHTERING CATTLE IN
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

CALL
1 - 800 - 671 - 4327

WITH ANY INFORMATION ON THEFTS OR INJURY TO CATTLE.
INFORMANTS MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

Full information on conditions for payment of a reward may be secured from the
California Cattlemen’s Association, 1221 H Street Sacramento, CA 95814.
Brand History

Branding has been around for thousands of years. There is Biblical evidence that Jacob, the great herdsman, branded his stock. Egyptians have shown ancient brands on tombs and drawings of the actual work of branding.

Introduction of cattle by the Spaniards lead to the development of the cattle industry of the Southwest and the eventual spread of the great herds to California in the days of the Missions. Hernando Cortez brought the first branding irons to the New World; Cortez’s brand design was three crosses representing Christian the Trinity. The middle cross was larger than the two crosses on either side.

The California Hide and Brand Law was first sponsored in 1915 by the state’s cattlemen, but as the proposed legislation made no provision for revenue necessary for its enforcement, the 1915 Legislature would not act upon it. The sponsors were advised that before it could become law, it would be necessary for them to provide revenues for its administration.

With this provision in mind, the Hide and Brand Law sponsored by the cattlemen of California was approved as Chapter 678, of the 1917 Legislature on May 28, 1917, and it became effective July 27, 1917. For two years, it was administered by a board know as the Cattle Protection Board.

In 1918 the board issued a list of “Cattle Brands and Licensed Slaughterers” as of December 31, 1918, in compliance with “An act to create a Cattle Protection Board, to define its powers and duties, to protect the breeders and growers of cattle from theft, to provide for the registration of cattle brands and the licensing of cattle slaughters and sellers of the meat thereof, to provide for inspection of cattle and cattle hides for brands and marks, to provide for the collection for license and cattle protection fund, and to provide penalties for violations.”

The law provided for establishing branding districts, registering cattle brands, licensing cattle slaughterers and the inspection of all cattle for shipment or slaughter, and the inspection of hides.

The first law did not apply to registered purebred cattle or purebred cattle which could be identified as being entitled to be registered, nor did it apply to the dressed carcasses of veal with unmarked or unbranded hides, nor did it apply to cows used for dairy purposes. Later all bovine animals were included in its provisions.

In 1919, the Cattle Protection Board was abolished and Cattle Protection Service became a part of the Department of Food & Agriculture on July 27, 1919.

In 1929, the law was revised to include a new section to the code providing for the licensing of cattle dealers who transported cattle they bought for sale or slaughter in their own conveyances. Due to the increased expense of administering this section, the cattle Protection Service received an appropriation of $15,000 from the General Fund. This is the only appropriation the Bureau has ever received from the General Fund.

In 1935, the registration of horse, mule, burro and sheep brands and the inspection of horses offered for slaughter were added to the duties of the Cattle Protection Service.

In 1936, the name of the Cattle Protection Service was changed to the Livestock Identification Service. In 1940, the Bureau of Livestock Identification was established. We have been protecting California’s Cattle Industry ever since.
## CATTLE BRANDS OF CALIFORNIA MISSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Founded</th>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego de Alcala</td>
<td>1769</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>☼</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Luis Rey de Francia</td>
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<td>San Luis Rey</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Juan Capistrano</td>
<td>1776</td>
<td>Capistrano</td>
<td>☣</td>
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<td>San Gabriel Arcangel</td>
<td>1771</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>╈</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Fernando Rey de Espana</td>
<td>1797</td>
<td>San Fernando</td>
<td>☰</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Buena Ventura</td>
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<td>Ventura</td>
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<td>1804</td>
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<td>1771</td>
<td>Monterey Co</td>
<td>☥</td>
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<td>Soldad</td>
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<td>1797</td>
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<td>San Francisco Dolores</td>
<td>1776</td>
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<td>San Rafael Archangel</td>
<td>1817</td>
<td>San Rafael</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco de Solano</td>
<td>1824</td>
<td>Sonoma</td>
<td>☥</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May 01, 2006

California Animal Health & Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory System

REDding District
VIC: Charles Palmer, DVM, MPVM
2135 Civic Center Drive, Room 8
Redding, CA 96001-2794
Telephone: (530) 225-2140
FAX: (530) 225-2240

MODESTO DISTRICT
VIC: David Willoughty, DVM, MPVM
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Tuolumne Building
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite F
Modesto, CA 95358
Telephone: (209) 491-9350
FAX: (209) 491-9353

TULARE DISTRICT
VIC: Jeff Davidson, DVM
18830 Road 112
Tulare, CA 93274
Telephone: (559) 685-3500
FAX: (559) 685-3503

ONTARIO DISTRICT
VIC: Predrag Pecic, DVM, MPVM
1910 S. Archibald Avenue, Suite Y
Ontario, CA 91761
Telephone: (909) 947-4462
FAX: (909) 923-5128

CENTRAL DAVIS LABORATORY
Director: Hailu Kinde, DVM, MPVM
Telephone: (530) 752-8700

TULLOCK LABORATORY
Chief: Bruce R. Charlton, DVM, PhD
Telephone: (209) 634-5837

SAN BERNARDINO LABORATORY
Chief: Francisco Uzal, DVM, PhD
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Animal Health Branch

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Telephone: (916) 654-1447
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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

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USDA/APHIS/VS
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Identification and Record Requirements for Moving Cattle

Information for Dealers, Saleyards and Owners

Cattle moving within California may be inspected en route or after arrival, and must meet brand inspection requirements. Documents must be presented for inspection upon request of a government official. Female dairy cattle and female beef cattle sold for breeding must be vaccinated for brucellosis and be tattooed in the right ear with the official brucellosis tattoo.

California cattle dealers must:

- Be licensed with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Market Enforcement.
- Maintain records of each animal sufficient to identify the animal, the seller, and the buyer for two (2) years, and be available for examination and copying upon request by the Department.

Cattle moving into California require:

- Entry permits - for all female cattle, dairy bulls more than 6 months and beef bulls more than 18 months of age. No diversion is allowed from the permitted destination. Each load must have a copy of the documents required for entry to present for inspection upon request.
- Certificate of Veterinary Inspection - for dairy females more than 4 months of age, beef females and dairy bulls more than 6 months of age, and beef bulls more than 18 months of age.
- Approved identification - for all cattle tested and all cattle two (2) years of age or over, except steers, spayed heifers, and cattle moved during normal ranching operations without change of ownership.
- Brucellosis vaccination - for female cattle, unless entering for immediate slaughter or feeding in a registered feedlot before slaughter.
- Brucellosis test - for cattle from states that are not brucellosis “Class Free”.
- Trichomonosis test – for bulls 18 months of age and over.
- Tuberculosis test – for all dairy breeding cattle more than 6 months of age, and beef breeding cattle more than 6 months of age from states not “Class Free”.

Federal interstate requirements for cattle:

- Have approved identification:
  - An approved eartag or backtag on cattle moving to slaughter
  - A brand registered with an official brand agency and accompanied by an official brand inspection certificate
  - Registered purebred animals not moving to slaughter may be identified in a manner acceptable to the breed association.
- Documents, signed by the owner/shipper, stating:
  a) Origin
  b) Destination
  c) Number of animals
  d) Name and address of owner
  e) Name and address of previous owner*
  f) Name and address of the shipper
  g) Identifying numbers. The numbers may be maintained by the approved stockyard if cattle move directly from the yard to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
- Documents shall be delivered with the cattle to the management of the stockyard, slaughtering establishment or consignee, and shall be available for inspection upon request by a government representative at any time within the year from the date of their delivery.

Cattle moved interstate from a farm directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment (or approved stockyard for sale to a recognized slaughtering establishment):

- May be individually identified and the numbers recorded on the establishment’s receiving document upon arrival, if accompanied by documents signed by the owner/shipper, stating:
  a) Origin
  b) Destination
  c) Number of animals
  d) Name and address of owner
  e) Name and owner of previous owner*
  f) Name and address of the shipper.
- May be identified by a registered brand and accompanied by a brand inspection certificate.
- Do not require individual identification if the slaughtering establishment maintains records of ownership by lot.
- Do not require an owner-shipper statement when moved from a farm where they have been for more than four months, and the farm has not had any cattle from any other premises within those four months.

*If ownership changed in the prior 4 months
When moving animals out of state, call the state of destination for requirements:

OR - (503) 986-4680
NV - (775) 688-1180
AZ - (602) 542-4293

All other states call 1-800-545-USDA (8732) or visit their web page at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs/

Requirements for Livestock Entering CA

Note: Requirements listed in this book are only valid at the time of printing and should be used as guidelines. Please check our web page http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/permits.htm or call (916) 651-6278 to check for updates.

- Always include the physical address and the phone number of origin and destination for all shipments into CA. If available, shipment documentation should include a national premises identification number (PIN) for both origin and destination.

Cattle Requirements

A. Permits: Call (916) 651-6278
   - Interstate Entry Permits - required for most sexually intact cattle, including cows and bulls directly to slaughter.
   - Special Permits (call (916) 651-6278 for permit forms or visit our web page at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/permits.htm):
     - Pasture to Pasture Permit - permit between CA and OR, NV, or ID for an officially calfhood vaccinated beef breeding herd moving between pastures in both states without change of ownership. Permits are valid for one grazing season, up to eight months. Animals must return to state of origin within this time.

B. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection:
   - Required for all cattle requiring vaccination, tests, or official identification.
     - Exceptions:
       - Cattle directly to slaughter (need a brand certificate or other inspection form)
       - Steers and spayed heifers (check with state of origin for requirements on cattle leaving their state)

C. Official Identification:
   - Required on all sexually intact cattle, exceptions are: female cattle under 4 months, dairy bulls under 6 months, beef bulls under 18 months, only if cattle originate from a Class Free State.
     - Types of official identification (See section titled “Commonly Used Official Identification in California”):
       - Official brucellosis calfhood vaccination tag
       - State of federal approved tag
       - “Premises Identification Number” tattoos
       - Registration tattoos
       - Any other device approved for use by CDFA or USDA
       - Registered brands may be substituted for official identification under certain circumstances
D. Tuberculosis Tests:
- Required on all sexually intact cattle over 6 months of age from Non-Class Free States
- Required on all sexually intact dairy cattle over 6 months of age, regardless of origin state status
  - Exception: cattle going directly to slaughter

E. Brucellosis Vaccination:
- All female cattle over 4 months of age must be vaccinated for brucellosis
- Female cattle 4 to 12 months of age must be vaccinated for brucellosis or have a special permit to be vaccinated on arrival (contact the AHB permit desk for more information)

F. Brucellosis Tests:
- Required on all sexually intact cattle 18 months of age and older from Non-Class Free States
  - Exception: cattle going directly to slaughter

G. Trichomonosis Tests:
- Required on all bulls 18 months of age and older
  - Exception for bulls:
    - Going directly to slaughter
    - Coming for exhibition and returning to origin
    - Going for Artificial Insemination semen collection to an approved facility

H. Premises Identification Number (PIN)
- Individuals can obtain a premises ID number using: 1) the internet at www.californiaid.org, 2) calling 866-325-5681, or 3) mailing a paper premises form to CDFA.
- A premises ID number is needed by individuals that want to purchase official identification devices with the 840 prefix (USA code) and to report certain animal events.

Horse Requirements
- Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, within the last 30 days, with negative EIA test, within the last 6 months, listed including results, laboratory name, date of test negative, and accession number.
- Working Horse Permits between CA and NV can be issued for horses that are used for livestock husbandry or for other ranch related activities. These are issued in accordance with Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 9641.6 of the Food and Agricultural Code. Call (916) 651-6278 for more information.
### Commonly Used Official Cattle Identification (ID) in California

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USDA Animal Identification Number (AIN) Tag</th>
<th>Other ISO(2) Compliant EID(3) Tags</th>
<th>Tamper Resistant Bangle Tag</th>
<th>Brucellosis Calfhood Vaccination Tag (Orange Metal)</th>
<th>USDA Silver Brite Tag</th>
<th>Breed Registry Tattoo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Must have imprinted:</td>
<td>- Must have imprinted:</td>
<td>- Must have imprinted:</td>
<td>- Apply in right ear</td>
<td>- US. Shield</td>
<td>- Must be accompanied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 15 digit AIN #, starting with 840</td>
<td>- 15 digit unique number</td>
<td>- State issued Premises</td>
<td>- Distributed by CDFA</td>
<td></td>
<td>by official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- U.S. Shield</td>
<td>- First 3 digits are an ISO</td>
<td>Identification Number (PIN)</td>
<td>- One time use</td>
<td></td>
<td>registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Unlawful to Remove</td>
<td>- code assigned to the</td>
<td>that conforms to USDA</td>
<td>- i.e. 93 VAC 1234</td>
<td></td>
<td>certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Manufacturer's logo or trademark</td>
<td>manufacturer of the ID device</td>
<td>or previous state</td>
<td>- Currently, this is the only tag that</td>
<td></td>
<td>issued by a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Apply in left ear</td>
<td>One time use</td>
<td>numbering system</td>
<td>can be used for calfhood vaccination in</td>
<td></td>
<td>recognized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- One time use</td>
<td>One time use</td>
<td>Individual Herd ID</td>
<td>California.</td>
<td></td>
<td>breed association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- USDA compliant</td>
<td>Multiple ISO approved</td>
<td>One time use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Multiple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Multiple USDA approved manufacturers</td>
<td>manufacturers</td>
<td>Multiple manufacturers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>registries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must record PIN and Herd ID to consider official</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) It is unlawful to remove any official ID device  
(2) International Standards Organization (ISO) 11784 and 11785  
(3) Electronic Identification Device
Identification Devices with the Animal Identification Number (AIN) (June 1, 2007)

Device type: Eartags

Basic requirements/characteristics of AIN tags
- AIN tags are designed for one time use (tamper evident)
- AIN tags are imprinted with:
  - AIN (15 digit number starting with 840)
  - US Shield
  - Unlawful to Remove
  - Manufacturers Logo or Trademark (printed or impression of)
- The de facto standard for some species is a visual eartag. For these species, eartags with radio frequency identification technology may be incased in the visual tag when the above printing criteria is met. Such technology is considered supplemental identification (the visual tag remains the animal’s official identifier). Tags with RFID technology must have all 15 digits of the AIN printed on the tag pieces that contains the transponder.
- RFID button tags (a button front and button back pieces) must have the AIN imprinted on the tag piece with the transponder. The US Shield and text, “Unlawful to Remove” must be printed on the other piece (most commonly the male tag). Imprinting the AIN on the male tag is optional. In such cases, the tag set is packaged in containers or trays to keep the front and back tag piece together as a pair before being applied.

How to obtain and use AIN tags?
- Producers must have a Premises Identification Number (PIN) in order to obtain AIN tags. Only AIN tag manager and resellers are authorized to provide devices to producers. Contact the AIN manufacturer for information on their AIN tag managers in your area.
- Attach the AIN tags according to the manufacturer’s instructions and at a time most suitable for ones operation, but prior to the animals leaving the premises.

Note: Producers should not transfer or make available tags they have purchased to other producers, because all AIN tags they have purchased are recorded and linked to their PIN on the AIN Management System.