



Corral Notes

2011

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 how the furloughs are affecting brand inspections, pertinent enforcement activities for the past year, information on the *2010 California Brand Book* and animal disease traceability information.

If you have difficulty contacting a brand inspector in your area, you may call one of the Regional Brand 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

They will gladly assist you or put you in contact with the appropriate brand inspector for your area.

If you need any other assistance, please call (916) 654-0889. You can also contact me at the above phone number or at glawley@cdfa.ca.gov

Billing Invoice – Brand inspection fees are due and payable at the time of inspection. However, the Food and Agricultural Code provides for inspection fees to be paid up to 30 days after the inspection without the minimum 20% penalty. It is your responsibility to ensure that fees are paid timely. Brand inspectors will assist by sending billing invoices within seven (7) days of the inspection date. If you have not received a billing invoice within 14 days, please call me at the number listed above.

Electronic Payment – Brand renewals may be completed and paid electronically using American Express, MasterCard or Visa via the Internet at www.californiabrand.com

2010 California Brand Book – The 2010 Brand Book is available for \$50.00 (hard copy) or \$30.00 (CD). The price includes shipping and handling. There is also an order form available on the Bureau's Home Page http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Livestock_ID/Livestock_ID_Home.html

Furloughs – As most of you may know, brand inspectors for the Bureau of Livestock Identification have been furloughed in accordance with the Governor's executive order. Currently until June 30, 2011, all of our inspectors are furloughed three days each month. The inspectors are to be commended and congratulated because they have worked diligently to try to ensure that the inspection needs of the California cattle industry are met. You can assist us in meeting this mandate by scheduling your inspections as early as possible so that we can accommodate you if possible.

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 15 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.

Statistics July 2009 – June 2010

Cattle Inspected – 3,181,811 head
Recorded Brands – 22, 708
Brand Inspectors – 51
Missing and Stolen Cattle Reported – 1,762 head
Value – \$1,305,800
Stray Cattle Returned – 1,195 head
Value – \$844,900

Enforcement Activities – In 2010, the Bureau assisted local law enforcement in the arrest of six individuals for cattle theft. Through our investigations, we returned 449 head of cattle to their rightful owners. Personnel from the Bureau also provide another vital service by offering document, brand and animal identification training to local law enforcement. Last year, we provided on-going training to 151 law enforcement personnel from 25 agencies.

In addition, during the upcoming year, the Bureau will be working in conjunction with staff from the California Cattlemen's Association and Cooperative Extension to schedule document, brand and animal identification training with the California Highway Patrol and local county sheriff's offices.

Listed below are some of the theft cases that local authorities and the Bureau were successful in obtaining arrests in 2010:

Riverside County – Nine head of cattle were stolen in December 2009 from the Morongo Cattleman's Association. Two suspects have been arrested.

San Benito County – Michael Cabral plead guilty to misdemeanor theft charges for stealing one calf. He was ordered to pay restitution of four times the value of the animal plus the DNA cost.

Tehama County – Gary Allen Baumer arrested in September 2010 and pleads guilty to stealing 6 head of cattle. The charges were reduced to misdemeanor, so he was only sentenced to one day in jail with \$700.00 in fines and 18 months probation. Fines must be paid by April 2012. The suspect may have to pay possible restitution to the victims.

Tulare County – Manual R. Valdivia was arrested in October for stealing two bulls in May 2010 from a Tulare County ranch.

Change in Modified Point of Origin (MPO) Area – In May of last year, producers in the area voted to amend the California Code of Regulations to remove Area 4 as a MPO area. The code was amended effective January 13, 2011 removing Humboldt, Del Norte and a portion of Trinity Counties as a MPO area. A brand inspection is no longer required for cattle leaving the area for grazing purposes.

Meet David Fischer, Central Regional Brand Supervisor



David is a fourth generation rancher in Calaveras County. He started with the Bureau in 1998 as an Agricultural Technician. In 2000, he promoted to brand inspector and in 2005 he was selected as Regional Brand Supervisor. David and his wife Toni Ann have been married for 28 years and have three children: a son Joseph and daughters Sarah and Rose Ann. They also have three grandsons: Bennet, Myles and Paxton. David has been involved in numerous activities. He was director and president of both Calaveras Cattleman's Association and Calaveras Farm Bureau. Currently, he serves as a director of the California Farm Bureau Federation representing Calaveras and San Joaquin Counties. Additionally, David serves on the Calaveras County Fair junior livestock committee and Calaveras High School agriculture advisory board. David enjoys his association with agricultural and working with the cattle industry upholding the Food and Agricultural Code.

Help Protect California's Livestock and Support Animal Disease Traceability

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon publish a proposed rule to enhance animal disease traceability. The basic tenets of the animal disease traceability framework are the following: Nationwide standards for animal identification; only apply to animals moved in interstate commerce; encourage the use of lower-cost technology; be administered by the States to provide more flexibility; and be implemented transparently through federal regulations and the rulemaking process.

It is estimated that the final rule will become effective 12 to 15 months after the proposed rule is published. We encourage you to provide comments to USDA when the rule is published this spring. For more information visit USDA's website at: www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability.

Recent changes in the Tuberculosis and Brucellosis programs called for a risk-based approach that imposes testing and movement restrictions on an individual herd or a zone, rather than affect livestock in an entire State. Therefore, being able to trace an affected animal to the herd of origin could allow producers in the rest of the State to move cattle interstate without additional restrictions.

CDFA continues to provide producers location identifiers for facilities. For instance, to use 840 ear tags as official identification for animals moving interstate you need to obtain a location identifier. Obtaining a location identification number is an easy way for you as a rancher to contribute to enhancing animal disease traceability. During a disease or disaster event, animal health officials can provide assistance to livestock owners more efficiently if they know where livestock are located. If you have not obtained a location identifier or want to more information about animal disease traceability, visit www.californiaid.org or call 866-325-5681.