



Corral Notes

2007

By Greg Lawley, Bureau Chief



Corral Notes is a new publication that began in 2006. It will provide you with updates from the Bureau of Livestock Identification each time you renew your brand. In this issue, we'll provide clarification on the renewal notice, discuss what most people don't know about Bureau enforcement activities, present the reasons for the consolidation of regions, give you the opportunity to order the *2007 California Brand Book* and to register your premises for animal health purposes.

Renewal Notice Clarification

On the enclosed renewal notice, you will find a space for your phone number. This information is vital to brand inspectors and local law enforcement in the event we need to contact you immediately regarding your cattle.

Q: When does a brand need to be transferred from one entity to another? A: A brand transfer is required with the addition or deletion of an owner's name or the business structure changes from an individual to a partnership or corporation. A Brand Transfer Form along with a \$60.00 fee is required. If you have any questions or need a form, please call (916) 654-0889.

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

Substantiation for Enforcement

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.

In 2006, the Bureau assisted local law enforcement in the arrest of 27 individuals for cattle theft. Through our investigations, we returned 270 head of cattle to their rightful owners. Listed below are some of the theft cases that local authorities and the Bureau were successful in obtaining arrests and convictions in 2006:

Tulare County – In January, Camerino Gutierrez was arrested in the Delano area for possession of stolen cattle, medication and other nutritional items related to the dairy industry. 45 head of cattle valued at over \$40,000 were recovered, and 11 head have been returned to their rightful owner.

Merced County – In April, Frank Leonard Jr. was sentenced to five years in prison for the theft of 12 head of cattle belonging to Rich Howard. Amber Sites was sentenced to one year in jail for the theft of the same cattle.

Santa Clara County – In April, Jeffery Whalen was arrested for the theft of 156 dairy cows, equipment and hay valued at more than \$190,000.

Fresno/Kings Counties – In April, Pedro Ayala was arrested for possession of 71 stolen Holstein calves belonging to at least nine separate dairy producers. Ayala was sentenced to 90 days in jail, \$6,650.00 in restitution, \$570.00 in fines and three years probation.

Stanislaus County – In August, Ismael Alvarez was arrested for the theft of 170 Holstein cows. Alvarez was the herdsman for the Circle H Dairy. He sold the cattle belonging to Circle H to several different dairies.

Tulare County – In December, Jose Silva and Julio Valencia were arrested on suspicion of grand theft, possession of stolen property, conspiracy and embezzlement for running an illegal calf operation for an extended period of time near Tulare. Authorities recovered 20 heifer calves with an estimated value of \$9,000. The calves were confirmed stolen and Milkey Way Ranch of Visalia and Teunissen Ranch of Tulare are the victims.

The California Cattlemen's Association offers a reward for substantial and accurate information on persons stealing, maiming or slaughtering cattle in California. Informants may remain anonymous. Call 1-800-671-4327

Regional Consolidation

On the recommendation of the beef and dairy industries and after careful evaluation of our on-going efforts to operate the Bureau as efficiently as possible, the Regions of the State have been consolidated from four to three. John Romano (530) 347-5721 is the Northern Regional Supervisor, David Fischer (209) 491-9345 is the Central Regional Supervisor and Richard Wright (559) 241-7291 is the Southern Regional Supervisor. Visit www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/li to view a map of the regions.

2007 California Brand Book

The *2007 California Brand Book* will be available this spring for \$50.00. If you would like a form to pre-order your copy, call (916) 654-0889 or visit www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/li.

National Premises Identification Information

You may have heard information about the **National Animal Identification System (NAIS)** and the opportunity to obtain a premises number for your livestock operation. The NAIS is being developed through a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture and State animal health agencies in cooperation with livestock producers to enable 48-hour traceback of any diseased or exposed animal. The program is designed to identify animals and premises involved in a disease outbreak. The NAIS information will provide animal health officials with the tools necessary to rapidly respond to a contagious disease outbreak and maximize protection of the U.S. animal population.

Why should you get a premises identification number?

- Reduce hardships caused by an animal disease outbreak in your community
- Protect your premises and your livelihood
- Protect your access to markets

Premises information helps animal health officials to quickly determine the size and scope of a disease event and the resources needed to contain it. The faster the disease response, the quicker an animal disease is isolated, and the sooner life gets back to normal for everyone. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is assisting animal owners in the process to obtain **National Premises Identification Numbers** for properties involved in livestock production or commerce in California. There is no cost for you to obtain a premises identification number. Your participation is **voluntary**. When NAIS is fully implemented, a premises number will be required to obtain official 840-coded tags and to report certain movements, such as taking cattle to an auction. If you are interested in obtaining a premises number, you can choose one of four options:

1. Complete the enclosed **Application for a National Premises Identification Number** and mail it back with your brand renewal payment.
2. Fax the enclosed application to CDFA at (916) 653-2215.
3. Call the toll-free number (866) 325-5681.
4. Enroll online at www.californiaid.org (This option allows you the greatest flexibility to submit updates).

To learn more about NAIS, you can visit the following online educational resources: www.cdfa.ca.gov/pais or animalscience.ucdavis.edu/animalID/ or www.usda.gov/nais



Meet Patrick Taylor, Assistant Chief/Brand Registrar

Patrick has worked for the Bureau of Livestock Identification since 1989. He began as a brand inspector in Stanislaus County and promoted to Brand Registrar in 1990. In 1993, Patrick transferred back to the field as Regional Brand Supervisor for the North Central Region. In 2001, Patrick returned to headquarters as Assistant Chief/Brand Registrar. Patrick was born and raised in Oakdale. He and his wife, Janet, currently reside in Elk Grove and have four children and two grandchildren.

If you have difficulty contacting a brand inspector in your area, please call (916) 654-0889. We will gladly assist you or put you in contact with the appropriate regional brand supervisor. You can also contact me at the above phone number or glawley@cdfa.ca.gov

Statistics for July 2005 – June 2006

Cattle Inspected – 3,552,446 head
Recorded Brands – 23,600
Brand Inspectors – 58
Missing and Stolen Cattle Reported – 1,336 head
Value – \$1,022,755
Stray Cattle Returned – 2,277 head
Value \$1,109,866