

Bureau of Livestock Identification

Branding has been around for many 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 dating back more than 4,000 years.

With this provision in mind, the Hide and Brand Law sponsored by the cattlemen of California was approved in 1917. For two years, it was administered by a board know as the Cattle Protection Board. In 1919, the Cattle Protection Board was abolished and Cattle Protection Service became a part of the Department of Food & Agriculture.

In 1935 the registration of horse, mule, burro and sheep brands and the inspection of horses offered for slaughter was 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.

The Bureau of Livestock Identification regulates the California Food and Agricultural Code to protect the livestock industry from theft and staying of livestock. Currently, there are nearly 22,000 brands registered in California and there are 50 Brand Inspectors statewide that annually inspect over 3.2 million head. Inspections occur in every county of the state with the exception of San Francisco at 25,000 ranch premises, 30 livestock sale yards, 31 feedlots, and four major processing plants.