

**Livestock Brands Program
Division of Animal Health
Kansas Department of Agriculture**



The State of Kansas first started registering livestock brands on February 22, 1939. Prior to that date, the individual counties had been in charge of doing their registrations. A fee is required to apply, and this makes the brand active for approximately five years. At that time, it is up for renewal, and an additional fee is needed to activate the livestock brand for five more years.

Six people in Kansas can have identical brands during the same time period. Six locations on the animal are made available, and each is treated as an individual brand. These locations consist of left hip, right hip, left shoulder, right shoulder, left rib and right rib. The jaw had been a registered location in earlier years, but is just "grandfathered in" now.

Originally hot branding was the only means recognized in Kansas, but freeze branding was legalized by this state in July of 1993. This was very much accepted and appreciated by horse owners.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health (KDAH) at present has approximately 17,500 registered brands in the state. Each year over 450 new brands are registered. The registered brand is considered as a great means of locating strayed and stolen animals, along with aiding in showing ownership. Without this visual means of identification, the owners of many strayed livestock can not be found.

In three Kansas counties, livestock owners have chosen to have brand inspection. These counties are Kearny, Hamilton and Wichita.

Any livestock sales within these counties, or animals leaving these counties, need to be inspected. Animals do not need to be inspected if they are coming into these counties. Two County Option Inspectors are contracted out to perform these inspections when needed. Syracuse Livestock Market is within this inspection territory, and all sales are covered by them.

Five additional markets have chosen to have brand inspection:

- Hill City Livestock Market, LLC
- LaCrosse Livestock Market, Inc.
- Norton Livestock, Inc.
- Oberlin Livestock Auction
- St. Francis Auction Market

All of these are located in the western part of the state. Six market inspectors cover these market sales. These brand inspectors are also contracted out.

If situations arise where assistance is needed by sheriffs' departments concerning livestock situations, brand laws need to be enforced or ownership of livestock needs to be determined by reading an unclear brand, a Special Investigator aids with these issues and more. Many of

these requests come through the Division of Animal Health office, and then the investigator is contacted.

When individuals, inspectors or law enforcement departments note a "missing stray or stolen situation" or a "taken up" stray animal, various ways exist to assist with these. If it is felt that a possible crime has been committed, KDAH has access to multiple hot lines to aid with quick notification of the situation. Markets, sheriffs' departments, other states' brand departments and other valuable individuals can receive this information through group e-mails, faxing or phone calls if necessary.

When a livestock situation is not considered as a possible criminal act, KDAH also contacts these individuals with a Livestock Stray, Missing and Found Report that is compiled bi-monthly or as necessary. People can contact KDAH with any livestock situations they would like placed on the report.

The Brands Program also offers a searchable web page, which allows a user to search for registered and available brands in the State of Kansas. Visit agriculture.ks.gov/brands to search for a brand, or contact the KDAH Brands Program at (785) 564-6609 for further information on Kansas brands.

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