



Wyoming Livestock Board

"To represent and serve Wyoming's livestock industry through protecting livestock health and verifying livestock ownership."

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Mark Gordon
Governor

Hallie Hasel, DVM-State Veterinarian

Steve True
Director-Chief Executive
Officer

RESOLUTION

WYOMING LIVESTOCK BOARD OPPOSES

MANDATORY EID EARTAGS ON LIVESTOCK

WHEREAS, Wyoming's and the nation's voluntary animal identification system has served the livestock industry well for decades; and

WHEREAS, if the USDA and APHIS were actually concerned with and focused on preventing a livestock disease outbreak, they would stop importing cattle from countries that have known and documented problems with disease, yet they do not do so; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the cattle affected by this mandatory electronic identification (EID) rule originate from wide open spaces living on clean disease-free pastures and not in confined areas with thousands of cattle coming from all different areas; and

WHEREAS, USDA/APHIS has stated that a 70% compliance rate with mandatory EID would be necessary to make it an effective disease traceability requirement; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming already has animal identification which is far superior to the mandatory EID rules that, according to USDA/APHIS, is specifically targeted to apply to only 11% of all livestock in the country; and

WHEREAS, the mandatory EID rule was put in place by a government agency rather than voted on in Congress by our Representatives and Senators, making this only a "rule" and not a law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Wyoming Livestock Board is opposed to the USDA "rule" mandating EID ear tags for cattle and bison producers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wyoming Livestock Board supports the Livestock Industry continuing to do business as usual having the freedom, right and liberty to use historically reliable, affordable, confidential and voluntary methods of livestock identification, including brands, backtags, tattoos, and ear tags.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wyoming Livestock Board will seek to work with existing "metal ID tag" manufacturers to produce those tags historically used to confirm animal health.

Board Members

Mary Owens
Casper
President

Hugh Hageman
Fort Laramie
Vice President

Shaun Sims
Evanston

Kirby Camino
Buffalo

John Eversole
Rock Springs

Weston Jones
Thermopolis

Lexie Painter
Lusk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wyoming Livestock Board will work with other states to develop agreements and arrangements to allow livestock to be transported to and from Wyoming without being required to have EID ear tags.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wyoming Livestock Board will demand the USDA/APHIS to provide a complete and full accounting and accurate estimate for all costs associated with mandating that our livestock producers use EID ear tags, including costs associated with hardware; software; ear tags; wands; retrofitting of livestock handling facilities; retrofitting of sale barns; working of livestock; and costs related to all paperwork, digital input, and filings necessary to prove compliance with such an EID rule.

Approved on: November 15, 2024



Steve True, Director
Wyoming Livestock Board

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