



# Wyoming Livestock Board

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

1934 Wyatt Drive, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0051  
Phone: (307) 777-7515 ■ Fax: (307) 777-6561 ■ Website: <http://wlsb.state.wy.us>



Mark Gordon  
Governor

Hallie Hasel, DVM-State Veterinarian

Steve True  
Director-Chief Executive  
Officer

## 2020 APHIS Wyoming Brucellosis Program Review/WLSB Response

The Wyoming Livestock Board appreciates APHIS' 2020 program review despite the challenges presented due to the requirement for virtual participation only. We will continue working with APHIS and various other state and federal agencies to mitigate the risk of cattle exposure to brucellosis infected wildlife.

Thank you for the overview of our program, and insightful recommendations.

### Key Recommendations

*Because of widespread fall testing, when an affected herd is found the majority of adjacent cattle herds have already been tested or are scheduled to be tested. This greatly reduces the time spent locating at-risk herds. USDA recommends that affected/trace herd data be placed in a central repository that the APHIS epidemiologist can access. This could be USDA's Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) or a repository administered by the State.*

Wyoming Livestock Board is grateful for the information systems resources that the USDA provides. We have recently secured approval to store data describing USDA program disease activities on USDA information systems. Access has been secured for all WLSB Animal Health employees, and we will have processes in place to store and utilize program disease data on those information systems by January 1, 2022.

*Finally, the item of most concern that the review team identified was a > 20% drop in state funding of the WY brucellosis program due to the economic downturn related to the Coronavirus. This is a significant loss of state support. USDA will need to work closely with WY on how to best address this shortfall and when WY can be expected to increase their financial support back to pre-Covid 19 levels.*

Wyoming Livestock Board's budget has decreased approximately 43% since 2014. We expect funding challenges for the foreseeable future as the state seeks to replace revenues lost as a result of societal shifts. We are grateful for the help that APHIS VS and associated agencies have provided to the WLSB in making the case to the Wyoming legislature and other executive branch agencies for the importance of brucellosis control to support the marketability of Wyoming cattle.

---

### Board Members

---

Shaun Sims  
Evanston  
President

Kirby Camino  
Buffalo  
Vice President

Warren Crawford,  
DVM  
Sundance

Martin Mercer  
Hyattville

John Eversole  
Point of Rocks

Mary Owens  
Casper

Hugh Hageman  
Fort Laramie