

Department of Livestock

Agency Overview

August 2011

For the Economic Affairs Committee

Department Head: Board of Livestock (appointed by governor with Senate approval)

Christian Mackay, Executive Officer (appointed by Board of Livestock)

Description and Responsibilities:

- Seeks to control or eradicate animal diseases and prevent transmission of animal diseases to humans.
- Protects livestock industry from theft and predatory animals.
- Inspects and regulates meat, milk, and eggs.

Department of Livestock Programs, FTE, and Funding Sources for FY 2013 Biennium

Program	FY 2013 FTE	General Fund	State Other	Proprietary	Federal	Total ALL
Centralized Services	20.78	\$140,315	\$3,656,426	\$0	\$0	\$3,796,525
Board of Horse Racing*	2.28	\$0	\$350,070	\$0	\$0	\$350,070
Milk Control*	3.50	\$0	\$426,712	\$0	\$0	\$426,712
Livestock Loss Board*	1.00	\$400,000				\$400,000
Diagnostic Laboratory	21.76	\$607,429	\$3,231,689	\$0	\$29,000	\$3,868,118
Animal Health Division	16.01	\$563,369	\$2,072,364	\$0	\$1,687,255	\$4,322,988
Milk and Egg Program	6.50	\$0	\$953,814	\$0	\$56,976	\$1,010,790
Meat/Poultry Inspection	20.50	\$1,228,217	\$11,434	\$0	\$1,230,833	\$2,470,484
Brands Enforcement Div.	57.21	\$5,886	\$6,453,411	\$0	\$0	\$6,459,297
Predator Control	0.00		\$700,000	\$0	\$0	\$700,000
* Included in Centralized Services						

*The full-time equivalent job positions for the Board of Horse Racing, Board of Milk Control, and Livestock Loss Board are included in Centralized Services' budget and FTE. The \$400,000 for the Livestock Loss Board is statutorily appropriated for payment of claims at \$200,000 a year.

Source: Legislative Fiscal Division

Administratively Attached Entities:

- Board of Horseracing, established in 1965 under 2-15-3106, MCA. Governor appoints 7 members of which two must be in the horseracing industry and the other five may not be in the horseracing industry and must be appointed each from one of five districts of the state.
- Livestock Loss Board, established in 2007, under 2-15-3110, MCA. Seven-member board with 3 members appointed from list of recommendations from the Board of Livestock, 3 members recommended from the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission, and one general public member.
- Board of Milk Control, established as a stand-alone board in 1935, then attached administratively to a department in 1971 under 2-15-3105, MCA, and assigned to the Department of Livestock in 1995.

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Five-member board, with no member involved in producing, processing, distributing, wholesaling, or retailing milk or dairy products.

- Livestock Crimestoppers Commission, established in 1983 under 2-5-3104, MCA. Five-member board, appointed by the Board of Livestock presiding officer. Members include the administrator of the brands enforcement division (or a designee), a member of the Board of Livestock (or a designee), a law enforcement official, and two members of the public appointed at large. No per diem is paid, according to Mr. Mackay. The commission meets about every 6 months to review tips that are reported to a 1-800 number. Mr. Mackay noted that no rewards have been paid out because most tips have been anonymous.

Legislative Audits:

- Recording of Livestock Brand Ownership, performance audit reported February 2010.

Agency Bills Passed During 2011 Session:

- None requested

Agency Bills That Failed During 2011 Session:

- None requested

Significant Non-Agency Bills During 2011 Session:

The following bills (with lead sponsor's name in brackets) were passed and became law:

- HB 54 (Rep. Vance) to define order and program for certain Dept. of Livestock functions
- HB 294 (Rep. Cook) to provide confidentiality of livestock testing information collected by the Department of Livestock
- HB 363 (Rep. Cuffe) to provide for use of wolf license money
- HB 469 (Rep. Clark) to clarify and simplify name of Livestock Loss Reduction Mitigation Fund
- HB 541 (Rep. Welborn) to exempt domestic livestock trailing from FWP regulation and MEPA
- HB 622 (Rep. Ankney) to revise funding for livestock mitigation and control of predatory animals
- SB 207 (Sen. Moore) to clarify regulation of bison
- SB 277 (Sen. Moore) to revise duties of Department of Livestock on beef check off and federal beef promotion

The following bills, with lead sponsor's name in brackets, passed but were vetoed

- HB 318 (Rep. Warburton) to ensure county oversight in movement of publicly owned wild bison.
- SB 237 (Sen. Arthun) to revise laws related to brucellosis surveillance

Economic Affairs Interim Committee Areas of Interest:

- In 2009-2010, the Economic Affairs Committee monitored the department's use of a designated surveillance area to help control brucellosis in cattle. The Economic Affairs Committee also was assigned a study of the state's diagnostic laboratory and sought to encourage the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and the Montana State University System to collaborate with the Department of Livestock on building a new laboratory or renovating the existing lab.
- Future topic of interest might be virtual livestock markets and whether or how to regulate them.

Hot Topics of 2011 Session:

- Regulation of bison, whether wild, domestic, or feral.
- Brucellosis management, including expansion of Designated Surveillance Area.