

**Minutes – MEETING of the NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday March 16, 2021**

**9:00 a.m. CST**

**Location**

**Arrow**

**Hotel**

**509 S**

**9Ave.**

**Broken Bow, NE 68822**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Sawyer

Terry Cone stated that the meeting was being conducted pursuant to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and that a complete copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted at the back of the meeting room.

• **Roll Call**

Adam Sawyer Present  
Terry Cone Present  
Chris Gentry Present  
Tanya Storer Present

• **Adoption of Agenda**

Chairman Sawyer asked to move Item 5 to item 3, so as to accommodate those who were appearing on that specific item.

Chris Gentry moved to accept the agenda with an amendment of moving of line item 5 to line item 3.

Terry Cone Seconded the motion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed.

• **Current Business**

1. Introduction of Attendees and New Committee Member

Adam Sawyer Chairman

Terry Cone Committee Member

Chris Gentry	Committee Member
Tanya Storer	Committee Member
John Widdowson	Director
Dave Horton	Chief Investigator
Thomas Hughson	Investigator
Brent Deibler	Investigator
Christian Fell	Investigator
Kayla Jesse	Area supervisor
Kortnie Shafer	Area Supervisor
Shawn Hanks	Area super Visor
Cody Waite	Area Supervisor
Danna Schwenk	IT Coordinator
Becki Vineyard	HR Head, Office Manager
Dean Anderson	Business Operations Manager
Mark Fahleson	Outside Legal Counsel/Special Appointed Attorney
General	
Melody Benjamin	
Marie Farr	
Brent Hoffman	
Jay Sloan	
Amy Macintosh	
Terry Macintosh	
Don Kain	
Rex Micheel	Remote
Spike Jordan	Remote
Doug Strait	Remote
Ashlin Bussell	Remote
McKenzie Kelly	Remote
Kelsey Knigge	Remote

2. Approval of December 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Terry Cone moved to approve the minutes as presented

Chris Gentry seconded the motion

No discussion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Abstain

Motion passed.

3. Personal Appearances Pertaining to Grazing Permit Applications

The floor was opened to Terry Macintosh, who explained his grazing situation and why he wanted a grazing permit. Instigator Deibler explained his reasons

pursuant to Nebraska statute for denying the grazing permit as their base of operations is outside of the brand area and that the cattle are being sold in Fullerton with no inspection. Chief Investigator Horton and Director Widdowson elaborated on the statutes and Macintoshes' application. Chairman Sawyer thanked the Macintoshes for coming and hoped they found it informational.

No action was taken on this matter at this time.

4. Consideration and Acceptance of Financial Statements

Ms. Vineyard presented the financial statements and comp time report. Director Widdowson explained and discussed the history of the comp time benefit and Personal Services Limitation (PSL) and actions by the Committee to comply

Terry Cone moved to accept the financial statements as presented

Chairman Sawyer seconded the motion

No further discussion occurred

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed.

a. Comp-Time Report

Chairman Sawyer moved to accept the comp-time report

Tanya Storer seconded the motion

No discussion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed.

5. Legislative Updates

Director Widdowson gave details on bills LB571, LB572 and LB614 and explained the position he and Chairman Sawyer took when testifying before the Nebraska Legislature's Agriculture Committee. He then explained that LB572 had been advanced by the Agriculture Committee with amendments. One amendment sets inspection fees at eighty-five cents for the fiscal years of 2022 and 2023 and that this would require a new fiscal note to be prepared. Director Widdowson asked for direction from the Committee on how to accurately

prepare this fiscal note. The Committee directed Director Widdowson to prepare a fiscal utilizing funds from the balance, taking such balance down to the \$2.4 million pursuant to past practice and the Committee's handbook.

6. Executive session

Terry Cone moved to go into executive session to receive confidential and privileged legal advice relating to potential, anticipated and/or current litigation, legislative strategy, confidential personnel matters and review of special projects that require direction for bargaining, all for the protection of the public interest. Chris Gentry seconded the motion

No discussion occurred.

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed. The Committee moved into closed executive session at 11:40 a.m. and the public was excused.

The public was invited to return to the meeting room and remotely via Webex.

Chairman Sawyer moved to come out of executive session.

Tanya Storer seconded the motion.

No discussion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed. Moved to open session at 1:10 p.m.

7. Review and update pertaining to the South Dakota Reciprocal Agreement

Chief Investigator Horton presented the agreement with the change from previous years, that we would no longer inspect horses or mules for South Dakota.

Chris Gentry moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf the Committee contingent upon legal counsel review and approval as to form.

Tanya Storer seconded the motion.

No discussion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed.

8. Staff Updates, and Ratification of Personnel Changes

Chief Investigator Horton and Becki Vineyard presented the changes to personnel.

Terry Cone moved to ratify personnel changes

Chairman Sawyer seconded the motion

No discussion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed.

9. Estray Reports

Chief Investigator Horton presented the estray cases and funds to be distributed to the permanent school fund, less the actual expenses incurred in the investigation and processing of the estray fund.

Terry Cone moved to distribute the funds to the permanent school fund.

Tanya Storer seconded the motion

No discussion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed.

10. Strategic Plan Review

Director Widdowson presented the Committee's strategic plan as adopted and invited feedback on progress and possible updates. There were no recommended changes at this time.

11. Fee Schedule Review and Discussion

The Committee reviewed the fee schedule and made no changes, but acknowledged changes may be made a future depending on the outcome of pending legislation.

12. Technology Report - IT Coordinator Danna Schwenk

See attached for Schwenk's report. Chairman Sawyer and Director Widdowson presented an idea for creating a taskforce to look at e-inspections. Chairman

Sawyer moved to direct staff to organize a task force to look at electronic inspections with the goal of the task force being comprised of diverse backgrounds and interests in the beef industry in the Nebraska brand area.

Chris Gentry seconded the motion

No discussion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed.

Brent Hoffman from Nebraska Interactive presented to the Committee on initiatives implemented and those planned in the future. No action was taken.

13. Investigators Reports

a. Tom Hughson

b. C.J. Fell

c. Brent Deibler

Written reports attached.

14. District Supervisors Reports

a. Cody Waite

b. Kayla Jesse

c. Kortnie Shafer

d. Shawn Hanks

Written reports attached.

15. Registered Feedlot Audit Updates

Chief Investigator Horton gave a brief update on registered feedlot audit.

16. Chief Investigators Report

Written report attached.

17. Executive Directors Report

Director Widdowson complimented the Committee and staff on their efforts to find solutions to issues and the positive direction we are moving in. He challenged the Committee and staff to continue to think and be futuristic going forward.

18. Public Comment

Don Cain asked a question about LB572 and where the Committee stood on

tampering with evidence, specifically tampering with evidence of ownership with EIDs. Director Widdowson said it will follow the same rules for legal evidence of ownership tampering as other forms of ownership.

Marie Farr thanked the Committee for allowing her to attend.

Melody Benjamin stated that she appreciated the continued partnership between the Brand Committee and Nebraska Cattlemen.

19. Adjournment

Terry Cone moved to adjourn the meeting

Tanya Storer seconded the motion

No discussion

Adam Sawyer Yes

Terry Cone Yes

Chris Gentry Yes

Tanya Storer Yes

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

# Technology Report – March 2021

## Danna Schwenk

### Staff Technology Updates

- We have rolled out first 4 cellular Ipads that have been dispersed to Mike Bartlett (Lexington), Jess Smola (Kearney), Mark Bouy (North Platte) and one Chastidy Krueger (Thedford) so we have 3 verizon and a Viaero unit in use. One unit is having issues being enrolled and then will go out.
- We are getting reports in on the issues associated with these devices before we move everyone over.
- John has been in conversation how NI will help fulfill the additional new Ipad requests.
- As of March 1, all lockers & packers including now JBS are on the electronic program for inspections!

### Nebraska Interactive

- The spring quarter Sprint is completed with additional Sale Barn and Locker/Packer enhancements and bug fixes included. Testing completed and was released March 1st.
- Major upgrades to OnTheGo with the transition of the OTGPay being moved into the OnTheGo. This is the first step in moving payment into our system so that it eliminates double steps and cleans up reoccurring bugs on payment collection vs inspection collection. This will also allow for future enhancement of a shopping cart possibility.
- The Client Portal: Danna is creating wireframes and mockups for new development that is scheduled for XXXX
- NI and NBC team have reviewed the Cash payment invoice account for field staff. We are investigating requirements and implementation plan. Agreements were made on the process and a Project Owner has been assigned to complete specifications with us. Some outstanding contractual needs being worked on with state authorities.
- Brought Brent up to speed with the E-Inspection and CattlePass expectations and progress after Internal Advisory meeting and CattlePass group meetings.
- Further discussion centered on printing of unique Inspection Certificates without need to emboss, using QR codes and water marks on e-inspections is being investigated.
- Micro Strategies Business Intelligence Tool. We are still working on additional refining and data integrity of the reports we are building but we have included a couple after this report.
- Prioritization meetings occurring March 22 for designation of projects.
  - Remaining Original Milestones for Development:
    - Cutbacks
    - Estray reporting
    - Violations
    - Production Sale
  - Added Projects:
    - Cashless system
    - E-Inspection



## **SigmaSolve**

- Timekeeper has been in use now for a couple months with most things working well.
- TK needs to have enhancements made but we have not paid final payment nor started the support agreement as they have not resolved the final expense report yet that we've been waiting on.
- Expected completion of expense report was November 2020. We met again on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March and went through the long anticipated new development in the latest test environment that will be released on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. Kortnie and I will have testing done by the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- If this upgrade works I would expect both final payment and support to be paid in April.
- Hoping for time keeping enhancements to be worked on after that.

## **Traceability**

- A new ADT coordinator was hired by NDA and I have been working closely with Steve Hoefer on educating him on our mutual projects and implementing further plans.
- Ogallala Livestock Market installed both High Frequency and Low Frequency readers end of September and are currently collecting data.
- Burwell Livestock has paused the installation as they will be reconfiguring yard and pens. Because of this I am in discussions with other barns to sign on prior to the funds expiring March 31, 2021. I am hoping to have confirmation at the meeting of the next facilities.
- Niewhoner Feedlot has a HF reader installed that ties with their existing low frequency. This was installed in February.

## **Automated Electronic Testing**

- We selected Class Marker program at \$200 per year for 4800 tests.
- The new automated testing site had its inaugural run through on the first New Hire interviews Wed 10<sup>th</sup> to much success. We will continue to use this across all new hire interviews.
- This will include all new hire tests, 6-month field tests, 12-month field tests, and a newly implemented quarterly staff review test.

## **PondData**

- Logistics Tool – We've put on hold as we ramp up the priority of e-inspection.

## **E-Inspection/CattlePass**

- A group consisting of the Investigators, Exec Director and technology team met to brainstorm through the requirements and process to be used for E-Inspections. It was a constructive and encouraging first conversation. This enabled me to put together process flows and background information for subsequent meetings to come.
- CattlePass – After the above meeting, I met Rob Jennings and Justin Olberg of PondData for 2 days in Denver to whiteboard out process for the animal database system and interaction with NI development. Next action item is to introduce CP team to NI so we can schedule a development conversation on interface capabilities.
- Justin has been actively building the CattlePass database and user interface (UIX) web app and preparing for our first tests of individual data to be received

# Area II Quarterly Report

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**Criminal Investigator Thomas Hughson**

**March 16, 2021**

## **Open Investigations:**

- Sioux County – Theft
- Sioux County – Bankruptcy – In court
- Dawes County - Theft
- Keith County – Theft/ Numerous violations – solved pending
- Scottsbluff County - Neglect
- Keith County – Bankruptcy- solved
- Box Butte County – Theft
- Banner County - Theft

## **Court Cases:**

- Two currently

## **Violations:**

- Worked 7 violation inspections. Colorado, South Dakota & Wyoming.
- Worked 2 violation resulting from a sale without inspection.
- Worked with Colorado cattle shipped without inspection.
- Worked with South Dakota on an open market violation.
- Currently working numerous violations in Keith County.
- Working numerous violations in Garden County.

## **Estray Cases:**

- 19 solved or exhausted. \$231,481.36
- 1 School Fund. Original amount \$483.59

**Grazing Permits:**

- **Have reviewed, approved or rejected all Area II grazing permits that have been received to date.**

**Continuing Education:**

- **WSLA – 20 hours. Attended virtually.**

**Employee Supervision:**

- **Employee supervision has been limited to recruitment and some disciplinary action.**

**Producers Issues: There has been an increase in Bankruptcy reports and banking issues recently that have required additional time for research, investigation and inventory inspections.**

- Grazing Permits
- Inspection requirements
- Health Requirements
- Out of state permits
- Horse issues
- Open Markets
- Brand Transfers
- Divorce/Division of assets.
- Banks – sales records/ proof of ownership.

**AREA INVESTIGATORS QUARTERLY/ YEARLY ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**QUARTER: 3      MONTH: March of 2021      FISCAL YEAR: July 2020 – June 2021**  
**AREA: III                      INVESTIGATORS NAME: C.Fell**

**INVESTIGATOR OVERVIEW:**

I have started a new format for my quarterly reports so that they are cumulative and can be used as a yearly report after the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter committee meeting. This was done in an attempt to streamline reports and redundancies. , in an attempt to be more efficient.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, December 2020 to the first of March 2021, has continued to stay busy with new cases and my current work load.

**TOTAL # OF INVESTIGATIONS/ THEFT/ ASSOCIATED CRIMES, ACTIVE/ CLEARED OR UNFOUNDED:                      19**

<b><u>CASE#</u></b>	<b><u>VIOLATION:</u></b>	<b><u>COUNTY:</u></b>	<b><u>DISPOSITION:</u></b>
032519CF3	Felony Prohibited sale of L/S	Fillmore County	Sent. 15-20 Yr. Prison 01/12/21
111419CF3	Felony Prohibited sale of L/S	Webster County	Civil Resolution
071420CF3	Theft of livestock	Red Willow County	Unfounded
082420CF3	Trespass	Dawson County	
111320CF3	Theft/ Missing	McPherson County	
111420CF3	Illegal Butcher	Dundy County	Unfounded
111920CF3a	Abandon/ Trespass	Frontier County	
111920CF3b	No Inspection	Lincoln County	
112020CF3	Theft/ Missing	Chase County	Missing
112320CF3	AOA Stray	Webster County	Owner Found
113020CF3	AOA Theft	Yuma/ Dundy Counties	
120220CF3	Divorce/Division of Assets	Red Willow County	
120320CF3	Bankruptcy/ Neglect	Franklin County	
120720CF3	Missing/Theft	Lincoln County	
122320CF3	AOA Theft	Richardson County	County Handled

021821CF3	Theft/ Fraud	Dodge County	
022221CF3	No Inspection/ AOA Theft	Lincoln County/ OK, NM	
022321CF3	Neglect	Lincoln	Unfounded
022421CF3	Missing/ Theft	Chase	

**COURT CASES PENDING: 02**

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>VIOLATION:</u>	<u>COUNTY:</u>	<u>DISPOSITION:</u>
021820CF3	Felony Prohibited sale of L/S	Clay County.	Charges Filed
030420CF3	Felony Selling to avoid Lien	Adams County.	Charges Filed

**WARNING TICKETS ISSUED: 03**

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>ADDRESS:</u>	<u>COUNTY:</u>	<u>VIOLATION:</u>
12/23/2020	Bladen Ne	Webster	54-1,110
01/13/2021	Grant Ne	Perkins	54-1,110
01/21/2021	Grant Ne	Perkins	54-1,110

**TOTAL VIOLATIONS: 09**

**VIOLATIONS HANDLED BY WRITTEN OR VERBAL WARNING: 06**

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>ADDRESS:</u>	<u>COUNTY:</u>	<u>VIOLATION:</u>
07/20/2020	Wallace NE	Lincoln	54-1,110
09/03/2020	Wilcox NE	Kearney	54-1,110 No Viol.
12/15/2020	Orleans NE	Harlan	54-1,112
01/04/2021	Grant NE	Perkins	54-1,110
01/21/2021	Grant NE	Perkins	54-1,110
022521CF3	Lexington	Dawson	54-1,110 No Viol.

**VIOLATION INSPECTIONS: 03**

08/27/2020 – Violation Inspection, Dundy CO to Wray Colorado. 54-1,110 Leaving Brand area without inspection.

11/14/2020 - Violation Inspection, Chadron to Hastings, NE. 54-1,110 Leaving Brand area without inspection.

01/13/2021 – Violation Inspection, Grant to Beatrice, NE. 54-1,110 Leaving Brand area without inspection.

**VIOLATIONS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER STATES: 02**

Both were Horse related health issues resulting from truck checks.

**VIOLATIONS PENDING ACTION: 01**

<b>CASE#</b>	<b>VIOLATION:</b>	<b>COUNTY:</b>	<b>DISPOSITION:</b>
09/21/20	54-1,110	Dawson	Requires Vio. Inspection

**TOTAL ESTRAY CASES: 06****HOLDS ASSISTED WITH PRIOR TO BECOMING ESTRAY CASES: 02**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>HD. COUNT</b>	<b>DISPOSITION</b>
022621	Lexington	9	Paperwork obtained to clear
030121	Lexington	1	Paperwork obtained to clear

**ESTRAY CASES SOLD BY THE NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE: 06**

<b>CASE#:</b>	<b>DATE RECEIVED:</b>	<b>SOLD AT:</b>	<b>HD. COUNT:</b>	<b>DISPOSITION:</b>
5456	022820	McCook	1	Active
5463	020320	N. Platte	2	Active
5475	072020	Alma	1	Active
5478	082520	N. Platte	1	Active
5492	020121	N. Platte	1	Active
	030121	Imperial	1	Active

**TRUCK CHECKS PERFORMED BY INVESTIGATOR:**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>#of Contacts</b>	<b>#of Livestock</b>	<b>#Written/Verbal</b>	<b>#Inspections</b>
070220	Alma	5	34	0	0
070720	Spencer	2	65	0	0
070820	Spencer SD line	1	37	0	0
071520	Valentine	2	14	0	0
071620	Theford	2	73	0	0
072220	Springview	1	2	0	0
072320	Brewster	0	0	0	0
072920	Axtell	2	78	0	0
073020	Alma	5	84	1W	0
081220	Harrison	1	0	0	0
081320	Chadron	1	21	0	0
082620	N. Platte Hwy 30	2	94	0	0
082720	Theford	0	0	0	0
083120	Culbertson	0	0	0	0
090220	Broken bow	0	0	0	0
090320	Broken Bow	3	444	0	0
090320	Oconto	0	0	0	0

092320	Scottsbluff	1	1	0	0
092420	Henry	2	11	2V	0
093020	Broken bow	0	0	0	0
100120	Theford	1	2	1 S. Dakota	0
102020	Hay Springs	3	137	0	0
102020	Hemingford	0	0	0	0
110420	O'Neill	1	100	0	0
110520	Atkinson	1	13	0	0
111720	Chadron SD Line	0	0	0	0
111820	Chadron SD line	4	8	2V	0
111920	Henry	7	381	1 WYO	0

Zero third quarter truck checks done due to weather and cattle movement. We had one set up with Logan County and NSP in February. Due to snow we cancelled the two day checks for safety reasons.

**TOTAL# OF CLASSES OR PRESENTATIONS GIVEN:      01**

February 25, 2021 I gave my Brand Law presentation to a class at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture NCTA Curtis. I was asked if I would be able to do 1 or 2 more presentations if they added more classes next year.

**EMPLOYEE SUPERVISION**

Minimal, mostly answering questions about procedures when supervisors are not available or its about holds and Estray's.

**PRODUCER ISSUES:**

Normal Producer Questions,

Grazing Permits, Reviewed all grazing permits in my area

Inspection Requirements,

Health Requirements,

Out of State Permits,

Horse Issues,

Open Markets,

Brand Transfers,

Divorce/ Division of Assets,

Banks: Sale Records, Proof of Ownership

**REGISTERED FEEDLOT AUDITS: 07**

Seven Feedlots were audited in August 2020. 0 - Violations, some Inspections were requested.

Seven Feedlots were audited in November 2020. 0 - Violations, some Inspections were requested.

Seven Feedlots were audited in March 2021. 0 - Violations, some Inspections were requested.

**TECHNOLOGY & TRAINING:**

Attended Firearms instructor training for handgun at the academy in September 2020

Attended Quarterly In-Charge inspector trainings in Thedford.

Western States Livestock Annual Training Conference March 3-4 Attended on-line due to Covid issues.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS & EDUCATION:**

NCTA Presentation

Cattlemen's Classic Booth

Western States Livestock Rural Enforcement Association (WSLREA) State Rep. Monthly conference calls about annual March training conference.

**INVESTIGATORS COMMENTS:**

The third quarter has continued to be busy with new cases coming in, leads on old cases coming in as well as case follow-up. I continue to audit seven feedlots quarterly on the southern edge of the state. I have been receiving phone calls from producers with questions about inspection rules and grazing permits.

I have spent a lot of time this quarter reviewing grazing permits that were up for renewal. A few of the area III permits were denied renewal because they did not meet the eligibility requirements for a grazing permit. Either they did not meet the requirements for approval or their operation had changed and they no longer meet the requirements. I have had the ability to help clear a couple of holds by helping speak with uncooperative producers to obtain the required paperwork to clear the hold before the 60 days was up and it turned into an estray and was passed to the investigator.

I have submitted three felony cases to County attorneys for filing decisions, one was turned down due to a civil judgement being reached, and I am waiting to hear from the attorneys on the other two.



**INVESTIGATORS SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_



**QUARTERLY REPORT MARCH 2021**

**AREA 4**

**INV. BRENT DEIBLER #8904**

ESTRAY CASES SOLVED: 1

OPEN ESTRAY CASES: 13

SCHOOL FUND ESTRAY CASES: 0

VIOLATIONS COMPLETED: 0

VIOLATIONS TO COMPLETE: 7 OPEN VIOLATIONS

GRAZING PERMITS: 84 TOTAL PERMITS, 22 WERE DISAPPROVED

PERSONNEL ACTION FORMS: 2

TRUCK CHECKS: 0

INVESTIGATOR DEIBLER SPENT A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME THIS QUARTER REVIEWING GRAZING PERMITS FOR AREA 4. THIS YEAR THE INVESTIGATIVE STAFF WENT THROUGH ALL GRAZING PERMITS TURNED INTO EACH AREA. MOST OF THE GRAZING PERMITS WERE ISSUED PRIOR TO DEIBLER TAKING THE AREA 4 INVESTIGATOR POSITION. SOME OF THE LAND OR HEADQUARTERS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE ISSUANCE OF THE GRAZING PERMIT. UNFORTUNATELY SOME OF THE PRODUCERS DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS BY HAVING THEIR HEADQUARTERS BASED OUTSIDE OF BRAND INSPECTION AREA. ALSO CATTLE WERE MOVING BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE BRAND LINE NEVER BEING LOOKED AT AND OR SOLD OUTSIDE THE BRAND AREA.

UPDATE ON CASES AND DAILY PROJECTS:

12080120BD4: ASSISTED BROWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITH TRUCK STOP, OPEN CASE INVOLVING TRANSPORTATION OF CATTLE ACROSS STATE LINES AND QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP.

12030120BD4: MISSING CATTLE, POSSIBLE STOLEN OPEN CASE

12090120BD4: ASSISTED CUSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITH NEGLECT LIVESTOCK CASE, COURT ORDER OF CATTLE CONFISCATION. CATTLE BEING FEED IN YARD UNTIL SALE, CHARGES PENDING.

08180120BD4: COURT ORDER CATTLE CONFISCATION IN MERRICK COUNTY. QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP AND CARE OF CATTLE. CATTLE TRANSPORTED TO CORRECT OWNER, CHARGES PENDING.

12170120BD4: ASSISTED BRAND INSPECTOR WITH TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.

12290120BD4: MISSING CATTLE REPORT FROM MULTIPLE PRODUCERS IN NORTHEAST COUNTIES, OPEN CASE.

01040121BD4TC: ESTRAY COLORADO STEER FOUND IN LARGE FEEDYARD EAST OF BRAND LINE, CASE SOLVED.

01040221BD4RM: TRESPASSING COW CALF PAIR TAKEN TO OWNER MULTIPLE TIMES. COWBOY HIRED TO CATCH AND TAKE TO SALEBARN. SOLVED.

01100121BD4TW: POSSIBLE NEGLECT CASE IN HOLT COUNTY, NEIGHBORS FEED CATTLE. OPEN

01110121BD4MS: ESTRAY STEER IN LINCOLN COUNTY, OWNER FOUND. SOLVED

01250121BD4RM: WORKED WITH LOCAL BRAND INSPECTOR TO LOCATE PRODUCER WITH EXPIRED BRAND ON CATTLE SOLD FOR BANK SEIZURE. PAPERWORK WAS SIGNED TO RELEASE CATTLE SALES. SOLVED.

01270121BD4TW: COW TRADER SELLING CATTLE WITHOUT PROOF OF OWNERSHIP. ONGOING OPEN CASE.

02050120BD4: COMPLAINT OF QUESTIONABLE ETHICS OF BRAND INSPECTION, OPEN.

02070121BD4BH: COURT ORDER OF CATTLE OWNERSHIP IN CUSTER COUNTY. STAND BY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BRAND DISCREPANCIES. OPEN

02080121BD4: COMPLAINT CATTLE BEING SLAUGHTERED WITHOUT PROOF OF OWNERSHIP. OPEN

02080221BD4NSP: NEBRASKA STATE PATROL REQUEST ASSISTANCE ON PROOF OF OWNERSHIP OF CATTLE EAST OF BRAND LINE.

02110121BD4TC: SOUTH DAKOTA PRODUCER USING SD BRAND ON CATTLE IN NEBRASKA YARD. SOLVED

02230121BD4: ASSISTED SOUTH DAKOTA WITH VIOLATION INSPECTION ON CATTLE OUT OF NEBRASKA. SOLVED

03020121BD4RM: PROOF OF OWNERSHIP OF CATTLE ON CONTRACT SALE OF CATTLE WITHOUT LOCAL INSPECTION DONE. SOLVED

03050121BD4: NEGLECT CATTLE CASE, MULTIPLE PRODUCERS COMPLAINED. OPEN

DEIBLER DOES MONDAY MORNING CONFERENCE CALL WITH INVESTIGATIVE STAFF FOR WEEKLY UPDATES ON PROJECTS.

DEIBLER IS PART OF THE BRAND LEADERSHIP TEAM THAT HAS WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALLS ON TUESDAY AFTERNOONS. LEADERSHIP TEAM DISCUSSES, WORKS THROUGH AND INITIATES PROJECTS THAT KEEP THE BRAND COMMITTEE WORKING TOWARDS THE LONGEVITY OF THE AGENCY.

DEIBLER WAS ISSUED A NEW SIDEARM DUTY PISTOL. ALL INVESTIGATOR GATHERED IN ALLIANCE FOR HANDGUN CERTIFICATION TO STAY CURRENT WITH STATE OF NEBRASKA STANDARDS.

DEIBLER STAYED ON KEARNEY MULTIPLE NIGHTS TO WORK THE BOOTH AT THE NEBRASKA CATTLEMENS CLASSIC AT THE BUFFALO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. DEIBLER ANSWERED NUMEROUS QUESTIONS FROM FFA KIDS AND PRODUCERS. WHILE AT KEARNEY DEIBLER ASSISTED NUMEROUS KEARNEY AREA BRAND INSPECTORS WITH HOLD OR PROOF OF OWNERSHIP SITUATIONS. DEIBLER ALSO WORKED ON BRAND LEADERSHIP TEAM WORKSHOP THAT WEEK.

THIS QUARTER DEIBLER ASSISTED NUMEROUS BRAND INSPECTORS WITH CLEARING CATTLE BEFORE THE 60 DAY HOLD PASSES. THE ATTEMPT TO SHOW PROOF OF OWNERSHIP ON CATTLE PRIOR TO THE CASE BECOMING AN ESTRAY CASE TO WORK.

DEIBLER ALSO ASSISTED AREA SUPERVISORS AND THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR WITH EMPLOYEE ISSUES.

DEIBLER SPENT COUPLE OF DAYS IN ALLIANCE PARTICIPATING IN WESTERN STATES LIVESTOCK TRAINING VIA THE INTERNET. ALL INVESTIGATORS ARE TO RECEIVE 16 CREDIT HOURS OF TRAINING.

# Area West Quarterly Report

Area West Supervisor Cody Waite

March 16, 2021

## Employment

- Bridgeport inspector resigned at the end of December 2020.
- Moved a Scottsbluff inspector to Bridgeport.
- Moved the inspector in charge at Crawford to the open Scottsbluff position.
- Hired a new inspector for the Crawford area in January 2021.
- Hired an intermittent inspector to fill the position in the Oshkosh/Chappell area in February 2021
- The new inspector in Bridgeport resigned at the end of February. We are currently accepting applications for the Bridgeport position.
- We have postponed hiring for the Harrison position due to the small workload in the area.

## Training

- Spent half the month of January and most of February training new inspector in the Crawford area.
- Worked with the new inspector in the Chappell/Oshkosh area.
- Went to Thedford for an Inspector-in-charge quarterly training
- Continually working with and training inspectors in my area on the sale barn program and how to handle various situations that arise.

## Visits / Inspections

- Run the Crawford sale barn for 3 weeks in January until we hired a new inspector.
- Visited Ogallala barn 2 time this quarter
- Visited Alliance, Gordon, Rushville, and/or Crawford sale barns 16 times this quarter
- Helped cover the Scottsbluff and Bridgeport areas and completed 17 inspections
- Helped at Ogallala, Crawford, Rushville, and Platte Valley Livestock during sale days
- Worked with producers, staff, and sale barns to clear up various holds.
- Completed an inventory inspection for a financial institute.
- Completed 21 RFL audits from North Platte to Morrill.
- Worked a production sale with IT coordinator.
- Went to Gordon to assist inspector on a confiscated cattle issue.
- Had to appear in court to give my testimony on a bankruptcy case

- Went to Torrington Livestock to clear up a hold.

### **Personnel**

- Continually handling personnel issues as needed
- I email my inspectors every two weeks to keep them informed of issues, training, and my schedule for upcoming week
- Continually answering phone calls from inspectors
- Working closely with area investigator, IT coordinator, and other area supervisors to better serve the Brand Committee
- Continually working with Alliance Office staff on clearing up holds, payments for On The Go system, time sheets, and personnel issues as needed
- Conference calls every Thursday for supervisors.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. Thanks

Cody Waite

Area West Supervisor

(308) 562-0148

## North District Supervisor Quarterly Report

***Kayla Jesse***

### ***RFLs***

RFLs, continue to be caught up and on track with the scheduled Audits.

Monthly Audits at Adams Land and Livestock

### ***Personal Changes and challenges***

A few changes in my area with personal include an open Intermittent position and a full time position with in the Ainsworth area. We interviewed 6 people, offered jobs to two people, both people rejected the offers. We are working on a new option and will update as soon as I can.

### ***Day to Day .***

Everyone is healthy and working hard to keep everything, covered especially being shorthanded in some areas, the inspectors are working well together in making sure nothing is missed.

Helping the inspectors keep an eye on their comp time hrs, and moving people around where needed.

Production sales are underway, been helping get printers and internet set up so the sale can be done smoothly.

I seriously can't be more proud of my area and the people I work with, we are definitely a team and it shows by how smoothly things are going.

### ***Meetings and training***

Third Quarterly Inspector in Charge meeting in Thedford. Good turnout and employee participation.

Been working on training with some inspectors, specifically looking at brands, doing the inspections correctly and all aspects of the Brand Inspection job. Sale barns tallies, Packer tallies ext...

\*visiting Sale Barns and inspectors \* keeping an eye on inspectors hrs and mileage vouchers \* taking phone calls for help with IT issues and other employee questions



# NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE

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## South – Quarterly Report March 2021

### Employment

- Interview North Platte fulltime Inspector position held 3/10 – position offered
- Roberts Cattle – RFL doubling size ... 20-24,000 head – done Aug?
- North Platte getting Packing plant – break ground in May?

### Training

- Continually working with inspectors in my area on the sale barn program and how to handle various situations that arise
- Have Supervisor conference calls weekly
- Nebraska Interactive conference calls and zoom meetings regularly
- TK App calls/meetings when Inigma has time
- Have quarterly In-Charge training
- Helped build new cellular iPads

### Visits / Inspections

- Visited Lexington, North Platte, Alma, Imperial, and McCook sale barns
- Completed Registered Feedlot Audits – on schedule
- Still 'dispatching' locals – working out well
- Have received calls that required more in Investigative work – forwarded to Inv Fell resulted in Neglect & Theft
- South area work load has been steady – with a lot of Production / Bull sales
- Inv. Fell and myself went to Lexington to speak with producer who also is involved with RFL – this producer and RFL has continuous issues with paperwork ... hope to make things better for inspectors at salebarn
- Danna gone 1 week in January – was able to keep things in order
- Worked several production sales
- Went to Cattlemen's Classic – 1 day



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## Personnel

- Email inspectors to keep them informed
- Continually answering calls
- Assist with clearing Holds and Pending Payments
- Deal with personnel issues
- Reviewing/approving expense vouchers and Vacation requests
- Work together with the other Dist. Supervisors to best serve the Brand Area
- Not seeing the issues with Covid like we were – however had bitter cold weather -20 to -30 (which canceled sales)
- Answer calls/questions from inspectors within each of the areas
- Keeping comp time hours to reasonable amount

Kortnie Shafer  
South District Supervisor / Asst IT Corrdinator  
Nebraska Brand Committee





# NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE

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## March 2021

### Quarterly Report – East

- It has been a busy quarter with large sales since the first of the year, Numerous Bull sales at barns as well as sales at the producer's ranches, and the Cattleman's Classic show and sale.
- We made a few changes with personnel. Jess Smola was moved to take over for Doug Jones at JBS. Doug will continue to help Jess and cover at sale barns and local inspections where needed. Ashlin Bussell has been put in the Kearney rotation and is doing well.
- Kortnie is helping me with interviews in Kearney on March 9<sup>th</sup> to replace Jess Smola and I will be going to help her with interviews in North Platte on March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- I will be hosting the in-charge inspector meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Thedford. We will be working on some IT update training and touch base with investigators and office staff on areas that we can improve on.
- Registered feedlot audits have been going well.
- I continue to go to all my sale barns and Major packing houses on a monthly basis. This has been helpful in adjusting some time and understanding of the daily activities of inspectors covering those areas. It also helps visiting with Barn owners and Packers on ways to make things run smoother.
- Staff and producers call on a daily basis with questions, concerns along with scheduling inspections and barn help.
- We are ready for some slow time, for staff to relax and burn some comp time.

Shawn Hanks  
East Area District Supervisor  
Nebraska Brand Committee  
shawn.hanks@nebraska.gov

NEBRASKA BRAND COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY MEETING

MARCH 16, 2021

Chief Investigator / Chief of Field Operations

Quarterly Report  
Dave Horton

Assist Executive Director with research, scheduling, setting up meetings and answering questions, also compile all-staff newsletters, instructional emails and corrective actions.

Participate in Leadership and Supervisor Conference calls and planning sessions.

Receive calls from producers, inspectors and investigators, regarding inspection scheduling, inspection questions, investigation reviews and updates. Field producer complaints and determine solutions, contact needed personnel to make corrections and coordinate intervention efforts. Receive and delegate violations, missing livestock reports and other criminal complaints to area investigators. Travel to duty stations making contact with staff, livestock market operators, producers and general public.

Research statutes, records and archives to assist Senators, Reporters, and other state agencies with inquires relating to Nebraska Brand Committee statutes, rules and regulations and procedures.

Assist Office Staff on state reports, office updates, inspection, investigation and procedural questions.

Participate in new hire interviews.

Work with other states investigators, brand inspectors, other field and office staff pertaining to investigations, violations, brand holds, transportation matters and other issues. Other states involved this quarter, Utah, South Dakota, North Dakota, Idaho, Kansas, Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma.

Complete RFL audits in Phelps and Kearney counties, input shipping certificates into system.

Set up and work information booth at the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic, Kearney NE.

Attend Western States Livestock Rural Enforcement Association web-conference, able to receive mandatory continuing education to complete Law Enforcement requirements.

Complete and submit required Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System reports.