

Date Line August 12, 2021

--For Immediate Release --

### Nebraska Brand law changes - Inspection fee reduction, 48-hour notice enacted

Alliance, Neb- the Nebraska Brand Committee will soon be rolling out changes, required by law, due to the passage of LB 572 in May. One of the most significant items of this law included the reduction of the per head brand inspection fee from \$1.00 to \$.85. This will impact all local country, sale barn, locker/packer and Registered Feedlot inspections. This reduction is intended to help reduce the cash reserve accounts that NBC has amassed over the last several years with the efficiencies gained in part, by implementing the new technology systems and staff comp time management processes. This reduction will be in effect starting October 1 of 2021 and lasting until July 31 of 2023.

A second piece of the requirement enacted by law will be a 48-hour notice for country inspections. The 48-hour notice should allow for greater efficiency in the time and mileage incurred by inspectors, a savings intended to be passed on to producers. There will be a \$50 fee for those inspections scheduled less than 48 hours ahead. This will be implemented starting September 1, 2021.

Other components of LB572 include:

- Waiver-able citations; This will enable Brand investigators to write tickets for violations instead of submitting them to the County Attorney.
- E-Inspections will provide for electronic ID tags, that once enrolled in the NBC animal database, will allow producers to create their own electronic inspections through the NBC Client portal. The E-inspections will be introduced by starting with non-change of ownership inspections and progressing to other types of inspections (Change of Owner, sale barn, lockers, packers). The implementation date of this will be announced once the criteria has been fully developed and tested
- Dairy shipping certificate that will allow the dairy industry to ship non-branded calves less than 30 days of age without having a physical brand inspection performed.
- Transitioning from a flat surcharge to a mileage charge for actual miles accrued for each inspection. The NBC is currently working on a reasonable system of implementation to carry out this piece of legislation.
- Potential revision of specific Brand Fee schedule items.

All of these additional items will be evaluated on their own for most optimal introduction time after thorough evaluation of how each process will be implemented.

Nebraska Brand Committee is fully aware of the need for producer education and will be utilizing multiple media formats to give all producers time to make adjustments to the new rules and their timeline. Should producers have questions, direct them to the NBC office or the area Supervisors which can be found at [www.nbc.Nebraska.gov](http://www.nbc.Nebraska.gov).

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The Nebraska Brand Committee is the state agency responsible for recording individual livestock brands, inspecting livestock at transfer of ownership and movements into and out of the brand area, as well as investigating missing and stolen cattle and violations of the Nebraska Brand Law. NBC inspected over 3.7 million head of cattle in fiscal year 2020-2021 with 80 staff and was established to protect the assets of Nebraska Cattle producers since 1941.

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