

Information for Brand Owners

Although there are no legal requirements for branding iron size, they should be 4 inches in height with a 3/8-inch face. Irons should be heated to wood-ash gray before applying to hide. They should burn deep enough so the scars will peel.

When branding, position the characters in your brand exactly as shown on your brand certificate. The brand must be placed on the proper location on the animal. Every person in charge of livestock shipment should know the ownership of the brands on the animals their care.

Obtain a bill of sale from the recorded brand owner when buying branded livestock. This will eliminate delays at the markets. Brand inspectors will not honor a bill of sale covering livestock bearing a recorded brand unless it has been signed by the recorded owner and witnessed by a disinterested party. Proof of ownership will be required for animals bearing fresh brands when such animals carry an old brand. **Branding livestock with your brand in no way exempts you from having to prove ownership on an existing brand on the animal.**

A brand, regardless of its recording date, is to be renewed on a predetermined five year schedule. A renewal notice will be mailed to the last known address on file in the brand recording office. **Contact the North Dakota Stockmen's Association at (701) 223-2522 or brands@ndstockmen.org if your mailing address changes.**

Information about Brand Recording

- Brands may be configured straight away, monogramed, stacked, stacked monogram, flying or hanging.
- Brands must consist of two, or more, letters, numbers or symbols.
- Characters should be proportionate in size. Letters and symbols may be lazy, reversed or inverted.
- Capital print block letters of the alphabet excluding G and Q may be used. **A B C D E F H I J K L M N O P R S T U V W X Y Z**
- Numbers two through nine may be used. **2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**
- The following symbols may be used: arrow, box, slash, bar, diamond, quarter circle, rafter, mill iron, heart, triangle, star and cross.



- Brands that are identical or deemed deceptively similar to current brands cannot be recorded.
- Brands comprised of letters, numbers or symbols within another letter, number or symbol cannot be recorded.
- Brands judged to be unreadable when placed on livestock cannot be recorded.
- Brands recorded in another state may not be recorded in the same position on the same species in North Dakota.
- Numerical brands of two or more upright numbers cannot be recorded on the hips of cattle.
- **Anyone listed as an owner must sign the application.** Children must be old enough to sign the application to be listed as owners.
- Brands recorded in a trust must name the trustees. Trust papers, such as a certificate of trust, that appoint the trustees and define the trustees' power of sale must accompany the application.
- Brands may be recorded in the name of a business in some instances. For more information, contact the North Dakota Stockmen's Association at (701) 223-2522 or brands@ndstockmen.org.
- Brand recording and brand transfer fees are \$25 per position per species.



(ex. One horse position = \$25. One cattle position and one horse position = \$50. Three cattle positions = \$75)

Positions Available on Livestock

Horses | Mules

left or right hip
left or right jaw
left or right shoulder

Cattle

left or right hip
left or right rib
left or right shoulder

Buffalo

left or right hip
left or right rib

Sheep | Goats

bridge of nose
left or right nose
left or right jaw
left or right ear

Swine

left or right hip
left or right shoulder
left or right rib
left or right jaw
back

Brand Joint Ownership Definitions

“And” = Tenants in Common, which means that all owners on the brand will need to sign a bill of sale. It will also mean that in the event a brand owner dies, his or her portion of the brand will then be assumed by his or her estate.

“And/Or” = Joint Tenancy and Tenants in Common, which means any owner on the brand can sign a bill of sale. It will also mean that in the event that a brand owner dies, his or her portion of the brand will then be assumed by his or her estate.

“Or” = Joint Tenancy, which means any owner on the brand can sign a bill of sale. It will also mean that in the event that a brand owner dies, his or her portion of the brand will then be assumed by the remaining brand owners.