

MINUTES
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
BRAND BOARD
1 p.m. CT • Tuesday, March 11, 2025
NDSA Headquarters • 4520 Ottawa St., Bismarck, N.D.

North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) Brand Board Chairman Joe Schettler called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Others present included Shane Anderson, Scott Katus and Justin Maddock, as well as Tim Erbele, Randy Schmitt and NDSA staff Corey Bergrud, Julie Ellingson, Nick Marolt, Corby Ward and Joan Zimmerman.

Agenda

Joe Schettler asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda, but there were no items.

Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the Dec. 3, 2024, meeting. *1st Shane Anderson, 2nd Justin Maddock, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.*

Brand Departments' Budget Review and Financial Review

The Brand Board reviewed the Fiscal Year 2025 budget recommendations made by the NDSA Budget Committee. The budget is based upon a 1.25 million head inspection estimate. The Brand Inspection budget includes the purchase of the new state radios required to be in place by 2026. The Brand Recording budget includes 1,000 hours of temporary help for the brand renewal period.

Electronic Brand Inspection Program

Technology Support Specialist Corey Bergrud reported on the electronic brand inspection program conversion, noting that 100 iPads are in use by brand inspectors, there is progress on the auction market system, with the first computer scheduled to go into Kist Livestock this month, and there has been a change from the Verizon Mobile Design Management system to a new system better suited to the scope of the project.

Brand Recording Report

Joan Zimmerman, brand recorder, reported on recording activity, including 63 permanent horse permits issued, 55 new brands registered and 35 brands transferred so far in 2025. She indicated that she is working to increase awareness about producers needing to update their addresses, if applicable, so they receive renewal information when the time comes.

Deputy Brand Inspectors Reports

Deputy Brand Inspector Nick Marolt reported on deputy activities, including work on finding missing bulls, assisting with a semi rollover, addressing the illegal transport of cattle, an animal neglect case and dissolved share agreements, among other items. Deputy Brand Inspector Clint Hecker was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, there was no report.

Chief Brand Inspectors Report

Corby Ward, chief brand inspector, talked about inspection workforce needs in western North Dakota markets, the state laws regarding providing proof of ownership and brand inspection before traveling across state lines, the online brand book mechanism, registered feedlot rules and plans to keep an available-brand resource for producers to use to ease their ability to find a brand.

Annual Brand Inspectors Meeting Plans

The Brand Board discussed the Annual Brand Inspectors Meeting, deciding that it would be held July 15, following the Brand Board meeting, in the afternoon at the headquarters office. They discussed the objectives of the meeting and the importance of engagement between the Brand Board and the inspection team throughout the year. They decided there would not be apparel given this year.

Claim 2025-3

The Brand Board reviewed Claim 2025-3. *1st Justin Maddock, 2nd Shane Anderson, to pay Dave Marschner for mileage for the claim submitted Jan. 8, 2025. Motion carried.*

Legislative Update and Century Code Review

Julie Ellingson, executive vice president, reported on the status of three bills pertaining to the Brand Inspection and Brand Recording programs in the legislature. SB 2087, pertaining to premises registration, passed in the Senate 47 to 0 and in the House 93 to 0. SB 2139, pertaining to brand recording fees, passed in the Senate 43 to 4 and committee work will be held in the House Ag Committee on March 14. SB 2148, pertaining to the estray fund, failed in the Senate 3 to 44. The Brand Board also reviewed North Dakota Century Code 4.1-72.

Adjourn

1st Shane Anderson, 2nd Scott Katus, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3 p.m.

Julie Ellingson, Secretary

Randy Schmitt, President