

Branding Iron



Corby Ward,
Chief Brand Inspector
Bismarck



It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner and a new year will be here soon. It sure seems to me that this year has gone by fast.

Overall, it was a good year. There was good moisture, good weather that lasted longer than usual and good cattle prices, too.

Cattle numbers may be down around the country, but the fall run was still a busy time here in North Dakota. Most of our sale barns were a little lower on numbers, yet a few were slightly ahead of last year's totals.

Brands have always been interesting to me. The history behind them, the legacy of them and even the characters they include often have special meaning. I know people who have a brand that has been passed down for generations that span more than 120 years.

When I lived in Wyoming years ago, we had an older neighbor who we helped quite often. One summer, I hauled a bunch of hay from one of his fields down to where he and his family wintered and calved their cows.

While we were eating lunch one day, we got to talking about brands and their old family brands. They had the brand that they used, as well as a

couple of brands that had been passed down in their family. It was neat learning about their ancestors, where they had started ranching and how they ended up where they were.

I didn't think much about it after that day, but, about a month later, those neighbors stopped in at our house. They had a signed transfer form for one of their brands along with them, and they gave it to us. The brand is an "H-flying-a-W" on both cattle and horses. That brand had belonged to the neighbor's father-in-law and was 106 years old when they gave it to us.

We were surprised by their gift, and we still appreciate it very much today. In fact, we still have the brand recorded in Wyoming and will continue to keep it.

North Dakota's brand renewal period is almost over, and I hope that everyone has gotten that project taken care of. All the livestock brands that aren't renewed will expire on Dec. 31. It's no fun for anyone when proceeds get held at the market and someone realizes they forgot to renew their brand. I don't want to see anyone lose their family brand or its history. Please be sure to take care of business before the end of the year.

BRAND INSPECTORS

CHIEF BRAND INSPECTOR:

Corby Ward
(701) 595-2421

DEPUTY BRAND INSPECTOR:

Nick Marolt
(701) 595-6269

DEPUTY BRAND INSPECTOR:

Isaac Cadet
(701) 595-6521

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SPECIALIST:

Corey Bergrud
(701) 595-6465

AUCTION MARKET BRAND OFFICES:

ABERDEEN, SD

Aberdeen Livestock Sales • (605) 225-2062
Hub City Livestock • (605) 225-3273

BOWMAN

Bowman Livestock Auction • (701) 523-5765

DEVILS LAKE

Lake Region Livestock • (701) 622-1045

DICKINSON

Stockmen's West • (701) 225-2819
Stockmen's Livestock Exchange • (701) 225-2819

HERREID, SD

Herreid Livestock Market • (605) 437-2265

JAMESTOWN

Jamestown Livestock Auction • (701) 252-5288

MANDAN

Kist Livestock Auction • (701) 663-8770

NAPOLEON

Napoleon Livestock Auction • (701) 754-2220

RUGBY

Rugby Livestock Sales • (701) 776-6019

SISSETON, SD

Sisseton Livestock • (605) 698-4343

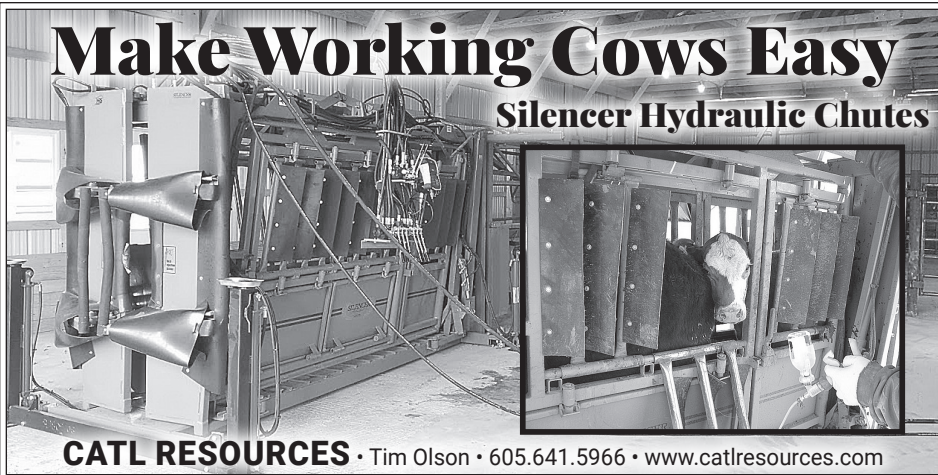
WISHEK

Wishek Livestock Auction • (701) 452-2306

LOCAL BRAND INSPECTORS:

See the North Dakota Cattle Directory for a complete listing beginning on page 60 or visit www.ndstockmen.org.

Make Working Cows Easy Silencer Hydraulic Chutes



CATL RESOURCES • Tim Olson • 605.641.5966 • www.catlresources.com