

Branding Iron



Corby Ward, Chief Brand Inspector *Bismarck*



Here we are in another month, and the year is going by fast again. In July, we had some hot days that sure dried out some country. Hopefully we can get some more timely rain going into fall.

In late July, the NDSA deputies, a full-time inspector and I attended the International Livestock Identification Association's yearly conference. This year it was held in Layton, Utah. I enjoy going to these conferences to hear from the different speakers and to visit with representatives from other states about how things are going in their areas. This year, there were people in attendance from 14 states and two Canadian provinces.

There are common problems and issues that every state and province runs into, but, sometimes, there are some interesting things that we don't see here in North Dakota. Getting information from guys in Texas who are dealing with the New World screwworm firsthand was very interesting. Their experiences are considerably different than what a person is seeing or reading in the news.

Based on conversations with those directly involved, the on-the-ground perspective differed from what many news reports have conveyed. Several expressed the view that media coverage has amplified the severity of the current outbreak and raised concerns about the effectiveness of the response efforts.

A couple of the states are dealing with growing numbers of cattle being randomly shot and killed, mostly on federal grazing lands. Louisiana recently found a horse that was being used to transport drugs with direct ties to a drug cartel operating out of Florida and Mexico. Hearing those stories and experiences makes a guy appreciate that we don't see — and hopefully won't see — those issues become our issues here at home.

We drove through a little of South Dakota and across Wyoming to get there, and then up through southern Idaho and across Montana coming home. There's a lot of country that needs some moisture in that loop, but there were some areas that looked like they were having a pretty good year. 🌧️



Representing leadership at the International Livestock Identification Association Conference in Layton, Utah, were (L to R) Ty Thomas, Montana, immediate past president; CJ Fell, Nebraska, president; Richard Wright, California, vice president; Corby Ward, North Dakota, director; Rob Maerz, Alberta, Canada, president elect; Shawn McLean, Alberta, Canada director at large, and Chad Parker, California, secretary/treasurer.

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

NAPOLÉON

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.