

# Branding Iron



**Corby Ward,**  
Chief Brand Inspector  
*Bismarck*

The sun is shining and things are greening up nicely outside as I write this. I've always thought spring green-up is the best time of the year. Baby calves and green grass are a combination that is hard to beat.

A topic of conversation that seems to get people fired up is when brand inspectors clip cattle. We've all seen or had it done before and, depending on whether you are the inspector, seller or buyer, everyone has their thoughts.

I've been on all sides of the situation and can see an argument for each. But, at the end of the day, knowing exactly what's on that animal is most important, in my opinion. As a seller, I sure don't want people to think I'm stealing cattle and, as a buyer, I don't want to purchase cattle that may have

an ownership issue. Also, as a brand inspector, we don't want to send something down the road with questionable paperwork.

Anyone who's been around cattle knows that it can be tough to read brands in the wintertime when cattle are haired up. Plus, as easy it is for cattle to be moved around the country, we see a lot of brands that aren't North Dakota brands.

Another thing that inspectors see are cattle that come with a lot of paperwork. That's generally not an issue and we don't mind it, but there are times when things just don't add up between the animals and the paperwork.

At the end of the day, the inspectors are looking out for the producers and, honestly, it's not a lot of fun to rope and clip cattle in the yards.

BBWF, RRWF	19	0	0	0	0	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>

*Brand inspection is essential for verifying legal ownership, preventing livestock theft and enabling lawful commerce of cattle, horses and mules. Brand inspectors cross-reference the brands found on cattle against the brands listed on the clearance to verify ownership. This particular clearance covers 19 head of cattle and includes 209 registered brands.*

## 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](http://www.ndstockmen.org).