

MINUTES
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
BRAND BOARD
9:30 a.m. CT • Tuesday, July 15, 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 9:30 a.m. Brand Board members present included Shane Anderson, Scott Katus and Justin Maddock. Others present included Corey Bergrud, Julie Ellingson, Tim Erbele, Brenda Gibbon, Roger Gibbon, Jason Leiseth, Randy Schmitt, 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 March 11, 2025, meeting. *1st Justin Maddock, 2nd Shane Anderson, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.*

Lienholder Correspondence

The Brand Board reviewed the current correspondence process when clearing an estray and decided to maintain the current system.

Claim 2025-35

The Brand Board reviewed Claim 2025-35. *1st Justin Maddock, 2nd Scott Katus, to pay \$212.50 in mileage to Vera Walker-Boyle for Estray Claim 2025-35. Motion carried.*

Brand Recorder Report and Brand Renewal Review

Joan Zimmerman, brand recorder, reported on recording activity for the year so far, including 167 new brands, 130 transfers and 237 permanent horse permits. She indicated that the brand renewal has begun as of July 1, with renewal notices to be sent to all brandowners approximately Aug. 1. Three part-time brand renewal clerks, Summer Fleck, Abby Lennick and Caroline Witte, will be assisting with the process. The brand recording and renewal fee also changed to \$50 as of July 1. The brand cards have also been refreshed with the new information and updated logo.

Electronic Brand Inspection Program Update

Technology Support Specialist Corey Bergrud reported on the electronic brand inspection program conversion, noting that 110 iPads are enrolled with 105 in active use by brand inspectors. He said there are 10 to be converted to the Mobile Device Management system. He noted a minor change to the application to show when brands are pending. The auction market programs are up at the Devils Lake, Dickinson, Mandan, Mobridge, S.D., Napoleon and Rugby markets.

Chief Brand Inspector Report

Corby Ward, chief brand inspector, reported that Dane Clarys had been hired as a full-time inspector and is splitting his time at the Mandan and Dickinson markets; the quarterly inspection reports will be completed soon, but estimates are 623,595 inspections so far for the year; \$37,000 worth of livestock has been recovered at the markets so far this year; and there is a need to discuss North Dakota's estray law with an out-of-state auction market. He also talked about the law requiring brand inspection before cattle, horses and mules leave the state. He indicated a possible candidate for a third deputy position. The Brand Board indicated it would look at the Brand Inspection program's financials, accounting for a salary, benefits, operating costs and a vehicle, to determine if this could be pursued, as it was not in the 2025 budget, and then schedule a video conference meeting once that research is done and a determination can be made.

Brand Law Changes

Julie Ellingson reported that, since the last Brand Board meeting, the North Dakota Legislature has concluded. SB 2139 dealing with the brand recording fee passed, while SB 2148 dealing with the estray process failed.

Presentation to the Brand Board

Roger and Brenda Gibbon appeared before the Brand Board to discuss an aging hold case.

Convention Planning

The Brand Board discussed the upcoming NDSA Annual Convention, including the Brand and Theft Committee meeting. The Brand Board suggested that Joan Zimmerman talk about brand renewal and offer tips for brandowners and that the chief and deputies provide reports as part of the agenda. The Brand Board discussed the Honorary Brand Inspector Award. *1st Scott Katus, 2nd Justin Maddock, to recommend Mark Scherbenske to the board for recognition as the Honorary Local Brand Inspector in 2025. Motion carried.* It was noted that four employees will be receiving service awards: Corby Ward for five years; Kenton Pulkrabek for 10 years; Mike Schwab for 20 years; and Julie Ellingson for 30 years.

Announcements

Brand renewal forms will be mailed, but those who wish to receive them ahead of that time can request to have them printed earlier. The Annual Brand Inspectors Meeting will begin at 3 p.m. at the headquarters today. It will include professional development and Beef Quality Assurance training.

Adjourn

1st Shane Anderson, 2nd Scott Katus, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Julie Ellingson, Secretary

Randy Schmitt, President