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NEW MEXICO LIVESTOCK BOARD



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New Mexico Livestock Industry:

- ✚ The NM Livestock Industry is far reaching in New Mexico's Economy.
 - Industries and businesses supported by the livestock industry:
 - Meat Production – Producers, Feed Yards, Meat Processing Plants;
 - Milk Production – Dairies, Milk Transport, Milk Processing Plants;
 - Fabric Production – Producers, Wool & Hair Processing Plants;
 - Farming – Products grown feed livestock;
 - Livestock Sale Barns and Traders;
 - Veterinarians;
 - Horse Racetracks;
 - Retail Sales – Grocery Stores, Restaurants.
 - **NOTE:** All of the above businesses employ thousands of people.

New Mexico Livestock Inspections and State Veterinarian:

- ✚ The NMLB protects the industry against loss of livestock by performing in person inspections:
 - Verify ownership through the hot iron brand process or other approved means of identification.
 - Prevent the spread of disease by inspecting imported livestock for health papers.
- ✚ The southern border of NM is home to the world's largest land cattle port, where approximately 640,000 head of Mexican origin cattle cross each calendar year. The NMLB protects the industry from spread of disease, by providing traceability of those animals across the United States.
- ✚ The NMLB has some of the strongest traceability program and brand laws in the nation.
- ✚ The NMLB works with the US Department of Agriculture to control the spread of disease throughout the nation.
 - Hemorrhagic Fever in both domestic and wild rabbits across the state.
 - Avian Influenza in all bird species across the nation.
 - Vesicular Stomatitis in horses.
 - Tuberculosis (TB) in cattle.
- **NOTE:** Many of these diseases are transferrable to humans.
- ✚ The NMLB investigates and prosecutes animal cruelty cases regarding livestock across the state.
 - **NOTE:** See Attached Photos

New Mexico Meat and Poultry Inspections:

- ✚ Economic Development Opportunities:
 - Expansion of field to table and/or confined feeding operations.
 - Expansion of customer base for farmers.
 - Expansion of the number of meat processing plants.
 - Expansion of retail sales to retailers, restaurants, and direct-to-consumer markets.
 - Encourage small business development.
 - Support and grow rural economies.
 - Allow small producers to expand business.
 - Allow the purchase of locally grown meat and poultry to the consumers.

Where We Are Now:

- ✚ Under authority, given to the NMLB, in Chapter 77-2-7(I) NMSA 1978 NMAC Rules have been promulgated and are in effect as of July 13, 2022.
- ✚ We are actively seeking applicants for the MPI Program Director position.
- ✚ We are working with SPO to create all of the necessary positions to begin hiring meat inspectors and support staff.
- ✚ Once a Director is hired we will begin required trainings and negotiating with FSIS to enter into an agreement for the Program to meet Federal Preemption requirement.

Needs of the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB):

- ✚ Budget Increase for the Livestock Inspection Program:
 - In the years FY21 & 22 the NMLB has consistently filled all vacant positions as quickly as possible and retained employees. Currently we have five vacant inspector positions and in the process of filling four of them.
 - We have re-classified an inspector position to be a Veterinarian Emergency Manager which will put us into compliance with the USDA for both the live animal disease outbreaks and the MPI.
 - With the positive returns from our two Special Investigator positions we have seen the need for that type of law enforcement activity. The NMLB is requesting two additional FTE's. The prevention of loss and additional recovery will be a boost to the agricultural industry in the state.
 - NMLB Certified Law Enforcement Inspectors are not properly placed in the new pay bands recently approved by SPO. In-pay band adjustments are being advised by the New Mexico State Personnel Board. NMLB is requesting funding to support that action.
 - We are currently performing TB testing at three major dairies in the SE part of the state.
 - In-State Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs are 100% funded by the States as a service to the consumers. A commitment for re-occurring funding is essential for the program to be effective and sustainable.
 - Special Appropriations Request – Currently all the NMLB's IT Hardware is seven to nine years old. We are currently acquiring quotes for the cost of the refresh project.