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NEW MEXICO LIVESTOCK BOARD



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Important Facts:

- ✚ The New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) is the oldest law enforcement agency in the state. The agency derived from the Cattle Sanitary Board, founded in 1887, and the Sheep Sanitary Board, founded in 1889, merging in 1967 to become the NMLB which continues to operate today.
- ✚ The NMLB is charged with serving and protecting the NM Livestock Industry against loss of livestock by theft or straying, control of the spread of dangerous diseases of livestock, and to prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases by natural occurrence or bioterrorism.
- ✚ The NM Livestock Industry produces \$3 – \$4 Billion Dollars a year in revenue for the state.

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.
- ✚ The NMLB investigates and prosecutes animal cruelty cases in regard to livestock across the state.

New Mexico Meat and Poultry Inspections:

- ✚ The NMLB has the authority under 77-2-7(I) NMSA 1978 to adopt and promulgate rules for meat inspection, including the slaughter and disposition of the carcasses of livestock affected with diseases when the action appears necessary to prevent the spread of any contagion or infection among livestock.
- ✚ According to the U.S. Census Bureau for 2017 NM ranked in the nation as stated below:
 - NM had 153 food manufacturing firms and 159 food manufacturing establishment, ranking 41st.
 - The total revenue associated with food manufacturing was \$3.04 billion and 4,183 people were employed with an annual payroll of \$178.84 million, ranking 45th.
 - As a ratio of the state agricultural cash receipts, i.e., food manufacturing revenue / agricultural cash receipts, NM ranks 46th.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Other Benefits of In-State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program:
 - The state controls the number of inspectors available to the processing plants. Thus, meeting the needs of the small processors where federal limitations may make it more difficult.
 - Processing plants find it easier to work with state licensing and inspectors.
 - The NMLB Livestock Inspectors perform ownership verification by inspecting hides at current licensed processing plants. With an in-state meat and poultry inspection program the businesses will be working with one agency.
 - Increased safety for the consumer, by the state providing more inspections at custom-exempt facilities which are currently inspected on a minimal basis.
 - Increased regulatory compliance actions against unlicensed and uninspected processing plants.

How The Program Works:

- ✚ NM must promulgate rules that are equal to or above the laws administered by the US Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS). There is “Federal Preemption” over meat & poultry processing in the US.
- ✚ After NM has met all federal requirements, both administrative and operational, an In-State Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) Program agreement may be entered. This allows for intra-state commerce of inspected meat products.
- ✚ After operating under the MPI and meeting all federal requirements, the state may work towards entering a Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) agreement which allows for inter-state commerce of inspected meat products.
- ✚ The MPI may be reimbursed, up to 50%, by the Federal Government once all requirements have been met. The FSIS is advising that reimbursement usually happens in 2 – 4 years once the MPI agreement is entered.

Needs of the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB):

✚ Budget Increase for the Livestock Inspection Program:

- In 2019 the NMLB was awarded two (2) new FTE's to hire Special Investigators for crimes in the livestock industry. However no extra General Funds were given to support those positions. Currently, all inspector positions, with the exception of two, have been or are in the process of being filled. The NMLB is requesting funding for the two Investigator positions.
- Positive returns from the two Special Investigator positions have shown the need for that type of law enforcement activity. The NMLB is requesting another FTE for a third Special Investigator and the funds to support the position.
- The past year and half have definitely given light to the fact the NMLB needs an Emergency Manager to establish set guidelines to handle emergency situations. The types of emergencies this agency may be dealing with is so vast that a dedicated licensed veterinarian is required to effectively prepare for animal disease outbreaks. NMLB is requesting an FTE for an Emergency Manager and the funds to support the position.

NOTE: The NMLB is 85 – 90% self-funded. The three Special Investigators and the Emergency Manager is considered a service to the Livestock Industry and not revenue generating.

- Before FY20 the cost for the NMLB to efficiently rotate high mileage vehicles each year was removed from the General Funds Budget Request and Special Appropriations has been sought since that time. Inspectors, both livestock and meat, work out of vehicles and have home offices. New vehicles are an annual necessity and the NMLB is requesting reoccurring funds to rotate vehicles.
- NMLB Inspectors are not properly placed in the pay bands established by the NM Legislature. In-pay band adjustments are being advised by the New Mexico State Personnel Board. NMLB is requesting funding to support that action.
- 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.