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M R. Gardiner

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STOCK BRANDS AND MOVEMENT ACT

By M. R. GARDINER, Registrar of Brands.

ALL livestock owners in W.A. should understand the main provisions of the new Stock Brands and Movement Act which comes into force on January 1, 1972.

The Act deals mainly with stock brands, but important points covering the movement of livestock have been added.

STOCK MOVEMENT

The control of stock movement, which is necessary for the prevention of livestock theft and for the management of contagious stock diseases, has been made as simple and straightforward as possible for the stock owner.

Waybill

Owners wishing to transport cattle, sheep or pigs (horses are exempted) off their properties for sale or disposal must fill out the particulars on a waybill. (See example page 263.)

Books of waybills will be available at a nominal cost from all police stations and from the Midland office of the Department of Agriculture. The particulars of number and kind of stock, identifying brands and earmarks, the property of origin and the destination of the stock must be filled out in triplicate. The original and each copy of every waybill must be signed by the proprietor of the stock.

• The original will accompany the stock throughout the movement and will be delivered to the consignee of the stock.
• The first copy will be retained by the carrier or drover.
• The second copy will be retained by the proprietor consigning the stock.

Police officers and inspectors may halt and inspect travelling stock and waybills. Owners who wish to move stock repeatedly to and from neighbouring properties for management reasons may obtain special permits for the purpose from police stations or from the Midland office of the Department of Agriculture.

STOCK BRANDS

In the new Act a distinction is made between a registered brand and a registered earmark.

• A registered brand, which comprises, as before, an arrangement of 2 letters and a numeral, may be impressed either as a woolbrand, a firebrand, a freezebrand, a tattoo or an eartag.

• An earmark is also registered and is identical to the present earmark for each owner.

All brands, tattoos, tags and earmarks must be legible at all times.

The provisions for the various types of stock are as follows:

Sheep

Sheep must be earmarked AND branded. An eartag is equally as acceptable as a woolbrand, a firebrand (on the face or horn) or a tattoo.

Although woolbrands will still be permitted, the sanctioning of this form of brand should not be taken as a departmental recommendation. The Department realises that woolbrands have certain disadvantages such as lack of permanence, problems of legibility in long-wooled sheep, and adulteration of wool. They may be used if they are legibly imprinted and are replaced when they are no longer legible.

The use of a black branding fluid will still be illegal.

If an owner elects to use a tattoo for a registered brand on sheep, it must be placed in the opposite ear to that carrying both the mandatory earmark and the optional registered eartag. The earmark and the eartag will appear on the same ear—in the case of male sheep on the off, or right, ear and in the case of female sheep on the near, or left, ear. This leaves the opposite ear free for any other mark such as age marks, private reference marks, etc., authorised under the Regulations, as well as for the registered tattoo if used.

Eartags used as a registered brand must be a type approved by the Registrar,* and the colours must denote year of birth as follows:

* A subsequent article in this Journal will describe and make recommendations on sheep eartags.

Sheep in the South-West Land Division must be earmarked before being weaned, before the age of 6 months or before being removed from the property, whichever occurs first. They must also be branded (woolbranded, ear tagged, firebranded or tattooed) after shearing or before being removed from the property, whichever occurs first.

The exceptions to these requirements are:
- Sucker lambs being removed from a property and accompanied by their mothers need not be earmarked or branded.
- Lambs being consigned for slaughter need not be branded, but they must be earmarked. If the lambs are not in fact slaughtered, they must be branded within 48 hours of arrival at their destination.

Stud sheep
An owner of stud sheep may use his Breed Society mark in lieu of his registered earmark or firebrand. He need not apply a registered brand while the Society mark is legible and the animals continue to be treated as stud sheep.

Cattle
Cattle must be branded OR earmarked. However, both may be used on the same animal. The first registered brand, if a brand is elected, must be placed either on the near (left) rump, near shoulder or near cheek. At present, the only acceptable forms of branding for cattle are firebrand and freezebrand, although other methods may be registered in the future.

Cattle brands or earmarks must be applied before the age of 6 months in the South-West Land Division and certain adjacent shires or before the age of 18 months elsewhere in the State. However, if cattle are removed from properties before these ages, they must be branded or earmarked unless sucking and accompanied by their mothers.

Stud cattle
The owners of stud cattle may, in lieu of registered brands and earmarks, use Breed Society marks while the cattle continue to be treated as stud cattle.

In the case of Friesian cattle which are positively identified by photographs (as required by the Friesian Breed Society), a registered brand or earmark need not be used while the cattle are treated as stud Friesian cattle. However, on removal from a property for any purpose such cattle must be identified by a tail tag on which is imprinted the rotary number of the registered brand or earmark of the owner (the same as the tail tag required under the Stock Diseases Act for traceback from abattoirs).

Horses
Horses must be firebranded or freezebranded on the near (left) shoulder. In the South-West Land Division and certain adjacent shires, they must be branded before 6 months of age or before removal from the property, whichever occurs first. In other areas they must be branded before 18 months of age or removal from the property, whichever occurs first.

Foals under the age of 6 months need not be branded if removed from a property and still sucking and accompanied by their dams.

Other registered brands, such as a tattoo, may be approved by the Registrar in lieu of a brand on the shoulder.

Pigs
Pigs 10 weeks or older must carry the registered brand in the form of a shoulder tattoo (left shoulder for pigs bred by the owner, right shoulder for bought-in pigs).

Stud pigs
A pig registered with the Australian Pig Society and bearing the registered stud prefix on its ear is exempt from tattooing provided it continues to be treated as a stud pig. If such an animal is forwarded to a sale other than a stud pig sale or to an abattoir for slaughter, it must carry the registered shoulder tattoo.

Goats
There is no compulsion to brand a goat with a registered brand but if a goat is marked for identification it can only be:
- by tattooing the registered brand in the ear,
- by tattooing the Breed Society mark in the ear, or
- by firebranding with the registered brand or Breed Society mark.

Eartags
A series of trials carried out by the Department has shown that certain eartags (which will be approved) remain intact and legible for
Sheep, cattle, horses, pigs or goats are not required to be rebranded as long as they are legibly branded and/or earmarked with the registered brand and/or earmark of a previous owner. The current owner must have a waybill or other legal document establishing his right to possession of the stock.

many months or even years if properly inserted, and have been shown to have an annual loss of less than 2 per cent. Sheep carrying registered eartags need not be re-tagged when they change ownership. The eartag brands of these sheep must be documented on subsequent waybills and waybills kept as evidence of ownership of purchased sheep.

In order to establish the ownership of sheep identified by ear tags carrying the registered brand, and to prevent the illegal use of registered ear tags by others, ear tags removed from bought-in sheep for replacement by an owner's own registered ear tags must be destroyed immediately and the replacement tags must be inserted at once.

It will be an offence to remove a registered ear tag from sheep on agistment and a tag lost from an agisted sheep may only be replaced by a registered tag of the lawful owner.

**STOCK (BRANDS AND MOVEMENT) ACT, 1970**

*(Sec. 46)*

**LIVESTOCK WAYBILL**

The undermentioned stock are the property of:

(Full Name) DEREK OSBORNE of (Postal Address) P.O. KUMWATMAY 6999

and are in transit from "TEMPLETONIA" KUMWATMAY and consigned to (Name of Consignee) Associated livestock agents at (Destination) MIDLAND JUNCTION

Signature D. Osborne (Owner, Proprietor or Agent) Date Dec 1, 51

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description of Stock</th>
<th>Brands</th>
<th>Earmarks</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>FM Wethers.</td>
<td>08 D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>FM ewes</td>
<td>08 D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Suckers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rams</td>
<td>08 D</td>
<td>(Horn Brand)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Original—To be handed to Consignee

Duplicate—To be retained by Drover/Carrier for 6 months from above date.

Triplet—To be retained by Owner/Proprietor or His/Her Agent.

Endorsement by INSPECTOR/POLICE OFFICER. (Name, Designation, Date and Time).

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