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APR 16 1981

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**ANIMAL SCIENCE FACT SHEET
NO. 9—REVISED 1981
C.J. CHRISTIANS and R.B. SOLAC**

Branding Beef Cattle

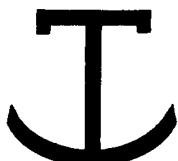
A law governing the branding of livestock became effective January 1, 1966, in Minnesota. It was revised July 1, 1975. In this sheet, we explain some pertinent points of the law.

Branding is a permanent method of identifying beef cattle. All letters, numbers, and figures should be 4 inches or more in length or diameter. You must burn this mark into the hide of a live animal with a hot iron.

Herd Identification—You must register your herd identification brand with the State Board of Animal Health. And you must place this brand in exactly the same location on each animal as recorded with the board. Usually, brands denote the farm or ranch such as:



Circle M
Ranch



Rocking T
Ranch



C. K. Ranch

Individual Identification—In addition to the herd brand, you can identify each animal individually. Put these marks in a different place on the animal than you put the herd identification. Since you brand every individual differently, you do not record individual brands with the board.

REGISTERING BRANDS

To register your herd identification brand, obtain the application form (pictured) from the Board of Animal Health, LL70 Metro Square Bldg., 7th and Robert Streets, St. Paul, MN 55101.

When applying, select at least three distinct marks or brands and list them in order of preference. Don't use brands that blotch easily. Also select three locations on the animal and list them in order of preference. The locations should be designated to the following body regions: head, bregma, right and left jaw, neck, shoulder, rib, hip, or breech.

Your application must be properly signed and notarized and accompanied by \$10. If the board accepts the brand, it is protected for 10 years. During that time, any person who knowingly places a duplicate of your brand any place upon an animal is guilty of a felony. If a person tampers with your brand on an animal to prevent its identification by you, that person is also guilty of a felony.

If the board cannot accept your brand because of conflicts with other registered brands, your application form and fee will be returned.

612-296-3592

State of Minnesota
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH
LL70 Metro Square Building
7th & Robert Streets, St. Paul, Mn. 55101

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF MARK OR BRAND
SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION IN DUPLICATE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FEE OF \$10.

STATE OF MINNESOTA) Date _____ 19____
) ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

I hereby make application for registration of brand, located on the animal as described below:

NAME _____
(Print or Type)

ADDRESS _____ COUNTY _____
(Zipcode)

TELEPHONE _____
NOTE: BRANDS ARE NOT RECORDABLE ON THE JAWS OF CATTLE OR THE RIBS OF HORSES.

(LEFT ANIMAL)

(RIGHT ANIMAL)

(EARS)

Draw your first choice on animals above and write name of brand as you read it here:

Second Choice: _____ Third Choice: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____
_____ day of _____, 19____

Notary Public

STATE BRAND BOOKS

All mark or brand applications approved by the board are published in a state brand book. Supplements and revised brand books are periodically published at the discretion of the board. The book contains a picture of each registered mark, along with the owner's name and address. Pertinent laws concerning brands are also included.

At least six months before publication of the revised book or supplements, all registered owners and assignees will be notified that their brand will terminate in six months and must be renewed. A reregistration fee of \$10 will be charged for the renewal. If you fail to renew a brand in time, you lose it. The board will not reissue your expired brand for two years to anyone but you.

You can obtain the state brand book and all supplements to it for the 10-year period at the cost of printing, handling, and mailing. The board will distribute the brand book and supplements to each county sheriff.

EVIDENCE OF OWNERSHIP

Marks or brands appearing in the current state brand book or supplements are evidence of ownership. In case of an ownership dispute, the person whose brand does not appear in the book must produce evidence to establish his title.

Only registered brands are subject to sale, assignment, transfer, bequest, etc.—the same as other personal property.

You can obtain proper forms from your county auditor. A transferred brand will be recorded with the board for a fee of \$10.

SELLING BRANDED ANIMALS

If you sell a branded animal, you must give the purchaser a written bill of sale. This bill of sale must include your signature and residence, the purchaser's name and address, the total number of animals sold, the kind and sex of each animal sold, and all registered brands.

The purchaser should keep the bill of sale for at least two years or as long as he owns any of the animals. Any hauler, other than railroads, who transports branded animals must be given a copy of the bill of sale. And the bill of sale or copy must accompany animals in transit.

If a peace officer or board inspector asks to see your bill of sale, you must show it. If you violate this section of the law, you are guilty of a misdemeanor.

Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Norman A. Brown, Director of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108. The University of Minnesota, including the Agricultural Extension Service, is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or handicap.

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