



# The National Agricultural Law Center

[nationalaglawcenter.org](http://nationalaglawcenter.org) | [nataglaw@uark.edu](mailto:nataglaw@uark.edu) | [@nataglaw](https://twitter.com/nataglaw)

States' Animal Identification Statutes:

*Nebraska*



This material is based upon work supported by the National Agricultural Library, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

# A National Agricultural Law Center Research Publication

## States' Animal Identification Statutes: Nebraska

Neb. Rev. Stat. Ch. 54, Art. 1  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Ch. 54, Art. 23, Sec 12  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Ch. 54, Art. 29, Sec 40  
Neb. Rev. Stat. Ch. 54, Art. 29, Sec 48

*Current through the end of the 2nd Regular Session of the 108th Legislature (2024).*

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-101 to 169. [Repealed].**

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-170. Act, how cited.**

Sections 54-170 to 54-1,131 shall be known and may be cited as the Livestock Brand Act.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-171. Definitions; where found.**

For purposes of the Livestock Brand Act, the definitions found in sections 54-171.01 to 54-190 shall be used.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-171.01. Approved nonvisual identifier, defined.**

Approved nonvisual identifier means a nonvisual method of livestock identification approved by the Nebraska Brand Committee such as an electronic device, a nose print, a retinal scan, a DNA match, or any other such nonvisual method of livestock identification.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-172. Bill of sale, defined.**

Bill of sale means a formal instrument for the conveyance or transfer of title to livestock or other goods and chattels. The bill of sale shall state the purchaser's name and address, the date of transfer, the guarantee of title, the number of livestock transferred, the sex of such livestock, the brand or brands, the location of the brand or brands or a statement to the effect that the animal is unbranded, any approved nonvisual identifiers, and the name and address of the seller. The signature of the seller shall be attested by at least one witness or acknowledged by a notary public or by some other officer authorized by state law to take acknowledgments. For any conveyance or transfer of title to cattle subject to assessment imposed pursuant to the federal Beef Promotion and Research Order, 7 C.F.R. part 1260, for which



the purchaser is the collecting person pursuant to 7 C.F.R. 1260.311 for purposes of collecting and remitting such assessment, the bill of sale shall include a notation of the amount the purchaser collected from the seller or deducted from the sale proceeds for the assessment. A properly executed bill of sale means a bill of sale that is provided by the seller and received by the purchaser.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-173. Brand clearance, defined.**

Brand clearance means the documentary evidence of ownership that is issued and signed by a brand inspector and given to persons who have legally purchased cattle at a livestock auction or sale where a brand inspection service is provided. The brand clearance shall give the name and address of sale or auction where issued, the name of purchaser, the number and sex of cattle, any brands, the location of any brands on the cattle, and any approved nonvisual identifiers.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-174. Brand inspection agency, defined.**

Brand inspection agency means an agency of a state, or a duly organized livestock association of a state, authorized by state law and registered with the Packers and Stockyards Division of the United States Department of Agriculture to charge and collect, at designated stockyards, packing plants, sales barns, or farm and ranch loading points, a reasonable and nondiscriminatory fee for the inspection of brands, marks, and other identifying characteristics of livestock originating in or shipped from such state for the purpose of determining the ownership of such livestock.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-175. Brand inspection area, defined.**

Brand inspection area means that portion of the State of Nebraska designated in section 54-1,109, where brand inspection is mandatory.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-175.01. Brand inspection service area, defined.**

Brand inspection service area means all Nebraska counties and areas of Nebraska counties contiguous with the brand inspection area designated by section 54-1,109.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-176. Brand inspector, defined.**

Brand inspector means a person employed by the Nebraska Brand Committee, or some other brand inspection agency, inside or outside of the State of Nebraska, for the purpose of identifying brands, marks, or other identifying characteristics of livestock or approved nonvisual identifiers to determine the existence of such brands, marks, or identifying characteristics or identifiers and from such determinations attempt to establish correct and true ownership of such livestock, and generally carry out the provisions and enforcement of all laws pertaining to brands, brand inspection, physical inspection, electronic inspection, and associated livestock laws.



**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-177. Carcass, defined.**

Carcass means the body, or part thereof but not less than one-fourth of a body, of any dead or slaughtered livestock.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-178. Cattle, defined.**

Cattle means bovine cattle only and does not relate to or include any other kind of animal.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-179. Certificate of inspection, defined.**

Certificate of inspection means the official document issued and signed by a brand inspector authorizing (1) movement of livestock from a point of origin within the brand inspection area to a destination either inside or outside of the brand inspection area or outside of this state, (2) slaughter of livestock as specified on such certificate, or (3) the change of ownership of livestock as specified on such certificate. A certificate of inspection shall designate, as needed, the name of the shipper, consignor, or seller of the livestock, the purchaser or consignee of the livestock, the destination of the livestock, the vehicle license number or carrier number, the miles driven by an inspector to perform inspection, the amount of inspection fees collected, the number and sex of the livestock to be moved or slaughtered, any brands on the livestock, any approved nonvisual identifiers, and the brand owner. A certificate of inspection shall be construed and is intended to be documentary evidence of ownership on all livestock covered by such document.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-179.01. Certified bill of sale, defined.**

Certified bill of sale means a document generated by the Nebraska Brand Committee from information provided electronically by a qualified dairy when selling calves under thirty days of age for beef production purposes. Such information shall include the name and physical address of the seller, the name and physical address of the purchaser, the number of head being sold, a physical description of the calves including date of birth, the color and sex, any identifiers such as metal tags or dangle tags, and any brands and their location, the date of the transfer of ownership, and if the assessment imposed pursuant to the federal Beef Promotion and Research Order, 7 C.F.R. part 1260, has been collected.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-179.02. Certified transportation permit, defined.**

Certified transportation permit means a document generated by the Nebraska Brand Committee from information provided electronically by a qualified dairy when moving calves under thirty days of age out of the inspection area for beef production purposes. Such information shall include the name and physical address of the owner, the number of head being transported, a physical description of the



calves including the date of birth, the color and sex, any identifiers such as metal tags or dangle tags, and any brands and their location, and the actual or intended date of transport.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-179.03. Electronic inspection, defined.**

Electronic inspection means a method of performing inspections of livestock enrolled with the Nebraska Brand Committee utilizing approved nonvisual identifier means of identification.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-179.04. Enrollment, defined.**

Enrollment means the registration of livestock identified by nonvisual identifier means of livestock identification approved by the Nebraska Brand Committee and which occurs electronically and uses only those approved identifiers for evidence of ownership.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-180. Estray, defined.**

Estray means any livestock found running at large upon public or private lands, either fenced or unfenced, whose owner is unknown in the area where found, any such livestock which is branded with a brand which is not on record in the office of the Nebraska Brand Committee, or any livestock for which ownership has not been established as provided in section 54-1,118.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-181. Freeze brand, defined.**

Freeze brand means a mark or brand that is created on a live animal in a depigmentation technique, whereby the pigment-producing cells in the skin of an animal are destroyed by the application of intense cold to the skin area.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-182. Investigator, defined.**

Investigator means an employee of the Nebraska Brand Committee who is also a deputy state sheriff and has the duty, responsibility, and authority to enforce all state statutes pertaining to brands, brand inspection, physical inspection, electronic inspection, and associated livestock laws. An investigator is also responsible for the investigation of all problems associated with brands, brand inspection, and associated livestock enforcement problems.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-183. Livestock, defined.**

Livestock means any domestic cattle, horses, mules, donkeys, sheep, or swine.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-184. Mark, defined.**



A mark means a physical identification that includes, but is not limited to, visible characteristics on an animal such as a natural, accidental, or manmade blemish that sets apart a particular animal from all others. Such marks include, but are not limited to, hair coloration, scars, brands, earmarks, or tattoos.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-185. Market agency, defined.**

Market agency means any person engaged in the business of (1) buying or selling in commerce livestock on a commission basis or (2) furnishing stockyard services, meaning services or facilities furnished at a stockyard in connection with the receiving, buying, or selling on a commission basis or otherwise, marketing, feeding, watering, holding, delivering, shipping, weighing, or handling, in commerce, of livestock.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-186. Open market, defined.**

Open market means a sales barn, market agency, stockyard, packing plant, or terminal market located outside of the brand inspection area or located outside of this state where brand inspection is maintained either by employees of the Nebraska Brand Committee or by some other state under a reciprocal agreement as allowed under the federal Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, 7 U.S.C. 181 et seq., as amended.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-186.01. Out-of-state brand permit, defined.**

Out-of-state brand permit means an authorization for a one-time use of a brand registered with a state other than Nebraska to brand cattle imminently being exported out of Nebraska.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-187. Person, defined.**

Person means any individual, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, association, firm, or agents or servants of an individual or business entity.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-187.01. Physical inspection, defined.**

Physical inspection means an inspection for purposes of the Livestock Brand Act performed by an employee of the Nebraska Brand Committee physically present at the location of the inspected animals to verify ownership through visual observation of brands or other distinguishing markings and physical characteristics of the livestock and examination of any associated documentary or other evidence of ownership.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-187.02. Qualified dairy, defined.**

Qualified dairy means a milk production facility with a Grade A milk producer permit or a manufacturing grade milk producer permit pursuant to section 2-3968.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-188. Registered feedlot, defined.**



Registered feedlot means a feedlot registered under section 54-1,120.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-189. Satisfactory evidence of ownership, defined.**

Satisfactory evidence of ownership consists of the brands, tattoos, or marks on the livestock; approved nonvisual identifiers; point of origin of livestock; the physical description of the livestock; the documentary evidence, such as bills of sale, brand clearance, certificates of inspection, breed registration certificates, animal health or testing certificates, genomic testing certificates, recorded brand certificates, purchase sheets, scale tickets, disclaimers of interest, affidavits, court orders, security agreements, powers of attorney, canceled checks, bills of lading, or tags; and such other facts, statements, or circumstances that taken in whole or in part cause an inspector to believe that proof of ownership is established.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-190. Tattoo, defined.**

Tattoo means the conspicuous curvilinear marks or patterns brought about by pricking a pigment coloration into the skin of an animal by using a needle or similar device or the act of marking, coloring, or pricking into the skin of an animal coloring matter or ink which forms an indelible mark or figure.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-191. Nebraska Brand Committee; created; members; terms; vacancy; bond or insurance; expenses; purpose.**

(1) The Nebraska Brand Committee is hereby created. Beginning August 28, 2007, the brand committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Legislature. At least three appointed members shall be active cattlemen and at least one appointed member shall be an active cattle feeder. The Secretary of State and the Director of Agriculture, or their designees, shall be nonvoting, ex officio members of the brand committee. The appointed members shall be owners of cattle within the brand inspection area, shall reside within the brand inspection area, shall be owners of Nebraska-recorded brands, and shall be persons whose principal business and occupation is the raising or feeding of cattle within the brand inspection area.

(2) The members of the brand committee shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its appointed members during the first meeting held after September 1 each calendar year. A member may be reelected to serve as chairperson or vice-chairperson.

(3) The terms of the members shall be four-year, staggered terms, beginning on August 28 of the year of initial appointment or reappointment and concluding on August 27 of the year of expiration. At the expiration of the term of an appointed member, the Governor shall appoint a successor,



subject to confirmation by the Legislature. If there is a vacancy on the brand committee, the Governor shall fill such vacancy by appointing a member to serve during the unexpired term of the member whose office has become vacant. Any appointment to fill a vacancy shall be subject to confirmation by the Legislature.

(4) The action of a majority of the members shall be deemed the action of the brand committee. No appointed member shall hold any elective or appointive state or federal office while serving as a member of the brand committee. Each member and each brand committee employee who collects or who is the custodian of any funds shall be bonded or insured as required under section 11-201. The appointed members of the brand committee shall be reimbursed for expenses in attending meetings of the brand committee or in performing any other duties that are prescribed in the Livestock Brand Act or section 54-415, as provided for in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

The purpose of the Nebraska Brand Committee is to protect Nebraska brand and livestock owners from the theft of livestock through established brand recording, brand inspection, and livestock theft investigation.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-192. Nebraska Brand Committee; employees; executive director; duties; chief investigator; brand recorder; grievance procedure.**

(1) The Nebraska Brand Committee shall employ such employees as may be necessary to properly carry out the Livestock Brand Act and section 54-415, fix the salaries of such employees, and make such expenditures as are necessary to properly carry out such act and section. Employees of the brand committee shall receive mileage computed at the rate provided in section 81-1176. The brand committee shall select and designate a location or locations where the brand committee shall keep and maintain an office and where records of the brand inspection and investigation proceedings, transactions, communications, brand registrations, and official acts shall be kept.

(2) The brand committee shall employ an executive director who shall be the brand committee head for administrative purposes. The executive director shall keep a record of all proceedings, transactions, communications, and official acts of the brand committee, shall be custodian of all records of the brand committee, and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the brand committee. The executive director shall call a meeting at the direction of the chairperson of the brand committee, or in his or her absence the vice-chairperson, or upon the written request of two or more members of the brand committee. The executive director shall have supervisory authority to direct and control all full-time and part-time employees of the brand committee. This authority allows the executive director to hire



employees as are needed on an interim basis subject to approval or confirmation by the brand committee for regular employment. The executive director may place employees on probation and may discharge an employee.

(3) The brand committee shall employ a chief investigator who shall report to the executive director. The chief investigator shall meet the qualifications of an investigator as defined in section 54-182. Under the direction of the executive director, the chief investigator shall be chief of field operations and supervise brand committee investigators and inspectors.

(4) The brand committee shall employ a brand recorder who shall be responsible for the processing of all applications for new livestock brands, the transfer of ownership of existing livestock brands, the maintenance of accurate and permanent records relating to livestock brands, and such other duties as may be required by the brand committee.

(5) If any employee of the brand committee after having been disciplined, placed on probation, or having had his or her services terminated desires to have a hearing before the entire brand committee, such a hearing shall be granted as soon as is practicable and convenient for all persons concerned. The request for such a hearing shall be made in writing by the employee alleging the grievance and shall be directed to the executive director. After hearing all testimony surrounding the grievance of such employee, the brand committee, at its discretion, may approve, rescind, nullify, or amend all actions as previously taken by the executive director.

#### **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-193. Nebraska Brand Committee; brand publication.**

The Nebraska Brand Committee shall periodically have published in book form, electronic medium, or such other method prescribed by the committee a list of all brands recorded with the brand committee at the time of such publication. Such publication may be supplemented from time to time. The publication shall contain a facsimile of all recorded brands, together with the owner's name and post office address, and shall be arranged in convenient form for reference. The brand committee shall send, without any charge, the publication as required by section 51-413 to the Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse and shall provide the publication to each inspector of record and to the county sheriff of each county in the State of Nebraska, which shall be kept as a matter of public record. The publication may be sold to the general public for a price equal to or less than the actual cost of production.

#### **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-194. Documents; signature and seal requirements.**

The director of the Nebraska Brand Committee or the chairperson of the brand committee shall have the authority to sign all certificates and other documents that may by law require certification by signature. Such documents shall



include, but not be limited to, new brand certificates, brand transfer certificates, duplicate brand certificates, and brand renewal receipts. A facsimile of the brand committee seal and the signature of the brand recorder shall also be placed on all brand certificates.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-195. Assessments and promotional materials.**

(1) The Nebraska Brand Committee may contract to collect assessments made by any public, quasi-public, or private agency or organization on the sale of cattle, beef, and beef products in Nebraska by producers and importers of such cattle, beef, and beef products. The brand committee may charge such agency or organization for collection of the assessments. The charge for collection of assessments shall be used to cover administrative costs of the brand committee, but such charge shall not exceed five percent of the assessments collected.

(2) The brand committee may authorize and direct its employees to disseminate or otherwise distribute various materials promoting the cattle industry.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-196. Rules and regulations.**

The Nebraska Brand Committee may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Livestock Brand Act and section 54-415.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-197. Nebraska Brand Inspection and Theft Prevention Fund; created; use; investment.**

The Nebraska Brand Inspection and Theft Prevention Fund is created. Fees and money collected pursuant to the Livestock Brand Act not otherwise provided for in the act shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the fund. The fund shall be used by the Nebraska Brand Committee in the administration and enforcement of the act and section 54-415. All expenses and salaries provided for under such act or incurred by reason thereof shall be paid out of the fund. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-198. Recorded livestock brand; requirements; in-herd identification; prohibited act.**

(1) Any person may record a brand, which he or she has the exclusive right to use in this state, and it is unlawful to use any brand for branding any livestock unless the person using such brand has recorded that brand with the Nebraska Brand Committee. A brand is a mark consisting of symbols, characters, numerals, or a combination of such intended as a visual means of



ownership identification when applied to the hide of an animal. Only a hot iron or freeze brand or other method approved by the brand committee shall be used to apply a brand to a live animal.

(2) A hot iron brand or freeze brand may be used for in-herd identification purposes such as for year or production records. With respect to hot iron brands used for in-herd identification, the numerals 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in singular or triangular position are reserved on both the right and left shoulder of all cattle, except that such shoulder location for a single-number hot iron brand may be used for year branding for in-herd identification purposes, and an alphabetical letter may be substituted for one of the numerals used in a triangular configuration for in-herd identification purposes. Hot iron brands used for in-herd identification shall be used in conjunction with the recorded hot iron brand and shall be on the same side of the animal as the recorded hot iron brand. Freeze branding for in-herd identification may be applied in any location and any configuration with any combination of numerals or alphabetical letters.

(3) It shall be unlawful to knowingly maintain a herd containing one or more animals which the possessor has branded, or caused to be branded, in violation of this section or any other provision of the Livestock Brand Act.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-199. Livestock brand; application; fees; requirements; issuance.**

(1) To record a brand, a person shall forward to the Nebraska Brand Committee a facsimile or description of the brand desired to be recorded, a written application, and a recording fee and research fee established by the brand committee. Such recording fee may vary according to the number of locations and methods of brand requested but shall not be more than one hundred fifty dollars per application. Such research fee shall be charged on all applications and shall not be more than fifty dollars per application.

(2) For recording of visual brands, upon receipt of a facsimile of the brand, an application, and the required fee, the brand committee shall determine compliance with the following requirements:

(a) The brand shall be an identification mark that is applied to the hide of a live animal by hot iron branding or by either hot iron branding or freeze branding. The brand shall be on either side of the animal in any one of three locations, the shoulder, ribs, or hip;

(b) The brand is not recorded under the name of any other person and does not conflict with or closely resemble a prior recorded brand;



(c) The brand application specifies the left or right side of the animal and the location on that side of the animal where the brand is to be placed;

(d) The brand is not recorded as a trade name nor as the name of any profit or nonprofit corporation, unless such trade name or corporation is of record, in current good standing, with the Secretary of State; and

(e) The brand is, in the judgment of the brand committee, legible, adequate, and of such a nature that the brand when applied can be properly read and identified by employees of the brand committee.

(3) All visual brands shall be recorded as a hot iron brand only unless a co-recording as a freeze brand or other approved method of branding is requested by the applicant. The brand committee shall approve co-recording a brand as a freeze brand unless the brand would not be distinguishable from in-herd identification applied by freeze branding.

(4) If the facsimile, the description, or the application does not comply with the requirements of this section, the brand committee shall not record such brand as requested but shall return the recording fee to the forwarding person. The power of examination and rejection is vested in the brand committee, and if the brand committee determines that the application for a visual brand falls within the category set out in subdivision (2)(e) of this section, it shall decide whether or not a recorded brand shall be issued. The brand committee shall make such examination as promptly as possible. If the brand is recorded, the ownership vests from the date of filing of the application.

(5) The brand committee may by rule and regulation provide for the use of approved nonvisual identifiers for purposes of enrolling cattle identified by such method of livestock identification. Such method of livestock identification shall be approved only if it functions as satisfactory evidence of ownership for the purpose of enrollment of cattle and for electronic inspection authorized under section 54-1,108. Before approving any nonvisual identifier, the brand committee shall consider the degree to which such method may be susceptible to error, failure, or fraudulent alteration. Any rule or regulation shall be adopted and promulgated only after public hearing conducted in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1100. Recorded brand; transfer; lien or security interest; notice; effect; fee; effect; lease of brand; fee.**

(1) A recorded brand is the property of the person causing such record to be made and is subject to sale, assignment, transfer, devise, and descent as personal property. Any instrument of writing evidencing the sale, assignment, or transfer of a recorded brand shall be effective upon its



recording with the Nebraska Brand Committee. No such instrument shall be accepted for recording if the brand committee has been duly notified of the existence of a lien or security interest against livestock owned or thereafter acquired by the owner of such brand by the holder of such lien or security interest. Written notification from the holder of such lien or security interest that the lien or security interest has been satisfied or consent from the holder of such lien or security interest shall be required in order for the brand committee to accept for recording an instrument selling, assigning, or transferring such recorded brand. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the fee for recording such an instrument shall be established by the brand committee and shall not be more than forty dollars. Such instrument shall give notice to all third persons of the matter recorded in the instrument and shall be acknowledged by a notary public or any other officer qualified under law to administer oaths.

(2) The owner of a recorded brand may lease the brand to another person upon compliance with this subsection and subject to the approval of the brand committee. The lessee shall pay a filing fee established by the brand committee not to exceed one hundred dollars. The leased recorded brand may expire as agreed in the lease, but in no event shall such leased recorded brand exceed the original expiration date.

#### **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1101. Recorded brand; owner; copies of record.**

The owner of a recorded brand is entitled to one certified copy of the record of such brand from the Nebraska Brand Committee without charge. Additional certified copies of the record may be obtained by anyone upon the payment of one dollar for each copy.

Copies of any other document of the brand committee may be requested, and a fee of one dollar shall be collected for each page copied. Only personnel authorized by the brand committee shall make copies and collect such fees. The party requesting the copies is responsible for payment of the fee and shall reimburse the brand committee for the research time necessary to furnish the requested documents at a rate of not less than twenty nor more than forty dollars per hour of research time. The rate shall be reviewed and set annually by the brand committee.

#### **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1102. Recorded brand; use; expiration date; renewal fee; expired brand; reinstated.**

(1) A recorded brand may be applied by its owner until its expiration date.

(2) On and after January 1, 1994, the expiration date of a recorded brand is the last day of the calendar quarter of the renewal year as designated by the Nebraska Brand Committee in the records of the brand committee.



(3) The brand committee shall notify every owner of a recorded brand of its expiration date at least sixty days prior to the expiration date, and the owner of the recorded brand shall pay a renewal fee established by the brand committee which shall not be more than two hundred dollars and furnish such other information as may be required by the brand committee. The renewal fee is due and payable on or before the expiration date and renews a recorded brand for a period of four years regardless of the number of locations on one side of an animal on which the brand is recorded. If any owner fails, refuses, or neglects to pay the renewal fee by the expiration date, the brand shall expire and be forfeited.

(4) The brand committee has the authority to hold an expired brand for one year following the date of expiration. An expired brand may be reinstated by the same owner during such one-year period upon return of a brand application form and payment of the recording fee and research fee for such brand established by the brand committee under section 54-199 plus a penalty of five dollars for each month or part of a month which has passed since the date of expiration. A properly reinstated brand may be transferred to another person during such one-year period upon completion of a transfer form, with a notarized bill of sale signed by the prior owner attached to such transfer form.

#### **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1103. Reserved brands; use.**

(1) Cattle brands consisting of alphabetical letters A through Z, and numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 on the left or right jaw are reserved for assignment by the brand recorder, as designated by the Nebraska Brand Committee. The brand recorder shall not assign such brands to any person in the State of Nebraska unless authorized by the brand committee, and it shall be unlawful for any person to use such brands except as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Every person when spaying heifers, upon request of the owner thereof, shall brand such heifers with the alphabetical letter O on the left jaw and furnish the owner with a certificate that all heifers so branded have been properly spayed by a licensed veterinarian. Permission may be granted by the brand committee to state and federal animal disease control agencies to require the use of the letters F, V, B, S, and T and an open-end spade on either the right or left jaw of cattle in a manner consistent with animal disease control laws.

#### **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1104. Brand assigned to committee.**

There is a recorded brand consisting of the alphabetical letter N on the entire right and left sides which is assigned to the Nebraska Brand Committee to be used only by authorized personnel of the brand committee to permanently identify livestock which are suspected of having been stolen and may be used as evidence in any



court proceeding. It shall in no way signify that the brand committee (1) is the owner of livestock so branded or (2) claims ownership in any livestock carrying such brand. It shall only be construed and intended that livestock so branded are evidence or portions of evidence seized relative to an alleged theft of livestock.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1105. Brands; distinction requirements.**

(1) Cattle branded with a Nebraska-recorded visual brand shall be branded so that the recorded brand of the owner shows distinctly.

(2) If the owners of recorded brands which conflict with or closely resemble each other maintain their herds in close proximity to each other, the Nebraska Brand Committee has the authority to decide, after hearing as to which at least ten days' written notice has been given, any dispute arising therefrom and to direct such change or changes in the position or positions where such recorded brand or brands are to be placed as will remove any confusion that might result from such conflict or close resemblance.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1106. Grazing livestock; requirements.**

A person who brings livestock into any county of this state for grazing purposes which are already branded shall provide the Nebraska Brand Committee with a statement of the brands of such livestock. Failure to comply with this section renders the violating person liable for all damages resulting from such failure.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1107. Recorded brand; evidentiary effect.**

A recorded brand is prima facie evidence of ownership of livestock and is admissible into evidence in any court in this state if the brand meets the requirements of and is recorded as provided in section 54-199. Other documentary evidence such as bills of sale or certificates of brand clearance transferring title from an owner to another party may also be introduced as evidence of livestock ownership in any court in this state. The recording of instruments of writing evidencing the sale, assignment, or transfer of a recorded brand gives notice to all third persons of the matter recorded, and certified copies are admissible in evidence without further foundation. In all suits at law or in equity, in any criminal proceedings, or when determining the ownership of estrays wherein the title to livestock is an issue, the certified copy of the record of a recorded brand or instrument of writing evidencing sale, assignment, or transfer of a recorded brand is prima facie evidence of the ownership of such livestock by the person possessing such livestock.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1108. Physical inspections; when required; surcharge; fees; mileage; electronic inspection; when permitted; fees; procedures; report; reinspection; when.**



(1)

(a) All physical inspections for brands provided for in the Livestock Brand Act or section 54-415 shall be from sunrise to sundown or during such other hours and under such conditions as the Nebraska Brand Committee determines. The brand committee shall assess a fifty-dollar late notice surcharge if a request for a physical inspection is made less than forty-eight hours prior to the date of inspection.

(b) A physical inspection shall be required when brands applied by hot iron or freeze branding methods are the exclusive means of ownership identification and in all other cases that do not qualify for electronic inspection as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(c) Beginning October 1, 2021, a physical inspection fee of eighty-five cents per head until June 30, 2023, and beginning July 1, 2023, a fee established by the Nebraska Brand Committee, of not more than one dollar and ten cents per head shall be charged for all cattle inspected in accordance with the Livestock Brand Act or section 54-415, inspected within the brand inspection area or brand inspection service area by court order, inspected at the request of any bank, credit agency, or lending institution with a legal or financial interest in such cattle, or inspected at the request of a neighboring livestock owner with missing cattle. The inspection fee for court-ordered inspections shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale of such cattle if ordered by the court or by either party as the court directs. For other inspections, the person requesting the inspection of such cattle is responsible for the inspection fee. Brand inspections requested by either a purchaser or seller of cattle located within the brand inspection service area shall be provided upon the same terms and charges as brand inspections performed within the brand inspection area. If stray cattle are identified as a result of the inspection, such cattle shall be processed in the manner provided by section 54-415.

(d) The actual mileage incurred by the inspector to perform a physical inspection shall be paid by the party requesting inspection and paid at the rate established by the Department of Administrative Services pursuant to section 81-1176.

(e) For physical inspections performed outside of the brand inspection area that are not provided for in subdivision (c) of this subsection, the fee shall be the inspection fee established in such subdivision plus a fee to cover the actual expense of performing the inspection, including mileage at the rate established by the Department of



Administrative Services and an hourly rate, not to exceed thirty dollars per hour, for the travel and inspection time incurred by the brand committee to perform such inspection. The brand committee shall charge and collect the actual expense fee. Such fee shall apply to inspections performed outside the brand inspection area as part of an investigation into known or alleged violations of the Livestock Brand Act and shall be charged against the person committing the violation.

(2)

(a) The brand committee may provide for electronic inspection of enrolled cattle identified by approved nonvisual identifiers pursuant to subsection (5) of section 54-199. The brand committee shall establish procedures for enrollment of such cattle with the brand committee which shall include providing acceptable certification or evidence of ownership. Electronic inspection shall not require agency employees to be present, except that random audits shall occur.

(b) Beginning October 1, 2021, an electronic inspection fee not to exceed eighty-five cents per head until June 30, 2023, and beginning July 1, 2023, a fee established by the brand committee of not more than one dollar and ten cents per head shall be charged for all cattle subjected to electronic inspection in accordance with the Livestock Brand Act or section 54-415.

(c) A certified bill of sale for sale of calves shall be provided to qualified dairies once the required information is electronically transferred to the brand committee on calves under thirty days of age. The fee shall be the same as for an electronic inspection under subdivision (2)(b) of this section.

(d) A certified transportation permit shall be provided to qualified dairies after the required information is electronically transferred to the brand committee on calves under thirty days of age which are moved out of the inspection area. The fee shall be the same as for an electronic inspection under subdivision (2)(b) of this section.

(e) On or before December 1, 2021, the brand committee shall report to the Legislature any actions taken or necessary for implementing electronic inspection authorized by this subsection, including personnel and other resources utilized to support electronic inspection, how the brand committee's information technology capabilities are utilized to support electronic inspection, a listing of approved nonvisual identifiers, the requirements for enrolling cattle identified by



approved nonvisual identifiers, current and anticipated utilization of electronic inspection by the livestock industry, and the fees required to recover costs of performing electronic inspection.

(3) Any person who has reason to believe that cattle were shipped erroneously due to an inspection error during a brand inspection may request a reinspection. The person making such request shall be responsible for the expenses incurred as a result of the reinspection unless the results of the reinspection substantiate the claim of inspection error, in which case the brand committee shall be responsible for the reinspection expenses.

### **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1109. Brand inspection area; designation.**

The brand inspection area of Nebraska consists of the following land area of counties and parts thereof: Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Box Butte, Boyd, Brown, Buffalo, Chase, Cherry, Cheyenne, Custer, Dawes, Dawson, Deuel, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, part of the south half of section 1, township 3 north, range 21, on railroad right-of-way in the west part of Oxford Town called Burlington addition in Furnas, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Grant, Greeley, all of lots 1, 7, and 8 in block 48 in original town of Grand Island, and all of the southeast quarter lying south of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's right-of-way in section 24, township 11 north, range 10, in Hall, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Holt, Hooker, Howard, Kearney, Keith, Keya Paha, Kimball, all of Knox except Eastern, Dolphin, Dowling, Columbia, Morton, Peoria, Addison, Herrick, Frankfort, and Lincoln townships, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Morrill, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Rock, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sherman, Sioux, Thomas, Valley, the existing livestock auction markets in Blue Hill, all of lots 1 to 6, and lots 7 and 8, except twenty-two feet of the east side of lot 8, all in block 6, original town of Blue Hill, and Red Cloud, part of lot A, Roats subdivision to Red Cloud, lots 1 and 2 and the south one-half of block 32 in original town of Red Cloud, and all of annex lot 21, Red Cloud, in Webster, and all of Wheeler.

### **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1110. Brand inspection area; brand inspection requirements; violation; penalty.**

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, no person shall move, in any manner, cattle from a point within the brand inspection area to a point outside the brand inspection area unless such cattle first have a brand inspection by the Nebraska Brand Committee and a certificate of inspection is issued. A copy of such certificate shall accompany the cattle and shall be retained by all persons moving such cattle as a permanent record.

(2) Cattle in a registered feedlot registered under sections 54-1,120 to 54-1,122 are not subject to the brand inspection of subsection (1) of this section. Possession by the shipper or trucker of a shipping certificate from the



registered feedlot constitutes compliance if the cattle being shipped are as represented on such shipping certificate.

(3) If the line designating the brand inspection area divides a farm or ranch or lies between noncontiguous parcels of land which are owned or operated by the same cattle owner or owners, a permit may be issued, at the discretion of the Nebraska Brand Committee, to the owner or owners of cattle on such farm, ranch, or parcels of land to move the cattle in and out of the brand inspection area without inspection. If the line designating the brand inspection area lies between a farm or ranch and nearby veterinary medical facilities, a permit may be issued, at the discretion of the brand committee, to the owner or owners of cattle on such farm or ranch to move the cattle in and out of the brand inspection area without inspection to obtain care from the veterinary medical facilities. The brand committee shall issue initial permits only after receiving an application which includes an application fee established by the brand committee which shall not be more than fifteen dollars. The brand committee shall mail all current permit holders an annual renewal notice, for January 1 renewal, which requires a renewal fee established by the brand committee which shall not be more than fifty dollars. If the permit conditions still exist, the cattle owner or owners may renew the permit.

(4) No person shall sell any cattle knowing that the cattle are to be moved, in any manner, in violation of this section. Proof of shipment or removal of the cattle from the brand inspection area by the purchaser or his or her agent is prima facie proof of knowledge that sale was had for removal from the brand inspection area.

(5) A violation of this section is an infraction. A peace officer shall have the authority to write a citation, which shall be waivable, to offenders in violation of this section. A fine under this section shall not exceed two hundred dollars per head for each offense. Violations shall be charged in the county of origin of the cattle or any other county through which the cattle were moved from the brand inspection area.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1111. Brand inspection area; sale or trade of cattle; requirements; violation; penalty.**

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no person shall sell or trade any cattle located within the brand inspection area, nor shall any person buy or purchase any such cattle unless the cattle have been inspected for evidence of ownership and a certificate of inspection or brand clearance has been issued by the Nebraska Brand Committee. Any person selling such cattle shall present to the brand inspector a properly executed bill of sale, brand clearance, or other satisfactory evidence of ownership which shall be



filed with the original certificate of inspection in the records of the brand committee. Any time a brand inspection is required by law, a brand investigator or brand inspector may transfer evidence of ownership of such cattle from a seller to a purchaser by issuing a certificate of inspection.

(2) A brand inspection is not required:

(a) For cattle of a registered feedlot registered under sections 54-1,120 to 54-1,122 shipped for direct slaughter or sale on any terminal market;

(b) For cattle that are:

(i) Transferred to a family corporation when all the shares of capital stock of the corporation are owned by the husband, wife, children, or grandchildren of the transferor and there is no consideration for the transfer other than the issuance of stock of the corporation to such family members; or

(ii) Transferred to a limited liability company in which membership is limited to the husband, wife, children, or grandchildren of the transferor and there is no consideration paid for the transfer other than a membership interest in the limited liability company;

(c) When the change of ownership of cattle is a change in form only and the surviving interests are in the exact proportion as the original interests of ownership. When there is a change of ownership described in subdivision (2)(b) or (c) of this section, an affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Nebraska Brand Committee, signed by the transferor and stating the nature of the transfer and the number of cattle involved and the brands presently on the cattle, shall be filed with the brand committee;

(d) For cattle sold or purchased for educational or exhibition purposes or other recognized youth activities if a properly executed bill of sale is exchanged and presented upon demand. Educational or exhibition purpose means cattle sold or purchased for the purpose of being fed, bred, managed, or tended in a program designed to demonstrate or instruct in the use of various feed rations, the selection of individuals of certain physical conformation or breeds, the measurement and recording of rate of gain in weight or fat content of meat or milk produced, or the preparation of cattle for the purpose of exhibition or for judging as to quality and conformation;



(e) For calves under the age of thirty days sold or purchased at private treaty if a bill of sale is exchanged and presented upon demand; and

(f) For seedstock cattle raised by the seller and individually registered with an organized breed association if a properly executed bill of sale is exchanged and presented upon demand.

(3) A violation of this section is an infraction. A peace officer shall have the authority to write a citation, which shall be waivable, to offenders in violation of this section. A fine under this section shall not exceed two hundred dollars per head for each offense. Violations shall be charged in the county in which the offense occurred.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1112. Brand inspection area; slaughter and hide records; violation; penalty.**

(1) Any person located within the brand inspection area who slaughters or has cattle slaughtered for sale or distribution shall keep, in a book for that purpose, a true and faithful record of all cattle purchased and slaughtered. Such record shall also contain a description of the marks, brands, age, weight, and color of all cattle slaughtered. Such record shall contain the date when the cattle were slaughtered and a notation which sets forth by whom the cattle were raised or from whom purchased.

(2) All persons who purchase hides shall keep a record of all hides of cattle purchased by them, which record shall state the name or names of the person or persons from whom purchased, their place of residence, the date of purchase, and all marks and brands on the hide, and the record shall at all times be open for inspection by any peace officer.

(3) A violation of this section is an infraction. A peace officer shall have the authority to write a citation, which shall be waivable, to offenders in violation of this section. A fine under this section shall not exceed two hundred dollars per head for each offense. Violations shall be charged in the county in which the offense occurred.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1113. Sale, trade, use, or consumption of beef or veal; requirements; violation; penalty.**

(1)

(a) Inside of the brand inspection area, no person shall sell or trade or offer for sale or trade the carcass of a beef or veal, or any portion thereof, including the hide of such carcass, unless a certificate of



inspection is secured from a brand inspector. Such person shall exhibit the certificate of inspection upon the demand of any person.

(b) Outside of the brand inspection area, no person shall sell or offer for sale, except as a butcher bonded under section 54-1,114, the carcass of a beef or veal, or any portion thereof, without first exhibiting the intact hide of the same and exposing the brand upon the hide, if any, to the purchaser. A person selling or offering for sale any such carcass of beef or veal shall preserve the hide of the same for a period of fifteen days unless a certificate of inspection is secured from a brand inspector, and such person shall exhibit the certificate of inspection upon the demand of any person.

(2) No person shall kill for his, her, or its own use and consumption any cattle for beef or veal without preserving the hide of such animal intact with a complete unskinned tail attached thereto for a period of not less than fifteen days unless a certificate of inspection is secured from a brand inspector, and such hide shall be presented for inspection upon demand of any person.

(3) A violation of this section is an infraction. A peace officer shall have the authority to write a citation, which shall be waivable, to offenders in violation of this section. A fine under this section shall not exceed two hundred dollars per head for each offense. Violations shall be charged in the county in which the offense occurred.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1114. Slaughter of cattle; brand inspection requirements; violation; penalty.**

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, no butcher, packer, or vendor engaged in the slaughter of cattle within the brand inspection area shall kill or otherwise dispose of any cattle until a brand inspection is performed by the Nebraska Brand Committee on the premises where such slaughter is to take place and until a certificate of inspection from the brand committee is filed and is made a part of such operator's permanent records. All such certificates of inspection shall, upon demand, be displayed to any peace officer or to the brand committee at any time.

(2) If cattle requiring inspection under this section are to be slaughtered and are purchased by such butcher, packer, or vendor at a regularly brand-inspected sales barn and are destined for direct slaughter upon reaching their destination, the brand inspector at such sales barn shall be advised that such cattle are destined for direct slaughter. The brand inspector shall then issue a certificate of inspection for the cattle, such certificate to indicate that the cattle are to go to direct slaughter and that the cattle are not to be



retained by such butcher, packer, or vendor for longer than ninety-six hours prior to slaughter. Cattle inspected at the point of origin by a brand inspector shall not require an additional brand inspection upon reaching a destination within the state if the certificate of inspection designates that the cattle are to go directly for slaughter and not to be retained by such butcher, packer, or vendor longer than ninety-six hours prior to slaughter.

(3) If cattle required to be inspected under this section are offered for slaughter and satisfactory evidence of ownership has not been provided, the butcher, packer, or vendor may, with the approval of the brand inspector, slaughter the cattle and hold the meat until such time as satisfactory evidence of ownership is provided to the brand committee. The brand inspector shall provide the butcher, packer, or vendor with an official notice advising the operator not to release the meat until authorized by the brand committee. The brand committee may provide for a cash bond to be posted with the executive director of the brand committee so that the meat may be released prior to the establishment of satisfactory evidence of ownership. The amount of the bond shall be set at the approximate value of the cattle. When satisfactory evidence of ownership has been provided by the person offering the cattle for slaughter, the executive director shall authorize the release of the meat or the return of the bond.

(4) A violation of this section is an infraction. A peace officer shall have the authority to write a citation, which shall be waivable, to offenders in violation of this section. A fine under this section shall not exceed two hundred dollars per head for each offense. Violations shall be charged in the county in which the offense occurred.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1115. Livestock transportation authority form; requirements; violation; penalty.**

(1) Any person, other than the owner or the owner's employee, using a motor vehicle or trailer to transport livestock or carcasses over any land within the State of Nebraska not owned or rented by such person or who is so transporting such livestock upon a highway, public street, or thoroughfare within the State of Nebraska shall have in his or her possession a livestock transportation authority form, certificate of inspection, or shipping certificate from a registered feedlot, authorizing such movement as to each head of livestock transported by such vehicle.

(2) A livestock transportation authority form shall be in writing and shall state the name of the owner of the livestock, the owner's post office address, the place from which the livestock are being moved, including the name of the ranch, if any, the destination, the name and address of the carrier,



the license number and make of motor vehicle to which consigned, together with the number of livestock and a description thereof including kind, sex, breed, color, and marks, if any, and in the case of livestock shipments originating within the brand inspection area, the brands, if there are any. The authority form shall be signed by the owner of the livestock or the owner's authorized agent.

(3) Any peace officer, based upon probable cause to question the ownership of the livestock being transported, may stop a motor vehicle or motor vehicle and trailer and request exhibition of any authority form or certificate required by this section.

(4) A violation of this section is an infraction. A peace officer shall have the authority to write a citation, which shall be waivable, to offenders in violation of this section. A fine under this section shall not exceed two hundred dollars per head for each offense. Violations shall be charged in the county in which the offense occurred.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1116. Satisfactory evidence of ownership; violation; penalty.**

(1) All livestock sold or otherwise disposed of shall be accompanied by a properly executed bill of sale in writing or, for cattle, a certificate of inspection. All owners of or persons possessing livestock have a duty to exhibit, upon request of any person, the bill of sale or other satisfactory evidence of ownership of the livestock.

(2) A violation of this section is an infraction. A peace officer shall have the authority to write a citation, which shall be waivable, to offenders in violation of this section. A fine under this section shall not exceed two hundred dollars per head for each offense. Violations shall be charged in the county in which the offense occurred.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1117. Brand inspection area; intermingling of livestock; effect.**

No consignment of livestock within, entering into, or passing through the brand inspection area, after having been inspected by a brand inspector, shall be permitted to intermingle with any other livestock located within the brand inspection area. If, at any time after brand inspection has been performed or a certificate of inspection has been issued on any shipment of livestock, the livestock become intermingled with other livestock located within the brand inspection area, the original brand inspection is void and before further movement of the livestock out of the brand inspection area may be made, reinspection for identification of brands is required. A brand



inspector may require reinspection if he or she has reason to believe a consignment of livestock has become intermingled.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1118. Livestock; questions of ownership; procedure.**

If any livestock inspected under the Livestock Brand Act or section 54-415 is unbranded or bears a brand or brands in addition to, or other than, the recorded brand or brands of the shipper or seller, then the shipper or seller may be required to establish his or her ownership of such livestock by exhibiting to the Nebraska Brand Committee a bill of sale to such livestock or by other satisfactory evidence of ownership. If ownership of the livestock is not established, the livestock may be sold, and the selling agent who sells such livestock shall hold the proceeds of the sale. If any shipper or seller who has offered such livestock for sale refuses to accept the bids offered, ownership must be established, or a cash bond posted with the selling agent in an amount equal to the approximate value of the livestock and payable to the brand committee, before such livestock may be removed from the premises. When ownership has been established the cash bond shall be returned to the person who or which posted it.

The shipper or seller of the livestock is required to establish ownership of such livestock within sixty days after its sale. If such shipper or seller establishes ownership of such livestock, the Nebraska Brand Committee shall order the selling agent of such livestock to pay the proceeds of sale to the shipper or seller. If such shipper or seller fails to establish ownership within the sixty days, such livestock shall be considered an estray and the Nebraska Brand Committee shall order the selling agent to pay the proceeds of sale over to the brand committee. All funds that the brand committee receives from the sale of any estray shall be placed in a separate custodial fund known as the estray fund. The brand committee shall determine the ownership of estrays that originate within the brand inspection area. Such funds shall be disposed of in the manner provided in section 54-415.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1119. Open market; designation; brand inspection requirements.**

(1) Any livestock market, whether within or outside of the state, or any meat packing plant which maintains brand inspection under the supervision of the Nebraska Brand Committee and under such rules and regulations as are specified by the United States Department of Agriculture, may be designated by the brand committee as an open market.

(2) When cattle originating from within the brand inspection area are consigned for sale to any commission company at any open market designated as such by the Nebraska Brand Committee where brand inspection is maintained, no brand inspection is required at the point of origin but is



required at the point of destination unless the point of origin is a registered feedlot. If cattle are consigned to a commission company at an open market, the carrier transporting the cattle shall not allow the owner, shipper, or party in charge to change the billing to any point other than the commission company at the open market designated on the original billing, unless the carrier secures from the brand committee a certificate of inspection on the cattle so consigned. Any cattle originating in a registered feedlot consigned to a commission company at any terminal market destined for direct slaughter may be shipped in accordance with rules and regulations governing registered feedlots.

(3) Until the cattle are inspected for brands on the premises by the Nebraska Brand Committee, no person shall sell or cause to be sold or offer for sale (a) any cattle at a livestock auction market located within the brand inspection area or at a farm or ranch sale located within the brand inspection area or (b) any cattle originating within the brand inspection area consigned to an open market.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1120. Registered feedlot; application; requirements; fees; inspections; records.**

(1) Any person who operates a cattle feeding operation located within the brand inspection area may make application to the Nebraska Brand Committee for registration as a registered feedlot. The application form shall be prescribed by the brand committee and shall be made available by the executive director of the brand committee for this purpose upon written request. If the applicant is an individual, the application shall include the applicant's social security number. After the brand committee has received a properly completed application, an agent of the brand committee shall within thirty days make an investigation to determine if the following requirements are satisfied:

- (a) The operator's feedlot must be permanently fenced; and
- (b) The operator must commonly practice feeding cattle to finish for slaughter.

If the application is satisfactory, and upon payment of an initial registration fee by the applicant, the brand committee shall issue a registration number and registration certificate valid for one year unless rescinded for cause. If the registration is rescinded for cause, any registration fee shall be forfeited by the applicant. The initial fee for a registered feedlot shall be an amount for a registered feedlot having one thousand head or less capacity and an equal amount for each additional one thousand head capacity, or part thereof, of such registered feedlot. For each subsequent year, the renewal fee for a registered feedlot shall be an amount for the first one thousand head or



portion thereof of average annual inventory of cattle on feed of the registered feedlot and an equal amount for each additional one thousand head or portion thereof of average annual inventory of cattle on feed of the registered feedlot. The brand committee shall set the fee per one thousand head capacity or average annual inventory so as to correspond with the inspection fee provided under section 54-1,108. The registration fee shall be paid on an annual basis.

(2) The brand committee may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of registered feedlots to assure that brand laws are complied with, that registered feedlot shipping certificates are available, and that proper records are maintained. Violation of sections 54-1,120 to 54-1,122 subjects the operator to revocation or suspension of the feedlot registration issued. Sections 54-1,120 to 54-1,122 shall not be construed as prohibiting the operation of nonregistered feedlots.

(3) Registered feedlots are subject to inspection at any reasonable time at the discretion of the brand committee and its authorized agents, and the operator shall show cattle purchase records or certificates of inspection to cover all cattle in his or her feedlot. Cattle having originated from such registered feedlots may from time to time, at the discretion of the committee, be subject to a spot-check inspection and audit at destination to enable the brand committee to assure satisfactory compliance with the brand laws by the registered feedlot operator.

(4) The operator of a registered feedlot shall keep cattle inventory records. A form for such purpose shall be prescribed by the brand committee. The brand committee and its employees may from time to time make spot checks and audits of the registered feedlots and the records of cattle on feed in such feedlots.

(5) The brand committee may rescind the registration of any registered feedlot operator who fails to cooperate or violates the laws or rules and regulations of the brand committee covering registered feedlots.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1121. Registered feedlot; cattle shipment; requirements.**

Cattle sold or shipped from a registered feedlot, for purposes other than direct slaughter or sale on any terminal market, are subject to the brand inspection under sections 54-1,110 to 54-1,119, and the seller or shipper shall bear the cost of such inspection at the regular fee.

Any other cattle shipped from a registered feedlot are not subject to brand inspection at origin or destination, but the shipper must have a shipping certificate from the registered feedlot. The shipping certificate form shall be prescribed by the Nebraska Brand Committee and shall show the registered feedlot operator's



name and registration number, date shipped, destination, agency receiving the cattle, number of head in the shipment, and sex of the cattle. The shipping certificate shall be completed in triplicate by the registered feedlot operator at the time of shipment. One copy thereof shall be delivered to the brand inspector at the market along with shipment, if applicable, one copy shall be sent to the brand committee by the tenth day of the following month, and one copy shall be retained by the registered feedlot operator. If a shipping certificate does not accompany a shipment of cattle from a registered feedlot to any destination where brand inspection is maintained by the brand committee, all such cattle shall be subject to a brand inspection and the inspection fees and surcharge provided under section 54-1,108 shall be charged for the service.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1122. Registered feedlot; cattle received; requirements.**

Any cattle originating in a state that has a brand inspection agency and which are accompanied by a certificate of inspection or brand clearance issued by such agency may be moved directly from the point of origin into a registered feedlot. Any cattle not accompanied by such a certificate of inspection or brand clearance or by satisfactory evidence of ownership from states or portions of states not having brand inspection shall be subjected to physical inspection for brands by the Nebraska Brand Committee or, if applicable, subjected to electronic inspection, within a reasonable time after arrival at a registered feedlot, and the inspection fee and mileage charge, if applicable, provided under section 54-1,108 shall be collected by the brand inspector at the time the inspection is performed.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1122.01. [Repealed].**

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1122.02. [Repealed].**

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1123. Prohibited sale; violation; penalty.**

No person, other than the owner of the livestock, shall sell or offer for sale or trade or otherwise dispose of any livestock unless the person so offering has the bill of sale, a power of attorney from the owner of such livestock authorizing such sale, or other satisfactory evidence of ownership. A violation of this section is a Class III felony.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1124. Prohibited brand; violation; penalty.**

If any person willfully and knowingly brands, marks, or causes to be branded or marked, livestock owned by another with the intent to deprive such owner of the livestock or willfully and knowingly effaces, defaces, or obliterates any mark upon any livestock owned by another with the intent to deprive such owner of the livestock, such person is guilty of a Class III felony.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1124.01. Acts prohibited; penalty.**



A person commits a Class III felony if:

- (1) Such person willfully and knowingly performs or causes to be performed any act to:
  - (a) Apply, remove, damage, or alter an approved nonvisual identifier; or
  - (b) Expunge, alter, render inaccessible, or otherwise corrupt information recorded or embedded on or in an approved nonvisual identifier; and
- (2) Such conduct is done with the intent to deprive an owner of livestock or falsely assert ownership of livestock.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1125. False documents; violation; penalty.**

- (1) Any person who offers as evidence of ownership for any livestock sold, traded, or otherwise disposed of as provided in the Livestock Brand Act or section 54-415, any forged, altered, or otherwise falsely prepared document or form, knowing the same to be forged, altered, or otherwise falsely prepared, is guilty of the Class IV felony of criminal possession of a forged instrument as defined in section 28-604.
- (2) Any person who forges, alters, or otherwise changes in any manner any of the forms or documents which are satisfactory evidence of ownership or any other form or document required by or provided for in the Livestock Brand Act or section 54-415, is guilty of second degree forgery as defined in section 28-603, and shall be punished in accordance with such section.
- (3) Any person who knowingly misrepresents or misuses any certificate of inspection or other satisfactory evidence of ownership is guilty of a Class II misdemeanor.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1126. General penalty.**

Any person who violates any provision of the Livestock Brand Act is guilty of a Class II misdemeanor unless another penalty is specifically provided for such violation.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1127. Violations; arresting peace officer; powers.**

Whenever any person is arrested for a violation of the Livestock Brand Act or section 54-415 punishable as a misdemeanor, the arresting peace officer shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, take the name and address of such person and the license number of his or her motor vehicle. The peace officer shall issue a summons or otherwise notify him or her in writing to appear at a time and place to be specified in such summons or notice. Such time shall be at least five days after such arrest, unless the person arrested demands an earlier hearing. Such person, if he or she so desires, has a right to an immediate hearing or a hearing within twenty-four



hours at a convenient hour, such hearing to be before a magistrate within the county where such offense was committed. The peace officer shall thereupon, and upon the giving by such person of his or her written promise to appear at such time and place, forthwith release him or her from custody. Any person refusing to give such written promise to appear shall be taken immediately by the arresting peace officer before the nearest or most accessible magistrate.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1128. Brand with brand recorded or registered in another state; application for out-of-state brand permit; contents; fee; violation; penalty.**

(1) An owner may brand cattle with a brand recorded or registered in another state when:

(a) Cattle are purchased at a livestock auction market licensed under the Livestock Auction Market Act or congregated at another location approved by the Nebraska Brand Committee;

(b) The cattle will be imminently exported from Nebraska;

(c) The cattle are branded at the livestock auction market or other approved location; and

(d) An out-of-state brand permit has been obtained prior to branding the cattle.

(2) An application for an out-of-state brand permit shall be made to a brand inspector and shall include a description of the brand, a written application, and a fee not to exceed fifty dollars as determined by the Nebraska Brand Committee. A brand inspector shall evaluate and may approve an out-of-state brand permit within a reasonable period of time.

(3) Cattle branded under an out-of-state brand permit shall remain subject to all other brand inspection requirements under the Livestock Brand Act.

(4) A violation of this section is an infraction. A peace officer shall have the authority to write a citation, which shall be waivable, to offenders in violation of this section. A fine under this section shall not exceed two hundred dollars per head for each offense. Violations shall be charged in the county in which the offense occurred.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1129. Livestock auction market or packing plant; brand inspection; election to provide.**

The owner or operator of any livestock auction market, as defined in section 54-1158, or packing plant located in any county outside the brand inspection area



may voluntarily elect to provide brand inspection for all cattle brought to such livestock auction market or packing plant from within the brand inspection area upon compliance with sections 54-1,129 to 54-1,131.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1130. Livestock auction market or packing plant; election; how made.**

The election provided for by section 54-1,129 shall be made by (1) filing with the Secretary of State, in form to be prescribed by the secretary, a written notice of such election and agreement to be bound by section 54-1,131 and (2) posting conspicuously on the premises a notice of the fact that brand inspection is provided at such livestock auction market or packing plant.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-1131. Livestock auction market or packing plant; brand inspection; how conducted; fees; guarantee.**

Inspection provided for in sections 54-1,129 to 54-1,131 shall be conducted in the manner established by the Livestock Brand Act. The owner or operator making such election may be required to guarantee to the Nebraska Brand Committee that inspection fees derived from such livestock auction market or packing plant will be sufficient, in each twelve-month period, to pay the per diem and mileage of the inspectors required and that he or she will reimburse the committee for any deficit incurred in any such twelve-month period. Such guarantee shall be secured by a corporate surety bond, to be approved by the Secretary of State, in a penal sum to be established by the Nebraska Brand Committee.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-2312. Animal identification.**

A domesticated cervine animal, or any part thereof, shall be appropriately marked for proof of ownership according to rules and regulations adopted by the department. The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations specifying the acceptable forms of domesticated cervine animal identification in a manner which visibly distinguishes a domesticated cervine animal from wild cervidae. The department, in consultation with the commission, shall establish separate identification or proof of ownership requirements for transporting taken domesticated cervine animals.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-2940. Animal Health and Disease Control Act and Exotic Animal Auction or Exchange Venue Act; department; powers.**

In carrying out its duties to prevent, suppress, control, and eradicate dangerous diseases the department may:

- (1) Issue quarantines to any person or public or private premises within the state where an affected animal, suspected affected animal, or



regulated article is or was located, and upon any animal imported into Nebraska in violation of the Animal Health and Disease Control Act, the Exotic Animal Auction or Exchange Venue Act, and any importation rules or regulations until such quarantine is released by the State Veterinarian. Whenever additional animals are placed within a quarantined premises or area, such quarantine may be amended accordingly by the department. Births and death loss shall be included on inventory documentation pursuant to the quarantine;

(2) Regulate or prohibit animal or regulated article movement into, within, or through the state through quarantines, controlled movement orders, importation orders, or embargoes as deemed necessary by the State Veterinarian;

(3) Require an affected animal or suspected affected animal to be (a) euthanized, detained, slaughtered, or sold for immediate slaughter at a federally inspected slaughter establishment or (b) inspected, tested, treated, subjected to an epidemiological investigation, monitored, or vaccinated. The department may require tested animals to be identified by an official identification eartag. Costs for confinement, restraint, and furnishing the necessary assistance and facilities for such activities shall be the responsibility of the owner or custodian of the animal;

(4) Seek an emergency proclamation by the Governor in accordance with section 81-829.40 when deemed appropriate. All state agencies and political subdivisions of the state shall cooperate with the implementation of any emergency procedures and measures developed pursuant to such proclamation;

(5)

(a) Access records or animals and enter any premises related to the purposes of the Animal Health and Disease Control Act or the Exotic Animal Auction or Exchange Venue Act without being subject to any action for trespass or reasonable damages if reasonable care is exercised; and

(b) Obtain an inspection warrant in the manner prescribed in sections 29-830 to 29-835 if any person refuses to allow the department access or entry as authorized under this subdivision;

(6) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to enforce and effectuate the general purpose and provisions of the Animal Health and Disease Control Act, the Exotic Animal Auction or Exchange Venue Act, and any other provisions the department deems necessary for carrying out its duties under such acts including:



- (a) Standards for program diseases to align with USDA/APHIS/VS program standards;
  - (b) Provisions for maintaining a livestock disease reporting system;
  - (c) Procedures for establishing and maintaining accredited, certified, validated, or designated disease-free animals, herds, or flocks;
  - (d) In consultation with the Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Health and Human Services, best management practices for the disposal of carcasses of dead livestock;
  - (e) In consultation with the Department of Environment and Energy and the University of Nebraska, operating procedures governing composting of livestock carcasses;
  - (f) Recommendations of where and how any available federal funds and state personnel and materials are to be allocated for the purpose of program disease activities; and
  - (g) Provisions for secure food supply plans to ensure the continuity of business is maintained during a foreign animal or transboundary disease outbreak;
- (7) When funds are available, develop a livestock emergency response system capable of coordinating and executing a rapid response to the incursion or potential incursion of a dangerous livestock disease episode which poses a threat to the health of the state's livestock and could cause a serious economic impact on the state, international trade, or both;
- (8) When funds are available, support planning for and assistance with catastrophic livestock mortality disposal, including the acquisition of equipment and supplies and securing of services, to augment preparedness for and response to a disease, natural disaster, or other emergency event resulting in catastrophic livestock mortality or euthanization;
- (9) Allow animals intended for direct slaughter to move to a controlled feedlot for qualified purposes; and
- (10) Approve qualified commuter herd agreements and livestock producer plans and, when appropriate, allow for exceptions to requirements by written compliance agreements.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-2948. Livestock; official identification; compliance with federal regulations; device or method; use; device removal, prohibited; exceptions.**



(1) Livestock imported into Nebraska shall comply with federal animal disease traceability requirements for official identification of animals as set forth in 9 C.F.R. part 86, as such part existed on January 1, 2020, which the Legislature hereby adopts by reference. If there is an inconsistency between such federal regulations and the Animal Health and Disease Control Act, and any adopted and promulgated rules or regulations or order issued by the department, the requirements of the act, rules or regulations, or order control.

(2) An official identification device or method may be applied by an animal's owner, the owner's representative, an accredited veterinarian, or an approved tagging site. Official identification devices are intended to provide permanent identification of livestock and to ensure the ability to find the source of animal disease outbreaks. Removal of these devices is prohibited except at the time of slaughter, upon the death of the animal at any location, when an area veterinarian in charge replaces a device, or as otherwise approved by the department.

