



Department of Livestock Overview

The Department of Livestock is the only Montana agency that retained an old-style governance method after state government was restructured in the early 1970s. That governance method puts the department under the auspices of the Board of Livestock, which is appointed by the Governor. The Board of Livestock then names the board's executive officer, who oversees the department. The Board is statutorily created under 2-15-3102, MCA. Various commissions dating back to the late 1800s preceded formation of the current board. The department's creation statute, 2-15-3101, MCA, says, "There is a department of livestock. The department head is the board of livestock provided for in 2-15-3102."



Department Duties

Some of the Department of Livestock duties and powers are spelled out under 81-1-102, MCA. These include:

- General supervision over the livestock interests of the state and of alternative livestock (game farms as defined in 87-4-406, MCA);
- Protection of livestock interests from theft and disease. This includes appointment of stock inspectors and detectives along with authority to quarantine livestock suspected of carrying a contagious disease.
- Supervision of standards and sanitary conditions of slaughterhouses, dairies, and other premises involved in the sale or consumption of meat and milk products as well as eggs.



Administratively Attached Entities

- Livestock Crimestoppers Commission, created under 2-15-3104, MCA;
- Board of Milk Control, created under 2-15-3105, MCA; and
- Livestock Loss Board, created under 2-15-3110, MCA.

Legislative Audits

- Brucellosis Management Performance Audit (initial [16P-06](#), June 2018; followup [18SP-09](#)) Four recommendations in the initial audit to the Department of Livestock and one recommendation to the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.
- Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, May 2016 [15P-04](#), Performance Audit
- Financial-Compliance Audit [17-22](#), June 2018, three recommendations.
- "Expenses Directly Incurred Through the Collection of Beef Check-Off Fees," November 2012, [12SP-35](#)

Economic Affairs Interim Committee Areas of Interest

- [HJ 29](#) Study of Meat Inspection Laws
- [HB 586](#)-directed efforts by the Department of Administration to move forward with Co-Location of Laboratories, including the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- Alternative versions of meat-like products whether produced in a laboratory or plant-based. Enforcement or implementation of [HB 327](#), which defines a cell-cultured edible product as a product different than "meat".

Other Issues:

- The beef checkoff program as part of a public-private "partnership". See <https://competitivemarkets.com/the-beef-checkoff-a-broken-and-failed-program/> and <https://www.northernag.net/beef-checkoff-lawsuit-heating-up/>

Department of Livestock Biennium Budget for FY 2020 and FY 2021

Divisions and Bureaus/ Attached Agencies	FTE	House Bill 2			Enterprise Funds	Statutory Funds	Total All Sources
		State Special Revenue*	General Fund	Federal Funds			
Central Services Div.	17	\$4,256,697	\$223,278			\$1,559,980	\$6,039,955
Executive, IT & Accounting	13	\$3,681,686					\$3,681,686
Predator Control**	0					\$859,980	\$859,980
Board of Milk Control	3	\$575,011					\$575,011
Livestock Loss Board	1		\$223,278			\$700,000	\$923,278
Animal Health & Food Safety Div.	67.5	\$4,347,790	\$5,751,584	\$3,732,792	\$2,383,269		\$16,215,435
Animal Health Bureau	14.25	\$1,528,544	\$2,064,516	\$1,554,554			\$5,147,614
Diagnostic Laboratory	21.5	\$1,399,209	\$1,633,243	\$61,170	\$2,383,269		\$5,476,891
Milk & Egg Bureau	7.25	\$1,408,595		\$45,867			\$1,454,462
Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau	24.5	\$11,442	\$2,053,825	\$2,071,201			\$4,136,468
Brands Enforcement Div.	54.5	\$8,395,457					\$8,395,457
Helena Office	10.5	\$1,338,125					\$1,338,125
Enforcement	17	\$3,040,045					\$3,040,045
Markets	27	\$4,017,287					\$4,017,287
Total	139	\$16,999,944	\$5,974,862	\$3,732,792	\$2,383,269	\$1,559,980	\$30,650,847

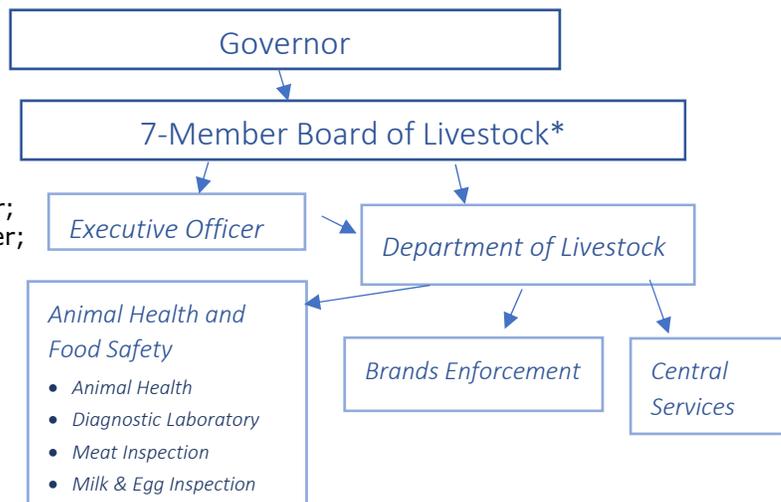
*State special revenues include per capita fees, brand fees, milk fees, and egg fees.

**Livestock per capita fees obligated under a cooperative agreement with U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Wildlife Services.

Organization Chart

*Current board members are:

- Susan Brown, Belgrade dairy producer;
- Nina Baucus, Wolf Creek cattle producer;
- Brett DeBruycker, Dutton cattle producer;
- John Lehfeldt, Lavina sheep producer;
- John Scully, Ennis cattle producer;
- Lila Taylor, Busby cattle producer; and
- Ed Waldner, Chester swine producer.



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