

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 found 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- Livestock Crimestoppers Commission, created under 2-15-3104, MCA (repealed in 2023)
- Board of Milk Control, created under 2-15-3105, MCA
- Livestock Loss Board, created under 2-15-3110, MCA

LEGISLATIVE AUDITS

- 2022 Financial Compliance Audit (21-22), October 2022, two recommendations
- 2021 Montana's Milk Industry: An Analysis of the State-Regulated Market Performance Audit (20P-03), 1 recommendation
- 2019 Financial-Compliance Audit (19-22), five recommendations.
- 2017 Brucellosis Management in the State of Montana Performance Audit (16P-06), four recommendations; Follow-up (18SP-09), all recommendations implemented

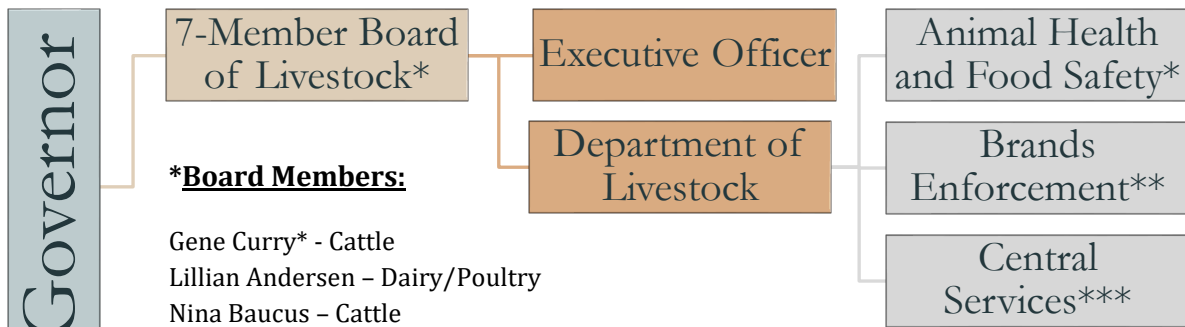
LIV - BIENNIUM BUDGET FOR FY 2024 AND FY 2025

Divisions	FTE	House Bill 2			Enterprise	Statutory	Total All
		State Special Revenue*	General Fund	Federal Funds			
Attached Agencies							
Central Services Div.	17	4,387,704	591,921			2,150,000	7,129,625
Executive, IT & Accounting	13	3,859,504					3,859,504
Predator Control						2,150,000	2,150,000
Board of Milk Control	3	528,200					528,200
Livestock Loss Board	1		591,921				591,921
Animal Health & Food Safety Division	71.50	5,132,884	7,408,637	4,604,639	2,855,356		20,001,516
Animal Health Bureau	14.25	1,769,250	2,306,498	1,783,245			5,858,993
Diagnostic Laboratory	22	1,834,935	2,356,616	45,712	2,855,356		7,092,619
Milk & Egg Bureau	6.75	1,517,257		30,155			1,547,412
Meat & Poultry Inspection Bureau	28.50	11,442	2,745,523	2,745,527			5,502,492
Brands Enforcement Division	54	9,473,651					9,473,651
Total	142.50	18,994,239	8,000,558	4,604,639	2,855,356	2,150,000	36,604,792

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

ORGANIZATION CHART

Executive Officer: Mike Honeycutt



***Board Members:**

- Gene Curry* - Cattle
- Lillian Andersen – Dairy/Poultry
- Nina Baucus – Cattle
- Jake Feddes – Cattle
- William Kleinsasser III – Swine
- Alan Redfield - Cattle
- Greg Wichman – Sheep
- * *Chairman*

*Includes: Animal Health; Diagnostic Laboratory; Meat Inspection; Milk & Egg Inspection

**Includes: Enforcement; Markets; Compliance

*** Includes: Accounting/ITS; Milk Control; Livestock Loss

RELATED LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2023

During the 2021-2022 interim, the Department of Livestock requested **seventeen** bill drafts. Of the **eleven** drafted and introduced, **ten** were passed and approved:

- HB 44** Revises document requirements for state stock inspectors and deputy stock inspectors; removes the requirement that certificates of inspection, market consignment permits, and transportation permits be made in triplicate.
- HB 51** Revises livestock indemnity provisions; creates a statutory appropriation for an indemnity fund for depopulation associated with certain diseases; revises classification criteria for animals eligible for compensation; revises the claims process; creates a state special revenue account; revises the sale of a condemned carcass; removes county obligation from indemnity payments.
- HB 84** Revises laws related to the treatment of garbage fed to swine; prohibits the act of garbage feeding in the state; provides for exceptions and rulemaking authority.
- HB 100** Revises laws related to livestock inspections; requires livestock owners to contain livestock for all inspections.
- HB 104** Revises laws regarding aerial hunting of predatory animals; removes the residency requirement for aerial hunting.
- HB 153** Revises laws regarding livestock auctions; updates laws regarding livestock video auctions; removes certain requirements from livestock operation certification applications.
- HB 158** Revises laws related to custom exempt facilities; updates regulatory oversight of custom exempt facilities to match federal requirements.
- HB 159** Revises laws related to the Livestock Crimestoppers Act; repeals the Livestock Crimestoppers Commission and remands the duties to the Department of Livestock.
- SB 37** Generally revises laws related to livestock; revises the definition of livestock in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Act.
- SB 71** Revises the state policy regarding milk price control; removes policy statements that no longer reflect the current state of milk production in Montana.

During the 2021-2022 interim, the Livestock Loss Board requested **two** bill drafts. **Both** were drafted, introduced, passed, and approved:

- HB 59** Revises laws related to funding for the Livestock Loss Board and the Department of Livestock; delays termination of the funding of programs contingency; delays termination of the statutory appropriation of funds in the Livestock Loss Mitigation Restricted Account; delays termination of the statutory appropriation of funds in the Livestock Loss Reduction Restricted Account; delays termination of the statutory appropriation of funds in the Predatory Animal Special Revenue Account.
- SB 78** Generally revises the Livestock Loss Mitigation Program; revises the definition of guard animal; standardizes claimant information; limits payments for registered livestock.

Other livestock related legislation:

- HB 66** Revises the livestock per capita fee payment due date; provides a grace period for reporting livestock brought into the state; makes the livestock per capita fee payment due date the same as the reporting due date.
- HB 388** Increases the penalty for importing livestock without a health inspection.
- HB 767** Provides Board of Livestock review of proposed brands; provides rulemaking authority.
- SJ 14** Joint Resolution opposing bison introduction at the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.