

HISTORY OF ARIZONA LIVESTOCK BRANDS



Arizona Department of Agriculture

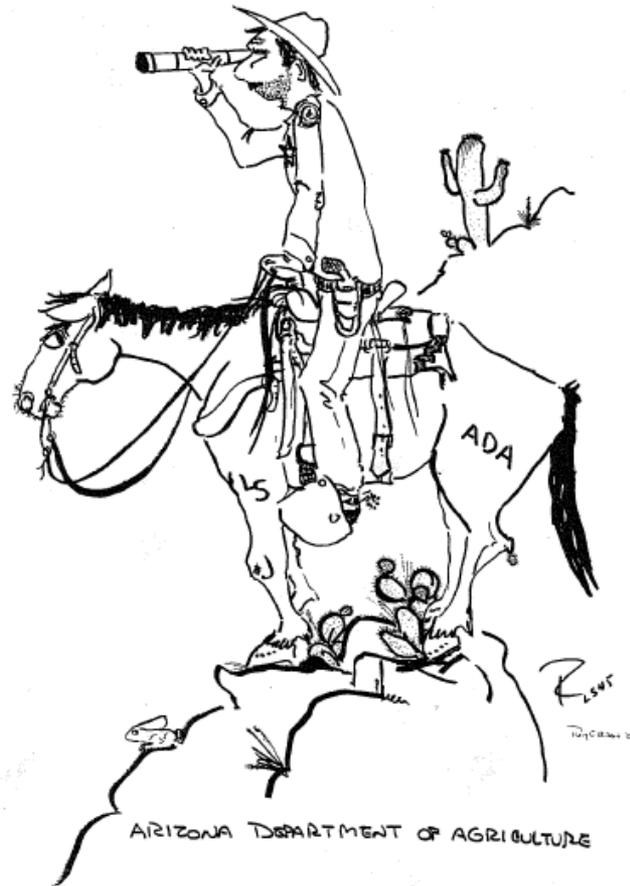
Question

What is the oldest law enforcement agency in Arizona?



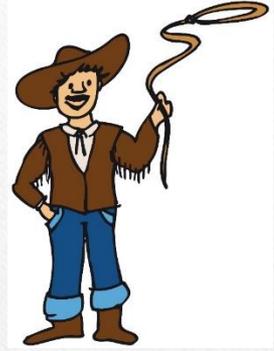
Answer

Territorial
Livestock
Sanitary
Commission



Livestock
Officers

Arizona Livestock Officer History



- March 10, 1887 – a 3-member Territorial Livestock Sanitary Commission was created to include a Territorial Veterinarian
- March 19, 1891 – Livestock Officers were appointed
- March 21, 1895 – brand owners required to register their brands
- 1897 – all county livestock brands transferred to the Territorial Livestock Sanitary Commission, 1st brand book published
- February 14, 1912 – Arizona attained statehood, Territorial Livestock Sanitary Commission became the Livestock Sanitary Board
- 1990 – the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) was created, the Livestock Sanitary Board became a program in ADA's Animal Services Division

Importance of Livestock in Arizona

- Cattle came to present day AZ as early as the 1690s via Spanish conquistadors & missionaries
- After the Civil War (1865), overgrazed pastures in Texas led ranchers to the AZ Territory and began the state's cattle boom
- AZ ranchers produced enough beef to feed 4.6 million Americans in 2010
 - This 391.2 million pounds of beef made a total economic impact of \$3.2 billion



Importance of Livestock in Arizona

- Pleasant Valley War (1882 – 1892) – a feud between the cattle-herding Grahams and the sheep-herding Tewksburys
 - For many years before the War started, AZ had been vying for statehood. Since the feud remained unresolved for so long, many legislators in DC saw it as proof that AZ was not yet civilized enough to be a part of the Union
 - Some historians believe the War might have set AZ statehood back for decades



Importance of Livestock Branding

- Main purpose – prove ownership of lost or stolen livestock
 - A brand is like a VIN on a vehicle because a vehicle's license plate is only temporary identification
- A brand on an animal is considered prima facie evidence (proof of ownership)
- Allows livestock to graze freely on the ranges of the American west (less common today than in the past)



As the cowboy says.....

“A brand is something that won’t come off in the wash.”



Origin of Branding

- Ancient Egyptians: 2700 B.C.
 - Branded oxen with hieroglyphics
- Biblical evidence: Genesis
 - Jacob the herdsman branded his livestock
- Spanish explorer, Hernan Cortes: prior to 1541 A.D.
 - Introduced branding to the New World
 - Branded his cattle with three crosses †††



AZ Brand Recordings

- Submit an application
- 30-day public notice
- \$75 filing fee
- Brand recorded in brand book
- Issuance of brand certificate

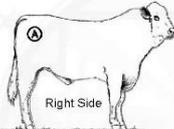
Arizona Department of Agriculture Brand Certificate

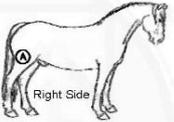
NAME OF OWNER(S): STATE OF ARIZONA
MAILING ADDRESS: 1688 W ADAMS RM 332 PHOENIX AZ 85007
DBA OR NAME UNDER WHICH LIVESTOCK WILL BE SHIPPED OR SOLD:

RANGE STATEWIDE
COUNTY STATEWIDE

BRAND NUMBER: 76




Right Side


Right Side

BRAND LOCATION
CATTLE: RH
HORSES: RT
GOATS: NO
SHEEP: NO
EARMARKS: NO

ANIMALS MUST BE BRANDED IN SPECIFIED LOCATIONS

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE BRAND AND MARKS APPEARING ABOVE WERE DULY RECORDED FOR THE OWNERS LISTED HEREIN AND THIS CERTIFICATE IS A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT COPY OF ENTRY AS THE SAME APPEARS ON THE RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1688 WEST ADAMS, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

AS WITNESS MY SIGNATURE AND THE DEPARTMENT SEAL HEREUNTO AFFIXED AT PHOENIX, AZ
THIS DATE: Monday, January 11, 2016

THIS CERTIFICATE WILL EXPIRE: 1/15/2021


Director - Mark W. Killian



Question

How many brands are currently registered in Arizona?



Answer

9,194

(as of July 3, 2018)

In 1908, there were 11,566
registered brands.

Types of Branding Irons

- Fire brands
- Electric irons
- Freeze brands
- “Running irons”



Fire Brands

- Developed by Ancient Egyptians
- Heated over a fire



Electric Irons

- Heats up in seconds
- Maintains constant heat



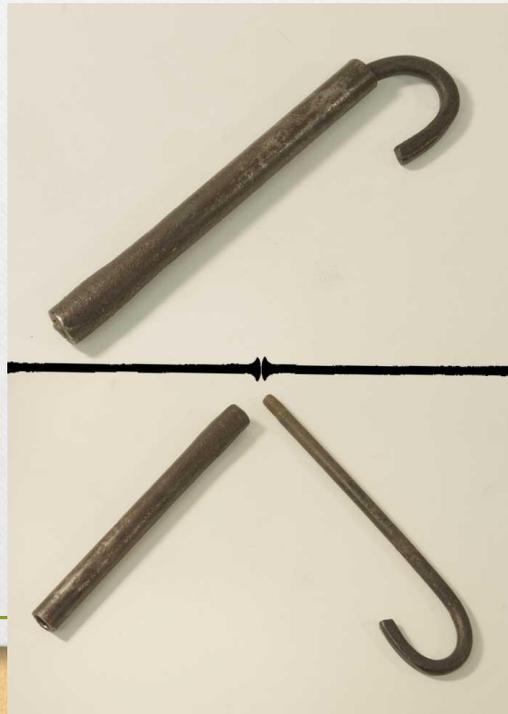
Freeze Brands

- Changes the pigmentation of the animal's hair
- Iron is chilled with a coolant (e.g. dry ice or liquid nitrogen)



“Running Irons” are Illegal

- Used by cattle rustlers to change brands (e.g. Pleasant Valley War)



Brand Makeover

- S → 48
Bar S

Open Hat → Flying T

Flying U → 7-Up

Arizona Brand Laws

- Owners of range livestock are required to have an AZ recorded brand (ARS § 3-1261)
- No two brands of the same design or figure shall be adopted or recorded (ARS § 3-1261)
- Brands have to be re-recorded every 5 years (ARS § 3-1264)
- There is a 3-year grace period to re-record your brand (ARS § 3-1265)
- The fee to record a brand is \$75, and the fee to re-record a brand is \$50 (ARS § 3-1266)



Arizona Brand Laws

- Branding livestock with an unrecorded, cancelled, suspended, or forfeited brand could result in a class 3 misdemeanor (ARS § 3-1269)
- Ranging unbranded livestock could result in a class 2 misdemeanor (ARS § 3-1296)
- Intentionally changing, altering, or disfiguring someone else's brand could result in a class 4 felony (ARS §§ 3-1304 & 1305)



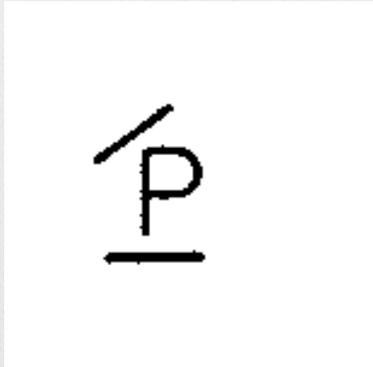
AZ Brand Inspections



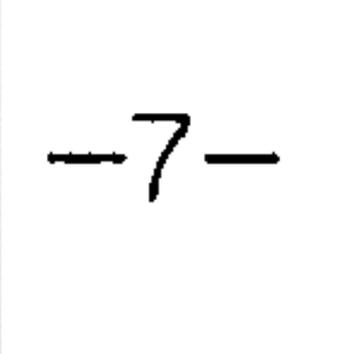
We are required to inspect livestock (except equines) within 48 hours for health, marks, and brands before they are slaughtered, sold, purchased, driven, transported, shipped, or conveyed (ARS § 3-1332)

How to Read a Brand

- Combination of two or more letters or symbols
- Left to right
- Top to bottom
- Outside to inside



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Current Culture of Brands

- Not just for livestock but should be....
- Brands are found on:
 - Property entrances
 - Pickup trucks
 - Belt buckles
 - Clothing
 - Saddles & tack
 - Food



We do not record brands to be used for any purpose other than to brand livestock. Persons interested in recording a "logo" should contact the Secretary of State.

The information contained in this presentation is to the best of our knowledge.
This information was gathered from the following sources:

1908 territorial brand book
1992 brand inspector policy manual
Pleasant Valley Community Center – Young, AZ
Smithsonian
The Arizona Experience
Modern Farmer

Special credit is given to Lt. Darrel Hale for helping research this material.



? Brands — A Cow's Only Return Address

