

Check interstate movement regulations

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Most livestock owners realize there are regulations regarding the transport of livestock across state lines. These rules are established to protect the health of animals in our state.

Many of us do not worry about these regulations unless we are planning to purchase out of state livestock or sell animals to someone out of state. When that time comes we simply get a hold of our local veterinarian to find out what needs to be done.

On the other hand, there are people who frequently transport livestock across a state line. Many of them have land in two or more states and crossing the border simply becomes a part of their grazing ritual. Other individuals may do a lot of trading of animals. Still other livestock owners may be into the show circuit or perhaps other recreational activities, such as trail riding.

Whatever the specific reason may be, this group of producers involved in routine interstate transport often become familiar with the regulations and can become complacent with the status quo.

A change in the rules regarding interstate transport will occur from time to time. In some cases the rule may be due to a long standing point of concern in the health of livestock that the State Veterinarian's office felt should become a standard procedure.

As an example, bulls that have ever tested positive for trichomoniasis are not allowed into the state of Colorado unless to go directly to slaughter. In other cases the change might be a direct response to a disease outbreak that has recently occurred in a specific area.

The State's response to the recent equine piroplasmiasis outbreak across a half dozen Texas counties is a good example of the rules being modified as a direct result of an incident.

Whatever the cause of a rule change it is the responsibility of the livestock producer to be aware of the rules at the time his/her livestock are to cross the state line. Therefore, it is a good idea for the frequent border crosser to occasionally review the most current rules and be aware of

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any changes.

Learn the rules regarding bringing animals into a state (or passing through a state) by contacting that state's Office of the State Veterinarian. Many states now list these regulations on the internet.

In the case of Colorado, the livestock movement regulations can be found at the following website:

www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1183672504470.