

**Draft Proposed Rule – Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate
Clarification Regarding Use of Brands and Other Identification Methods
March 28, 2011
Updated July 26, 2011**

USDA supports the use of brands to identify cattle moving interstate. Further, USDA recognizes the value of brands and their prevalence in the western United States. The approach in the draft proposed regulation will provide flexibility for States and Tribes to use brands for complying with the proposed requirements for interstate movement.

Under USDA's traceability framework and the upcoming draft proposed regulation for livestock moving interstate, those States and Tribes who elect to use brands will be allowed to do so. The draft proposed regulation clearly states that cattle and bison moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes may alternatively be identified with another form of identification, including brands, tattoos, and breed registry certificates as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes.

In the draft proposed rule, USDA will define official identification methods for each species. Establishing the official identification method in the draft proposed rule will provide clarity to livestock owners and ensure that no one State or Tribe can deny a method of official identification or require a specific method of official identification for entry of livestock into their jurisdiction. These official identification methods or devices will be accepted by all States and Tribes for the entry of livestock into their jurisdictions, in addition to those agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving State or Tribes.