



Farmnote

Livestock identification and movement: horses

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Stock to be identified

Identification of livestock is required by law under the *Stock (Identification and Movement) Act 1970* and assists owners by deterring theft, helping to recover stolen animals and in tracing disease. Stock which must be identified include sheep, goats, cattle, buffalo, horses, pigs, deer, camelids and ostriches.

Identifying horses

All horse owners must obtain a registered brand.

Horses must be branded.

Brand application

To register a Brand, stock owners must complete a Brand Application Form, and forward it with payment to the Department of Agriculture and Food. Once your brand has been registered you will be issued with a brand certificate. The certificate will include your registered brand, your earmark, your brand expiry date and your Property Identification Code (PIC).

See Note: 139 'Registering and updating a brand.'

Method of branding

Freeze or fire brand

- on near/left shoulder
- at least 100 mm long and 30 mm high

Age

The age when branding is required depends on the location of the property. If situated in the **South West Land Division** (i.e. agricultural areas), horses must be branded before:

- six months of age or
- being removed from the property.

Horses in **pastoral areas** must be branded before:

- 18 months of age or
- being removed from the property.

Existing brands

If owners wish to brand newly acquired stock, the registered brand must be applied immediately below

the existing brand on the left shoulder (stock with an existing brand **do not have** to be branded with the current owner's brand). When an age mark is present, the registered brand must be applied immediately below this. If insufficient room, the brand must be applied to the right shoulder.

Exemptions

Foal with mother

Foals less than six months old which are removed from their birth property while accompanied by their mother do not require branding if the mother is correctly branded.

Stud horses

The registered Breed Society mark can be used instead of the registered brand.

Feral horses

Feral horses from outside the South West Land Division do not need to be branded but movement directly to slaughter must occur within 30 days of being mustered. A 'Permit to Move' must be obtained from a Department of Agriculture and Food inspector prior to the movement and it must accompany the horses at all times during transit.

Moving branding equipment

Equipment for applying the registered brand must not be removed from the property without a permit from the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Offences

Under the *Stock (Identification & Movement) Act, 1970*:

- Possessing stock which are not legally identified.
- Using another person's registered brand.
- Possessing another person's registered branding equipment.
- Moving branding equipment from a property without a permit.

The penalty for a breach of the legislation may be up to \$3000.

Important Disclaimer

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For more information visit our web site www.agric.wa.gov.au

Moving horses

Waybill

A waybill is not required when moving horses.

See also

- Farmnote 81/2005 'Livestock identification and movement: sheep and goats'
- Note: 150 'Livestock identification and movement: cattle and buffalo'
- Note: 138 'Livestock identification and movement: pigs'
- Farmnote 115/99 'Livestock identification and movement: deer, camelids and ostriches'

Protection of Animal and Property Health Status

Livestock and machinery, fodder and people can introduce animal and plant diseases, weed seeds and pests that can threaten your production and viability and that of the industry. It is important to develop a suitable biosecurity plan for your property to reduce the potential for these problems occurring.

Information to assist with minimising risk with your livestock is available in Farmnote 43/2002, 'Biosecurity in the livestock industries'. Broader, whole farm information is presented in Farmnote 71/2002 (reviewed 2005), 'Farm Biosecurity'.