

Registering Cattle Brands in Oregon

May 27, 2026

Rules Advisory Committee Meeting



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Overview

- Statutory Requirements
- Oregon Brand Registration
- New Brand Review Process
- Conflict Checks
- Other States Brand Registration Processes
- Review of Proposed Rules

Statutory Requirements

604.021 State Department of Agriculture exclusive recorder of brands; nonrecordable brands; exceptions; authority.

(1) The State Department of Agriculture shall be the exclusive recorder of livestock brands. The department may not record:

- (a) A brand consisting of three or more letters or three or more figures, or any combination thereof, on the shoulders of cattle or on other locations specified by the department;
- (b) A painted brand unless composed of numbers, letters or symbols, or a combination thereof;
or
- (c) Similar brands to more than one person.

(2) The proscription set forth in subsection (1)(a) of this section does not prohibit the continued use of any such brands that were previously recorded. Also, such letters and figures may be used on the shoulders of cattle or other locations approved by the department by the owners thereof for the purposes of identifying breed, breed registry, rodeo or show registry, age or similar characteristics, but may not be so used as to conflict with or be confused with a recorded brand.



Statutory Requirements

604.021 State Department of Agriculture exclusive recorder of brands; nonrecordable brands; exceptions; authority.

(3) The department is authorized to modify, rescind or refuse the recording of any brands that are conflicting or that the department believes will blotch, and make any changes in brands deemed necessary to resolve a conflict or correct a design imperfection.

Notwithstanding ORS chapter 183, any such modification, change, rescission or refusal of the department may be made by written notice to affected persons and shall be a final order of the department. [1981 c.248 §4; 2003 c.140 §1]



Oregon New Brands Registration 2021-2025

Year	Transfers	New Brands Requested	New Brands Denied*	Approved But Not Completed**	New Brands Registered
2021	248	549	102 (19%)	73 (13%)	374 (68%)
2022	196	510	103 (20%)	53 (10%)	354 (69%)
2023	219	465	58 (12%)	62 (13%)	345 (74%)
2024	209	447	88 (20%)	44 (10%)	315 (70%)
2025***	188	573	158 (28%)#	53 (9%)	362 (68%)

*New brands denied due to conflicts with currently registered brands.

**New brands approved by the department, but applicant did not complete the recording process.

#This includes 43 brand requests that are within the 6 months allowed for resubmission without additional fees.

***2025 numbers are through December 31, 2025



Current Oregon Brands Counts

Type	Count
Cattle	8,772
Horse	1,838
Sheep	69
Total:	10,679

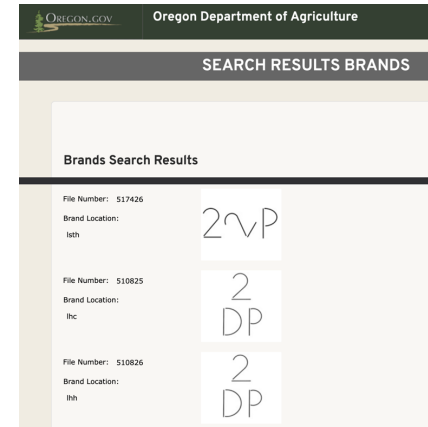
- Registered brands – 10,679
- Held brands – 602
 - If a brand is not renewed, the department will hold the brand for 1 year before it is returned to the pool of available brands

Updated April 15, 2026



Registering a New Cattle Brand

- Review the **Oregon Brand Book** and **Database of Available Brands** to see if your desired brand is available.
- Submit brand application to ODA.
 - Application can be found at www.oda.direct/BrandRegistration
 - \$25 fee per species, per location
 - Applications must be submitted in writing
- Submit desired design(s).
- Indicate design location, in order of preference.
 - Cattle: hip, rib shoulder, neck, jaw
- Include county(ies) in which livestock will range.



Database of Available Brands

First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

DESIGN LOCATION: List the locations on the animal that you wish to brand, giving your choices in order of preference. (Be sure to list only locations that you would be willing to use.)

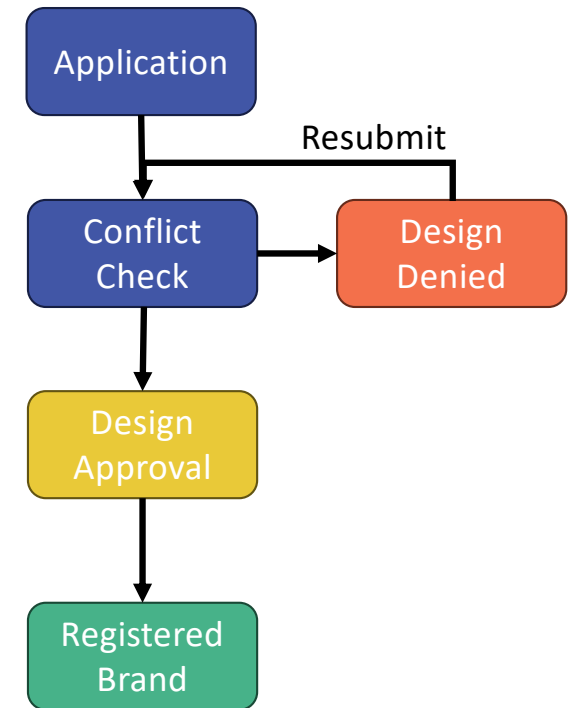
Location of Brand on Cattle _____



New Brand Review Process

- Applications are processed in the order they are received.
- A conflict check is done using the Brands Master Database and manually reviewed.
- Denied requests – applicant can reapply for 6 months with no additional fees.
- Approved requests
 - The first available design on your application will be the one issued.
 - Applicant has 90 days to provide additional documentation and officially register the brand.

Brands are not legal and cannot be used until they are recorded.



Conflict Check

- Requested design is compared to current registered brands that could be easily misconstrued or are of similar configuration.
- Two Bar differences are required between a new brand and an existing brand.
- Brands Master Database and manual review is used for conflict checks.

Examples of Brand Conflicts

A	Λ N R Π 4 / \ ∩ Δ
Λ	A N Π X Λ / \ ∩ ◊ Δ —
B	E G K P R 3 8 ∨
C	Q G L P O S C < (((
D	∩ ∩ O P Q R ◊ ∨ □ ▷
E	B F E ∑ L T E Γ 8 C
F	E I P 4 Γ C Y =
G	C D O Q C 6 (
H	B I I K M N R T W X 4
I	L T T — / \ () + ↑

One Bar vs. Two Bar Difference

MS MS ← only one bar difference

MS ← two bar difference



Brands Master Database

Database of all Oregon Brands

- Includes current and lapsed brands.
- New brands are compared only to current registered (non-lapsed) brands.

Conflict Check Process





- Use the "Find Similarities" tool.
- Enter the two-letter code(s) for the design.
- Database will return all similar brands – review for similarities.
- Consider other similar characters or symbols (i.e., S and 5, K and X); rerun analysis and review.
- Two bar difference check - Add a bar over/under design; rerun analysis and review.

The screenshot displays a web-based interface for the Oregon Brands Master Database. The main record is for a brand owned by 'Cattleowner, Bob' in Malheur County, Oregon. The design is a stylized number '2' with a diagonal slash through it. The interface includes fields for File Number (12345), Location (lhc), and Renewal Group (4). A 'RECORDED' status is shown in yellow. A sidebar on the right contains a vertical menu of actions: FIND, ADD, CHANGE OR DELETE, PERFORM AN OPERATION, BRAND HISTORY, PRINT TRANSFER FORMS, PRINT A FORM, SUPPORT OPTIONS, NO NOTES, DELETE TRANSACTIONS, FIND SIMILARITIES (circled in red), and EXIT PROGRAM. At the bottom right, a summary shows 'Current Record 150' and 'Records Found 170'.

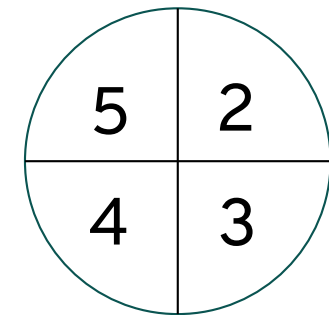
Two-letter Brand Codes

- All brands are assigned at least one two-letter brand code, depending on the symbols and characters in the brand, and how they are arranged.
- Each symbol has a unique code.
- For letters and numbers, an additional number from 1 to 5 is added to the character.

1 – Plain character, nothing attached/hooked	H	H1
2 – Attachment in top right quadrant	H̄	H2
3 – Attachment in bottom right quadrant	H _̣	H3
4 – Attachment in bottom left quadrant	H _̣	H4
5 – Attachment in top left quadrant	H̄	H5

	Heart	HT
	Ladder	LA
	Slash	SL
	Star	SR

Symbol Code Examples



Quadrant Codes



Examples of how the codes are used



Slash through a backwards S

SL – Slash

S1 – backwards “S” with no attachments



Seven up brand

U5 – “U” with attachment at upper left

P1 – “P” with no attachments



Reverse R connected V

R1 – reverse “R” with no attachments

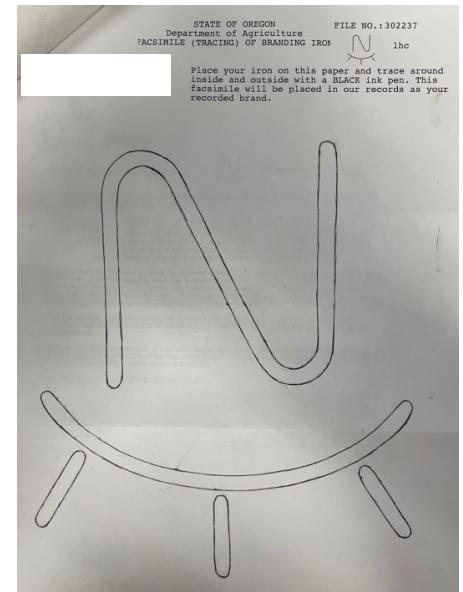
V1 – “V” with no attachments

Denied Brand Requests

- If an identical or similar design is already registered, the request is denied.
- Applicant will be sent a letter notifying them of the denial and that their design was in conflict with currently registered Oregon brands.
- Applicant may resubmit for 6 months with no additional fees.

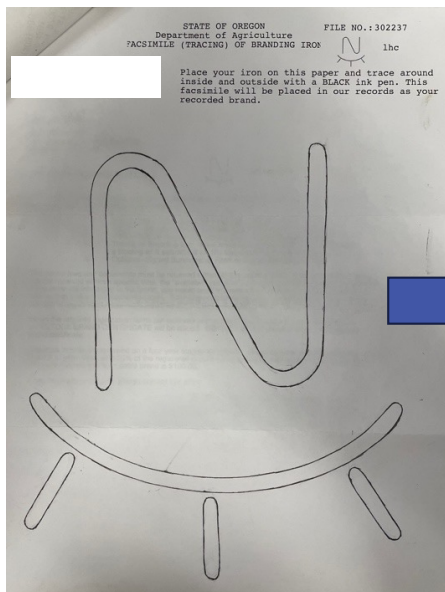
Approved Designs

- Applicant will be notified in writing that the design is approved.
- Applicant has 90 days to complete the process and provide the department with the following:
 - Original Signed Title of Ownership
 - Survivorship and/or Beneficiary information (optional)
 - One-stamp impression tracing of the iron
 - Pro-rated registration fee

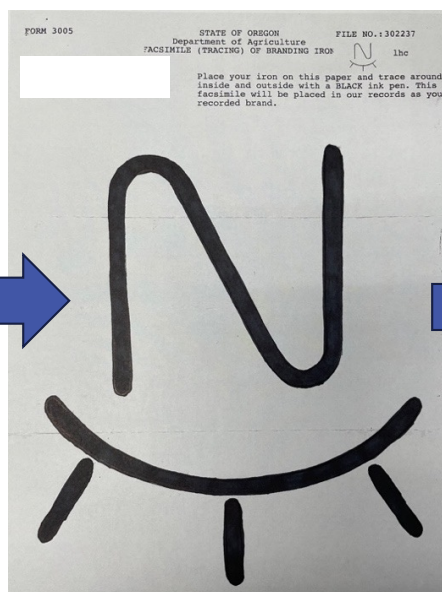


Tracing of Iron
submitted by applicant

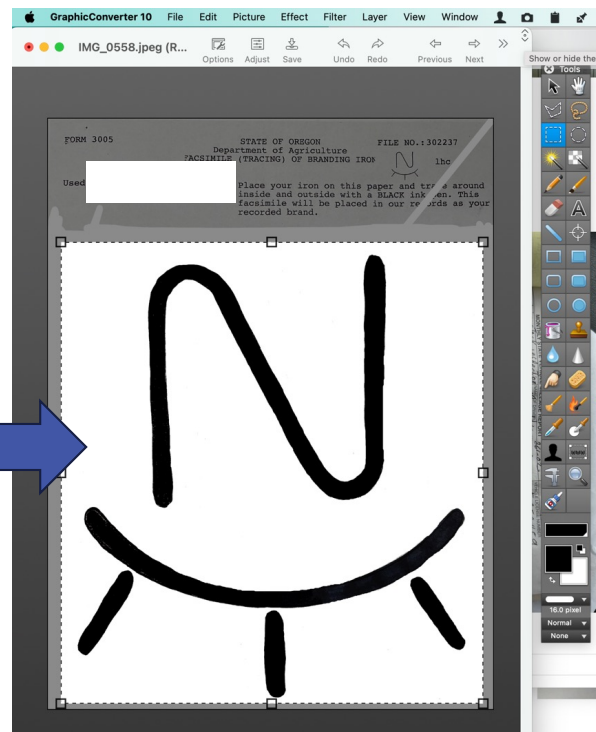
Preparing the Iron Tracing



Tracing of Iron submitted by applicant



Filled-in tracing of Iron (done by ODA)

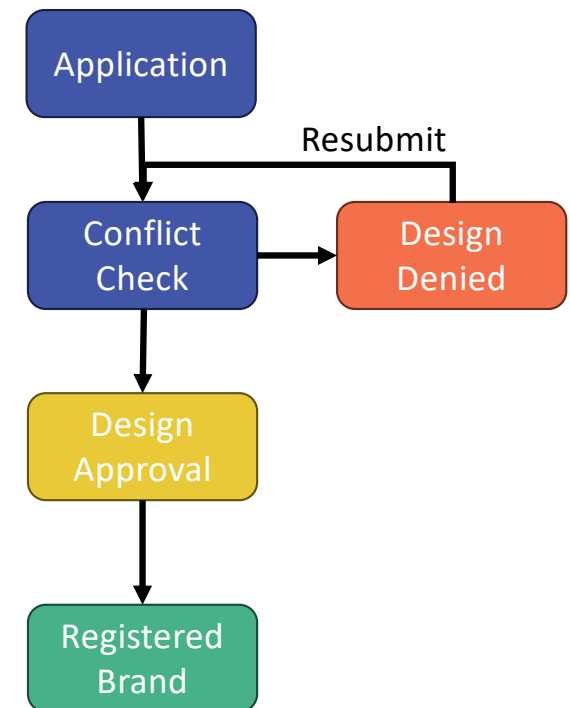


Scanned in graphic of Iron to add to Brands Master Database and Oregon Brand Book

Recordation of Brand

- All documents and fees are received.
- Certificate of Recordation is mailed to the brand owner.
- Brand is added to the Oregon Brand Book (www.oda.direct/BrandBook).

When all steps are completed and brand is recorded, it is legal to use.



Brand Application - Review by State

State	Review & Processing Notes
OR	Requires two bar difference; brand cannot be easily misconstrued as the same or in similar configuration to another recorded brand; use computer-based system and manual review
CA	Does not allow brands in conflict with any other recorded brand in the state
CO	At least two distinguishing differences must exist between your requested brand and any other brand within the same market area
ID	Check for similar characters (i.e., C,D,O); take location into consideration (i.e., may approve similar brands for registrants who live on opposite sides of the state); at the brand recorder's discretion
NV	Cannot register duplicate brands; requires one bar difference; does not allow similar letters (i.e., C, D, O, U)
UT	Cannot register duplicate brands or those deemed too similar
WA	Cannot register duplicate brands; require one bar difference; brands are reviewed on a case-by-case basis at the brand recorder's discretion

Brand Program Resources

- [Database of Available Brands](#)

A listing of available brands already in the Brand Registration database, which were never registered.

- [New Livestock Brand Application](#) 

The form used to request a new livestock brand. Requires 1) applicant name and address, 2) sketch of proposed brand design, 3) whether for cattle or horses and 4) location (hip, shoulder, etc.).

- [New Livestock Brand Application - Spanish](#) 

- [New Brand Registration Instructions](#) 

- [Oregon brand book](#) 

The web edition of the Oregon Brand Book contains all currently registered cattle, sheep, and horse brands. This is a large document and may take a while to load.

- [Transfer of Brand Ownership Form](#) 

This form is used any time there is a change of registered name(s) on a livestock brand; this could include removal of a name due to death, addition of a name, or change of a business name, etc.

Available at www.oda.direct/BrandRegistration



Thank you!

Any Questions?

AHID-Brand-Info@oda.Oregon.gov

503.986.4681



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**



Livestock Identification Program – Brands Conflict Review **Draft**

Commented [SE*01]: Anything added new is in red (for now)

603-014-005 Definitions

Unless the context or a specifically applicable definition requires otherwise, the following definitions shall apply to OAR 603-014-005 to 0310.

(1) “Brand” means a distinctive design, mark or other means of identification applied to a designated location of the hide, wool, or skin of livestock.

Commented [SE*02]: This is ORS 604.005 (1)

(2) “Character” means a letter, number, or symbol that is used in a brand. Approved characters for Oregon brands include the following:

- (a) A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z.
- (b) 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9
- (c) <<insert list of symbols here>>
- (d) Symbols not listed here but used in brands recorded prior to DATE are approved.
- (e) Other symbols may be considered if xx and yy.

(3) Department means the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

(4) “Equidae” means a horse, mule, or ass.

(5) “Livestock” means cattle, Equidae, and sheep.

(6) “Oregon Brand Conflict List” means a list of character conflicts that could preclude registration of new brand due to confusion between similar marks.

603-014-0010 Size of Brand and One Impression Limitation

All brands shall be a single stamp impression of such size that the entire design can be placed within a circle one foot in diameter.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 604.027
History:

AD 22-1981, f. & ef. 10-7-81
AD 585, f. 7-15-58, ef. 7-11-58

603-014-0012

Authorized Methods or Processes of Applying Brands

(1) Cattle, horses, mules and asses. The only methods or processes of applying brands to cattle, horses, mules, or asses (and the only methods or processes which shall be legal in Oregon), are:

- (a) By the use of a hot iron; or
- (b) By the use of a super-chilled or freeze iron; or
- (c) By the use of caustic chemicals.

(2) Sheep. The only methods or processes of applying brands to sheep (and the only methods or processes which shall be legal in Oregon) are:

- (a) By the use of paint;
- (b) By the application of tattoos;
- (c) By the use of a hot iron or fire-brand;
- (d) By the use of a super-chilled or freeze iron or instrument;
- (e) By the use of caustic chemicals.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 604.005

History:

AD 22-1981, f. & ef. 10-7-81
AD 1003(17-73), f. 12-5-73, ef. 12-25-73
AD 849(21-67), f. 9-5-67, ef. 9-13-67

ORS 604.021 (1) The State Department of Agriculture shall be the exclusive recorder of livestock brands. The department may not record:

- (a) A brand consisting of three or more letters or three or more figures, or any combination thereof, on the shoulders of cattle or on other locations specified by the department;*
- (b) A painted brand unless composed of numbers, letters or symbols, or a combination thereof; or*
- (c) Similar brands to more than one person.*

(2) The proscription set forth in subsection (1)(a) of this section does not prohibit the continued use of any such brands that were previously recorded. Also, such letters and figures may be used on the shoulders of cattle or other locations approved by the department by the owners thereof for the purposes of identifying breed, breed registry, rodeo or show registry, age or similar characteristics, but may not be so used as to conflict with or be confused with a recorded brand.

603-014-0016

Location of Brands on Certain Animals

(1) Cattle. Brands can only be recorded with the Department under the provisions of ORS chapter 604, in the following locations:

- (a) Right hip, right ribs, right shoulder, right neck, right jaw;
- (b) Left hip, left ribs, left shoulder, left neck, left jaw.

(2) Horses, mules or asses. Brands can only be used or placed on horses, mules or asses and can only be recorded with the Department under the provisions of ORS chapter 604, in the following locations:

- (a) Right hip, right stifle, right shoulder, and right jaw;
- (b) Left hip, left stifle, left shoulder, and left jaw.

(3) Sheep. Brands can only be used or placed on sheep and can only be recorded with the Department under the provisions of ORS chapter 604, in the following locations for the branding method identified:

(a) Paint brands shall be located on either of two locations on the back of the animal such locations being defined as:

- (A) Withers area: From the spinous process of the first thoracic vertebrae posteriorly to the posterior border of the eighth rib, extending on each side to lines parallel to the back line from one-half the distance from the spinous process to the shoulder joint; and
- (B) Mid-back area: From the posterior border of the above described withers area posteriorly along the spinous process to the fourth lumbar vertebrae, extending on each side to lines parallel to those side lines described in the withers area.

(b) Such brands shall be situated so that the top of the brand faces toward the head of the animal:

- (A) Tattoo brands shall be located on the inside of either of the front legs on the wool-free area above the knee;
- (B) Firebrands, freeze brands, or caustic chemical brands shall be located on either nose, left jaw, or right jaw.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561 & 604

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 604.021

History:

DOA 6-2008, f. & cert. ef. 2-6-08

DOA 2-2004, f. & cert. ef. 1-23-04

AD 22-1981, f. & ef. 10-7-81

AD 1092(15-76), f. & ef. 4-16-76

AD 1003(17-73), f. 12-5-73, ef. 12-25-73

AD 849(21-67), f. 9-5-67, ef. 9-13-67

AD 647, f. & ef. 11-18-60

603-014-0017

Location of Herd or Breed Identification Markings

(1) For breed or herd identification purposes livestock may be marked in any location such that the marking is not in conflict with or confused with a recorded brand. Such identification markings shall consist of three letters or

numbers, or any combination thereof, and may be placed either vertically or horizontally. No designs or connected characters may be used.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561 & 604

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 604.021

History:

AD 13-1983, f. 10-19-83, ef. 11-1-83

~~603-014-0030~~

~~No Ear or Flesh Marks Not Entitled to Be Recorded~~

~~No ear or flesh marks shall be recorded for any species of livestock. However, the Department encourages the owner of recorded brands to submit such marks with the application for recording of brand.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority:~~ ORS 561

~~Statutes/Other Implemented:~~ ORS 561.190

~~History:~~

~~AD 22-1981, f. 8 ef. 10-7-81~~

~~AD 585, f. 7-15-58, ef. 7-11-58~~

603-014-0035

Conflict Check; Adjustment of Conflicting Brands

The Department will review new brand applications for conflicts with existing brands.

- (1) A brand will be recorded if the requested design:
 - (a) Is not already recorded in the same location on the same species of livestock.
 - (b) Has at least one distinguishing difference between itself and a recorded brand.
 - (c) Does not contain a character on the Oregon Brand Conflict List that would make it in conflict with a recorded brand.
 - (d) Is not likely to result in blotching or something else that makes it hard to see/distinguish on an animal.
 - (e) Is not in violation of any other requirements of this chapter or ORS Chapter 604.
- (2) The Department may use the Livestock Brand Advisory Committee to review brands conflicts and advise the Director.
- (3) Should the Department deem it necessary to adjust conflicting brands, such adjustment will be made on the basis of priority of continuous record; ~~provided,~~ however, ~~that~~ the owners of conflicting brands may make such adjustments between themselves if satisfactory to the Department.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561.190 & 604.021

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 604.021

History:

AD 585-1958, f. 7-15-58, ef. 7-11-58

603-014-0045

Application and Activation Fees for New Certificates of Recordation of Brands

(1) If a person desires to record a distinctive brand on a location on a species of livestock, the person may apply for a certificate of recordation as provided in this section.

(2) To receive a certificate of recordation, the person shall submit a written application, submit all other requested documents, and pay an application fee plus an activation fee.

(a) The person may submit a written application for a certificate of recordation. The application fee must accompany the application. The amount of the application fee is \$25 for each location on each species of livestock.

(b) If the department determines after a review of the application that the requested brand is available, the department will project an expiration date for a certificate of recordation, inform the applicant of the projected expiration date and of the amount of the activation fee, and may request additional documents from the applicant.

(c) The amount of the activation fee for each certificate of recordation will be calculated based on the livestock species and on the number of days between the date that the department determined that the requested brand is available and the projected expiration date. For all livestock species except sheep, the activation fee for a certificate of recordation shall be \$0.14 per day, up to a maximum of \$200. For sheep, the activation fee for a certificate of recordation shall be \$0.03 per day, up to a maximum of \$50.

(d) Upon receiving the information described in paragraph (b), the applicant may submit the activation fee to the department. If the applicant does not submit the activation fee and all requested documents to the department so that the department receives them within three months of the date that the department determined that the requested brand is available, then the department's determination will be deemed rescinded without further action.

(3) Upon receipt of a written application, the application fee, the activation fee, and all other requested documents as provided in this section, the department will issue a certificate of recordation for the distinctive brand on the location on the species of livestock. The certificate shall allow use of the brand until the expiration date.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561.180, 604.027 & 607.261

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 604.027

History:

[DOA 24-2025, amend filed 10/15/2025, effective 10/15/2025](#)

DOA 32-2003, f. & cert. ef. 9-12-03

DOA 27-2003(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 8-4-03 thru 11-1-03

AD 6-1992, f. & cert. ef. 6-3-92

AD 22-1981, f. & cert. ef. 10-7-81

AD 2-1980, f. 2-20-80, cert. ef. 4-1-80

AD 1068(14-75), f. 9-5-75, cert. ef. 10-1-75

AD 1026(16-74), f. 4-30-74, cert. ef. 5-25-74
AD 849(21-67), f. 9-5-67, cert. ef. 9-13-67
AD 615-1959, f. 7-23-59, cert. ef. 7-23-59 & 8-5-59

603-014-0047

Renewal Fees for Certificates of Recordation of Brands

(1) All certificates of recordation expire on their expiration dates, unless the department receives the renewal fee by the first January 4th that follows an attempt by the department to notify the holder of the need to renew.

(2) The department will attempt to notify the holder during the September that precedes the expiration date of the certificate of recordation that the certificate needs to be renewed.

(3)(a) The amount of the renewal fee depends on whether the new expiration date will be adjusted under OAR 603-014-0046.

(b) If the new expiration date will not be adjusted, the certificate of recordation will be effective for four years and the amount of the renewal fee will be based on the species of livestock. For all livestock species except sheep, the renewal fee shall be \$200. For sheep, the renewal fee shall be **\$50**.

(4) The department will mail the notifications described in this section to a holder of a certificate of recordation at the holder's last known address as shown on the department's records.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 604.027(1), 604.027(2) & SB 1019 (2025)

History:

DOA 24-2025, amend filed 10/15/2025, effective 10/15/2025

DOA 32-2003, f. & cert. ef. 9-12-03

DOA 27-2003(Temp), f. & cert. ef. 8-4-03 thru 11-1-03



Brand Application, Fees, and Conflict Comparisons

This document provides information about the Brand Application processes, fee schedules, and methods used to determine conflicts for Oregon and seven other states with active Brand Programs: California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Washington. This information is publicly available on the websites for each of these programs and is provided for review and discussion by the Livestock ID Program (Brands) Rules Advisory Committee.

FEE COMPARISONS BY STATE	2
OREGON	3
CALIFORNIA	4
COLORADO	6
IDAHO	8
NEVADA	10
MONTANA	11
UTAH	13
WASHINGTON	14

Fee Comparisons by State

State	Recording Fee	Renewal Period	Renewal Cost	Notes
Oregon	\$25 application fee; \$200 (prorated) activation fee	4 years	\$200	10,679 registered brands
California	\$70	2 years	\$70	~23,000 registered brands
Colorado	\$300 research fee; applied as a credit towards recording fee	5 years	\$300 (2022-2026) \$500 (2027-2031)	~30,000 registered brands
Idaho	\$75 recording fee; \$36 per hour brand research fee	5 years	\$200	~17,000 registered brands
Montana	\$200; \$210 for cattle freeze brands	10 years; next rerecord years is 2031		~51,000 registered brands
Nevada	\$35 application fee + \$200 recording fee	5 years	\$200	All brands will expire Dec 31, 2027; renewal fee is NOT prorated; ~14,000 registered brands
Utah	\$250 \$425	5 years 10 years	\$250 \$425	Renewals are in years ending in 0 or 5; all brands expire in those years regardless of when registered; ~21,000 registered brands
Washington	\$132	4 years	\$120	~5,800 registered brands

Oregon

Authorized Agency: Oregon Department of Agriculture

Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/animal-health-feeds-livestock-id/livestock-id/Pages/brand-registration.aspx>

Brand Book: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/AnimalHealth/OregonBrandBook.pdf>

Fees

- \$25.00 fee for each species to be branded per location.
- Four-year staggered renewal for brands.
- Renewal cost is \$200 (effective October 2025) except for sheep, which is \$40.

Brand Design Requirements

Application: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/AnimalHealth/LivestockBrandApplication.pdf>

Instructions: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/AnimalHealth/RegisternaNewBrandInstructions.pdf>

- All brands shall be a single stamp impression of such size that the entire design can be placed within a circle one foot in diameter (OAR 603-014-0010).
- No limit on the number of characters (i.e., letter, number, symbol) in a brand or any disallowed symbols.
- Cannot have 3+ letter/number brands on the left/right shoulders of cattle (ORS 604.021). Reserved for herd registration/identification numbers.
- Cattle Brand Locations: Right or left, hip, rib, shoulder, neck, or jaw
- Submit a minimum of 4 designs (not required, but recommended to increase likelihood of success)

Conflict Check Information (provided on website):

Upon receipt of the application and fee, ODA will perform a conflict check to determine if the requested design is available for recording. When performing the conflict check, the requested design is compared with anything that could easily be misconstrued as the same or similar configuration.

For example, when checking a "B" for availability, we look at the letter "B", as well as the number "8", the number "13", the letter "R", double stacked "boxes" and double stacked "O's". We also check the letter "B" and number "8" with a dash or bar or dot above, below and beside it. The conflict check can take five minutes or it can take two hours and cannot be performed until the written request and fee are received by ODA.

A list of Oregon Brand Conflicts is provided in **Appendix 1**.

A list of current Symbols (not including letters or numbers) is provided in **Appendix 2**. This list is not inclusive of all registered Oregon brands.

California

Authorized Agency: Bureau of Livestock Identification

Website: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Livestock_ID/Brand_Registration_Info.html

Brand Book: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Livestock_ID/2010_Brand_Book.html

Fees

- The \$70.00 recording fee entitles the applicant to use the brand until the following April 1. At that time, the brand owner shall pay the biennial renewal fee of \$70.00 by April 30 of that year.
- If the renewal fee is not paid, the brand is placed in suspense and may not be used to brand livestock. If the brand owner wishes to reinstate the suspended brand, an additional penalty fee of \$30.00 is required.
- At the end of one year's suspension, the brand is then canceled. After cancellation, anyone may apply for the registration of the canceled brand. If the original owner(s) wish to re-record the brand, a new application and a \$140.00 re-recording fee must be submitted.

Fees (Brand Recording And Penalties):

- \$70.00 - To record a new brand
- \$140.00 - To re-record a brand
- \$70.00 - To transfer a brand
- \$70.00 - Biennial brand renewal fee
- \$100.00 - Reinstatement fee
- Penalty for using an unrecorded, forfeited or cancelled brand:
 - 1st Violation: \$100.00
 - 2nd Violation: \$200.00
 - 3rd Violation: \$500.00

Brand Design Requirements

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Livestock_ID/pdfs/2010_Brand_Book/Forward.pdf

- See page XVII (page 19 of the PDF) for a list of Brand Symbols (**Appendix 3**).

Section 20662 of the Food and Agricultural code states the proposed brand design must meet the following requirements:

- It is not in conflict with any other recorded brand in this State.
- It is capable of producing a like design when applied to the hide of an animal.
- It is capable of readily symbolizing the intended design to any person who views it.
- It lends itself to common verbal description.

Indicate on the application the choices of brand design, location on the animal in order of preference, and any earmarks desired.

Cattle Brand Locations: they are the left or right shoulder, rib or hip.

Brands: Bovine: “Brand” means a design that is permanently impressed on the hide of an animal by burning with acid, a chemical compound, or a hot iron. Freeze brands cannot be used on cattle to indicate ownership.

Brands: Horses, Mules, Burros, Sheep & Swine: Any person that owns a registered cattle brand may use the same brand on the same location on horses, mules, burros, sheep or swine. A super cold iron (freeze brand) as defined in Section 23251.1 may be used on horses, mules, burros and sheep.

Colorado

Authorized Agency: Colorado Department of Agriculture

Website: <https://ag.colorado.gov/brands/livestock-brands#NewBrands>

Brand Book: <https://ag.colorado.gov/brands/brandabetical-search>; 2022 book is available for purchase through the website

Fees

- 2022-2026: \$300 assessment per brand, collected for a 5 year period - current assessment period is 2022-2026
- 2027-2031: \$500 assessment per brand
- New Brands: \$300 non-refundable research fee; upon approval, fee will be applied as a credit toward the record fee. Also responsible for pro-rated assessment fee for the current assessment period (currently \$120 through 12/31/26).

Brand Design Requirements

Online Application: <https://co.accessgov.com/brandinspectiondivision/Forms/Edit/brandinspectiondivision/f349ba8a-2b3f-4348-9d53-1e04c48904ef/1>

New Brand Requests and Research Process

- Most new brands include two letters or numbers combined with a character such as a bar, slash, or quarter circle.
- With over 30,000 brands currently on record, and Colorado not being location specific, approval of two-character brands is unlikely.
- All new brand requests are compared with brands currently recorded to identify potential conflicts. Each application is reviewed and must be approved by the Brand Commissioner before issuance.
- Simply because a design does not appear in the Brand Book does not mean it can be issued. At least two distinguishing differences must exist between your requested brand and any other brand within the same market area.
- If your brand cannot be approved, you will be notified by email. You may submit a new application within 30 days if you wish to choose another brand.
- Allow up to eight weeks for research and processing

Brand Approval Policies

- Single-character brands are no longer issued.
- A maximum of four (4) characters may be used.
- Miscellaneous or picture brands are no longer issued. **Brands must consist only of letters, numbers, or approved Brand Dictionary characters (see Brand Dictionary below).**
- Dots are no longer issued because they are difficult to see once applied.
- Connected characters are strongly discouraged. If used, they must remain clear and legible and may only be connected in one of the following ways:
 - Stacked (top to bottom)
 - Strung (left to right)
 - Hanging (suspended from another character)

- No overlapping characters.
- Do not combine multiple characters to make them appear as one.
- Rotation: Each character must be upright, lazy left, lazy right, or inverted – only at 90-degree angles.

Livestock Brands

Livestock brands are permanent marks on an animal's hide that function as identification and return addresses. They must be clear, legible, and registered with the State of Colorado.

Approved application methods include:

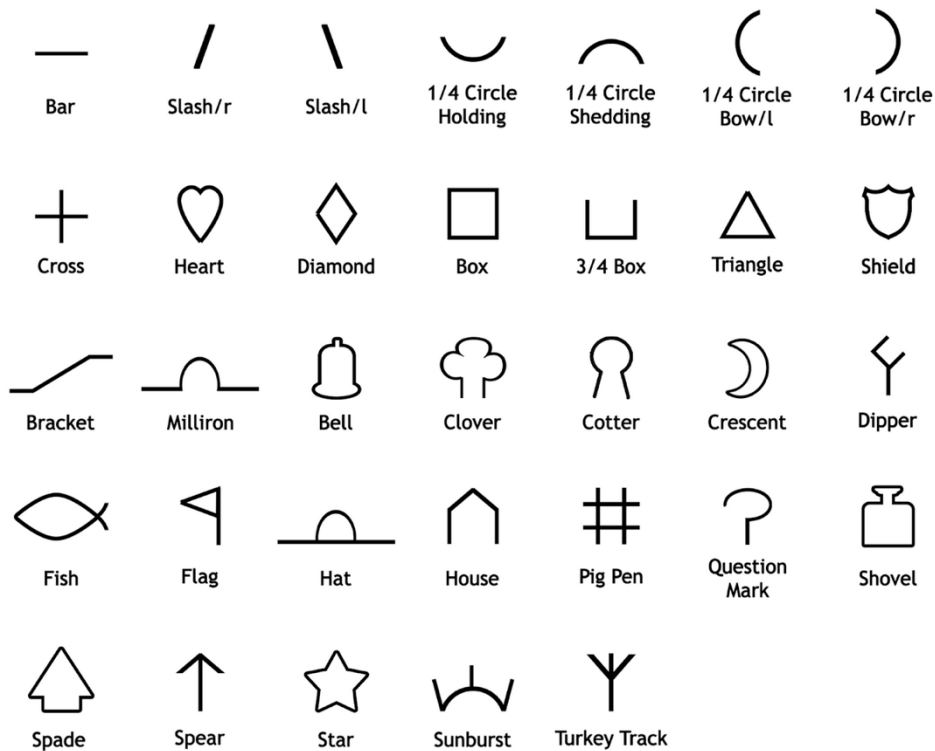
- Traditional hot iron
- Electric iron
- Freeze branding

Colorado does not regulate placement area, but brands may not be placed over an existing brand.

A brand may be applied to either side and any location on the animal.

Brand Dictionary

In addition to numbers and letters, approved brand symbols are listed in the Brand Dictionary below.



Idaho

Authorized Agency: Idaho State Police – State Brand Inspector

Website: <https://isp.idaho.gov/brands/>

Brand Book: <https://isp.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/Brands/BrandBook/Brand-Book.pdf>

Idaho State Brand Board Statutes: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/statutesrules/idstat/Title25/T25CH11.pdf>

Idaho State Brand Board Rules: <https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/11/110201.pdf>

Fees

- Fees range from \$75 to \$235, (\$25 + \$35 prorated fee per year) depending on your renewal year which is based off your last name.
- You have to call them to get the fee when you record a brand.

Brand Design Requirements

Recording a Brand: <https://isp.idaho.gov/brands/transfer/>

Application form: <https://isp.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/Brands/resources/Brand-Application.pdf>

- Submit five to six brand choices in the provided spaces.
- Brands are researched in descending order.
- Brands recorded statewide.
- Brands not acceptable for recording are Dot brands or brands applied to the jaw/neck.
- Sheep: Registered for Anywhere Sheep – only one brand issued for each design.
- Cattle: Right shoulder, right rib, right hip, left shoulder, left rib, and left hip.
- Horse/Mule: right shoulder, right hip, left shoulder, and left hip.
- When approved, a brand certificate will be mailed.

Earmarks: No longer recorded in Idaho. Use is encouraged, but others may also duplicate the mark.

Recording, Use, and Placement of Brands

03 Brands Acceptable for Recording. (3-15-22)

- a. Dash brands and bar brands must be at least two (2) inches long and slashes at least four (4) inches long. (3-15-22)
- b. Recorded brands appearing on the neck, horns, hooves or jaw of livestock, or on any other location not expressly included within the definition of “brand” in Section 25-1101, Idaho Code, may not be recorded and are not relevant for identification. (3-15-22)
- c. Markings made on the necks of equine animals made pursuant to the “International Horse Identification System,” otherwise known as the “Angle Numerical System,” U.S. Patent Number 3633584 may not be recorded as brands, but may be recognized for identification purposes. (3-15-22)
- d. A vertical arrangement of numbers in groups of two (2) or more made by freeze or hot iron

branding for the purpose of individual identification of cattle must be preceded with the oval cipher “o” and must be placed on the shoulder, rib or hip. Such numbers may not be recorded as brands, but may be recognized for identification purposes. Said animals are also to be branded with an Idaho recorded ownership brand. (3-15-22)

e. Lip Tattoos may not be recorded as brands, but may be recognized for identification purposes. (3-15-22)

f. Wattles, earmarks, dewlaps or ear tags may not be recorded as brands, but may be recognized for identification purposes. (3-15-22)

g. No new DOT brands will be recorded. Existing DOT brands will be grandfathered in to the official brand records.

06. Conflicts Between Brands. The State Brand Inspector may, at any time after recording, cancel any brand that infringes upon any previously recorded brand. Notice of cancellation of the brand will be mailed to the owners of the brand. The owners have thirty-five (35) days from the date indicated on the postmark of the notice to appeal the decision to the Board. (3-15-22)

25-1141. REQUIREMENTS FOR BRANDING IRONS. Brands shall be made by hot iron or freeze iron and shall be done in such manner to be clear and recognizable, and legible so as to enable ready identification. The major character or characters on the branding iron when applied to cattle shall be not less than three and one-half (3 1/2) inches in height, and/or three and one-half (3 1/2) inches in length, width or diameter. The major character or characters on the branding iron when applied to horses, mules and asses shall be not less than two (2) inches in height, and/or two (2) inches in length, width or diameter. Brands made in any other manner or size not permitted by this section shall be invalid and will not be recorded. All brands presently recorded at the effective date of this act shall be valid brands, but provided further that upon renewal of such brands, then and in that event such brands must comply with this chapter. Brands for sheep shall not be subject to the height, length, width or diameter limitations imposed by this section, but shall be of such height, length, width or diameter as prescribed by the state brand board, and brands for sheep shall not be subject to the hot iron or freeze iron limitations imposed by this section for cattle, horses, mules and asses.

25-1147. CONFLICTING BRANDS. In deciding as to conflicts of brands, the state brand inspector shall reject any brand being the same as one previously recorded in the same place on any animal; it shall also reject all brands known as solid brands and the window sash brand. A variation in the size of a letter, number or figure shall not constitute a new brand and shall be rejected. Combinations of letters, numbers or figures may be permitted, though the same letter, number or figure may have been recorded singly or together, if in the judgment of the state brand inspector, said combination is so different from any previous record as to constitute a new brand with no danger of infringement. The inspector shall have the right to reject any brand that may in his judgment endanger infringement of the previously recorded brand.

Nevada

Authorized Agency: Nevada Department of Agriculture

Website: <https://agri.nv.gov/Animals/Livestock/brand/>

Brand Book: https://agri.nv.gov/animals/livestock/brand_book/

Brands Statutes: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/nrs-564.html>

Brands Rules: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nac/nac-565.html>

Recording a Brand:

https://agri.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/agrinvgov/Content/Animals/Livestock/livestock_brand_recording_fee_schedule.pdf

Fees

- Application fee: \$35 nonrefundable (whether awarded or not)
- Recording fee: \$200 (refunded if no brand awarded; must not be prorated)
- Valid for remainder of current 5-year brand recording period
- Renewal fee: \$200

Fee schedule:

https://agri.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/agrinvgov/Content/Animals/Livestock/livestock_brand_recording_fee_schedule.pdf

Brand Design Requirements

Application:

<https://agri.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/agrinvgov/Content/Resources/Forms/Animal/BrandRecordingApplicationFormNew.pdf>

NRS 564.050 One brand to be awarded or recorded for each owner; brands for separate and distinct livestock units; identical or similar brands; applicability; recording of unlawful earmarks prohibited.

1. Only one brand may be awarded or recorded for each owner of animals, except that the owner or owners of separate and distinct livestock units may, under the provisions of this chapter and within the discretion of the Department, record one brand for use in connection with and for each such distinct and separate livestock unit.

2. No brand may be recorded or used which is identical with or, in the opinion of the Department, so similar to any brand previously recorded and remaining of legal record, or any abandoned brand which has not been abandoned for 1 year, as provided in [NRS 564.120](#), that it may cause confusion as to the identity or ownership of animals, or which may be readily used to obliterate or alter any legally recorded brand that is used in the same area in this State.

3. The provisions of this section do not apply to the rerecording of any brand legally recorded on July 1, 1961, and remaining of legal record in this State under the provisions of this chapter insofar as the legal owners of the brand on July 1, 1961, are concerned, until July 1, 1976, or to brands legally transferred as provided for in [NRS 564.110](#).

4. After July 1, 1959, an earmark may not be recorded which violates the provisions of subsection 3 of [NRS 564.020](#).

Montana

Authorized Agency: Montana Department of Livestock

Website: <https://liv.mt.gov/Brands-Enforcement/index>

Brand Book: <https://liv.mt.gov/Brands-Enforcement/View-Brands>

Fees

- Standard Brand Recording fee is: \$200.00*.
- Brand Recording Fee with Cattle Freeze Brand is: \$210.00*.
 - *\$100 of the application fee is nonrefundable if a brand is not registered/issued.
- The application includes a maximum of one cattle, one horse, one sheep, and one bison brand.
- Payment is required at time of application.
- Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received.

Renewals are every 10 years – next renewal period is 2031.

Allow 4-6 weeks for application processing

Brand Design Requirements

Application: https://liv.mt.gov/_docs/BE/Forms/BE-3-Application-for-Brand-Recording-w-checklist-10-2024-1.pdf

Design Requirements: https://liv.mt.gov/_docs/BE/Forms/Brand-Policy-2022.04.04.pdf

ACCEPTABLE BRAND CHARACTERS AND IMAGES

Brands can be comprised of characters and/or images.

1. Characters:

- a. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z
- b. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- c. Box, Diamond, Heart, Triangle, Spade
- d. Bar, Slash, Quarter Circle, Mill Iron, Rafter

2. Images

- a. Images are characters not listed above but are used in livestock brands currently recorded with the Montana Department of Livestock
- b. This does not include images that are recorded in ornamental brands, but not livestock brands

Montana provides a list of conflicts – see Design Requirements PDF linked above.

Branding Irons

- Suggested size of letters, figures, or characters:
 - Calves - 3" tall and wide per character with a 1/4 inch face.
 - Cows - 4" wide and tall per character with a 1/4 inch face.
 - Horses - 2" tall and wide per character with a 1/4 inch face.
- The iron needs to be heated to rose red before applying; then should be burned red so that the scar will peel.
- Do not use a small branding iron for cattle.

Ornamental Brands

Ornamental brands are for decorative purposes only; any application of ornamental brands to livestock is strictly prohibited. Ornamental brands otherwise work just like real brands – you must apply for the brand you want. If the brand you request is already recorded, it cannot be issued. When applying for an ornamental brand, you may submit several choices to have a better chance of selecting a brand that is available. A fee of \$200 is required with the application.

Utah

Authorized Agency: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Website: <https://brands.utah.gov/>

Brand Book: <https://ag.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Brand-Book.pdf>

Brands Statutes: <https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title4/Chapter24/4-24.html>

Fees

- 5-year period: \$250 per brand position or per earmark (will refund \$175 if errors or cannot be recorded)
- 10-year period: \$425 per brand position or per earmark (will refund \$350 if errors or cannot be recorded)

All brands & earmarks expire in the years that end with a 0 or 5 (2030, 2035, 2040) regardless of when registered. Allow 4-6 weeks for application processing.

Brand Design Requirements

Application: <https://brands.utah.gov/forms/BrandEarmarkApplication.pdf>

- Brand must lend itself to a common verbal description and must not exceed 3 characters, numbers or symbols combined.
- Capital print block letters of the alphabet excluding G and Q may be used. NO lower-case, cursive, Serif, or Italicized letters will be allowed. A B C D E F H I J K L M N O P R S T U V W X Y Z
- Numbers two (2) through nine (9) may be used. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
- The following symbols/characters may be used: arrow, box, slash, bar, diamond, quarter circle, rafter, mill iron, heart, triangle, star, cross and spade. Other symbols/characters submitted will be reviewed but are not guaranteed to be approved.
- No running or rolling letters or characters are allowed.
- No slanted letter or number brands are allowed.
- Letters, numbers or characters should be proportionate in size.
- Enclosed character brands – the inside character cannot touch the outside character. Enclosed brands will NOT be approved if brand does not allow for heat gaps.
- Brands that overlap will not be allowed but brands with characters or symbols that connect will be considered.
- Brands considered to be a High blotch potential will be denied. Freeze Irons may get more leeway on design and if approved are designated as “Freeze Iron Only” on the registration.
- Brands judged and deemed to be unreadable when placed on livestock will be denied.
- Brands that are identical or deemed too similar to brands already recorded cannot be approved or recorded. If a brand is found to be deceptively similar to an existing brand, it is denied.

Washington

Authorized Agency: Washington State Department of Agriculture

Website: <https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/livestock-identification/brand-information-and-brand-book>

Brands Statutes: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=16.57.010>

Brands Rules (WAC): <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=16-610&full=true#16-610-005>

Brand Book: https://cms.agr.wa.gov/WSDAKentico/Documents/AnS/Livestock%20Inspection/WA-Brand-Book-24-compressed-Copy.pdf?_gl=1*12e4sg7*_ga*OTE2MzI5NzU0LjE3MTAyNzQxMjE.*_ga_9JCK8SVQPE*czE3NzgzOTM3MDkkbzQ0JGcxJHQxNzc5MzgzODA5JGo1MyRsMCRoMA..

Fees

- The fee for recording a new brand in Washington is \$132.00
- Renewal: \$120 every four years
- Transfer: \$27.50
- Transfer a legacy brand: \$100 (legacy = any brand that has been in continuous use for at least 25 years)
- Expired brands – held for one year by WSDA with option to renew.
- Heritage Brands - \$600
 - “retired” family brands; recorded for 20 years and are not intended to be used on livestock.

Brand Design Requirements

Application: https://cms.agr.wa.gov/WSDAKentico/Documents/Forms/7052-LivestockBrandApplication.pdf?/7052-LivestockBrandApplication&_gl=1*Ibpvhc*_ga*OTE2MzI5NzU0LjE3MTAyNzQxMjE.*_ga_9JCK8SVQPE*MTc0NDE0Njg1Mi4yMC4wLjE3NDQxNDY4NTIuMC4wLjA.

- The first step in recording a brand is to create three designs that are simple and will be easy to read when applied to livestock. Next you will draw your choices on the brand application, in order of preference.
- Upon submitting your application, the Brand Recorder will compare your design with others currently recorded to avoid duplication or similarities.
- **Washington does not record duplicate or similar brands** as in many other states.
- Hot irons have more strict size requirements than freeze irons. Each character in a hot iron must be at least 3” tall and separated by at least 1”. For freeze irons, each character should be at least 2 ½” inches tall, and the characters can be touching. Smaller irons are permitted for calf or foal irons but must be preapproved.

[RCW 16.57.130](#)



The director shall not record a brand that is identical to a brand of present record; nor a brand so similar to a brand of present record that it will be difficult to distinguish between the brands when applied to livestock.


BRAND CONFLICTS


2	2 < 2 Z Z e
3	B 3 E F B 8 B
4	H 4 X Y + U
5	5 S S S E
6	C G L O B B 5 (
7	E F I 7 T Z - >) [
8	B G P R 3 S
9	9 G 9 9)
-	L T 7 / \ ~ + - ~
/	\ / V - \ () [
\	\ / V - / () [
~	U J V U - / \ ~ U ~
^	Q 7 ^ ^ - / \ ~ U ~
(C I / \ U) 9
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+	L K T X 4 - 1
♡	B D O V ♡ □ Δ ◇ ♡
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π	π O I I π - Γ M □ ~ ~
Δ	A ^ Δ O < > ♡ ◇ □ A
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✓	J Γ Σ / () [
~	~ - ~ ~ R π
R	O K P R O A ~ ~ ~
Y	E F I P T Y Γ E 4
↑	^ I T Y X / \ ~ ~ () + ^

BRAND CONFLICTS


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Λ	A N Π X Λ / \ ~ ◊ Δ -
B	E G K P R 3 8 ♡
C	Q G U P O S < < ((
D	∩ ∩ O P Q R ◊ ♡ □ Δ
E	B F E Σ L T E Γ 8 (
F	E I P 4 Γ ((=
G	C O O Q < 6 (
H	B I I K M N R T W X 4
I	L T T - / \ () + ↑
J	∩ ∩ I J S U T ∩ ~ (~ ∩ S P T I C
K	B Λ H M N R V W X Y R
L	E E I U T V T - ((
M	π H K N V W ω π
N	Λ I V I I H M ∩ V W
O	C D G Q U ◊ ♡ □ Δ ♡
P	B F I P D R C (P
Q	C D G O ♡ ◊ □ Δ ♡
R	A B H K P R
S	C J Σ 5 8 9
T	I I Y T Γ + T - ↑ J
U	V O J U O V ~ □
V	V K L M N U W X Y / \ ~ ◊ ♡ ▽
W	ω Λ H K N M V ω □
X	Λ K V Y 4 / \ +
Y	V I U V T X T Y Y
Z	I L 2 2 2 7 > <

ANCHOR - AC 
ANIMAL - AN
ANVIL - AL 
ARROW - AR


BALL - BA
BAR - BR
BED - BD
BELL - BL
BIT - BI - 
BOAT - BO
BONE - BN
BOOT - BT
BOOT JACK - BJ
BOTTLE - BE
BOW TIE - BW
BOX - BX


CAMPFIRE - CF
CAN - CA
CANDLE - CD
CHAIR - CI
CHECK - CK
CHIMNEY - CY
CLOUD - CL
COAT HANGER - CO
CRESCENT - CT
CROSS - CR
CROWN - CN 
CUP - CU


DAGGER - DA
DIAMOND - DI
DIPPER - DP
DOLLAR SIGN - DR
DOT - DT

FIDDLE - FD
FISH HOOK - FH
FLAG - FG
FLYING - FL 




GUN - GU

HAT - HA
HAY HOOK - HH
HAIR PIN - HP
HEART - HT
HEXAGON - HE
HORN - HO
HOUR GLASS - HG
HOUSE - HS
HYDRANT - HY - 

KEY - KE
KEYSTONE - KS - 

LADDER - LA
LIGHTNING - LI
LOCK - LO - 



MILL IRON - MI - 
MITTEN - MN
MUSIC - MU

OAR LOCK - OL - 
OX BOW - OB - 
OX YOLK - OY - 

PAIL - PA
PENTAGON - PE
PIPE - PP
PITCHER - PR

PITCHFORK - PI
PLANT - PL
POT - PO

QUARTER CIRCLE - QC
QUESTION MARK - QM

RAFTER - RA 
RIVER - RI 
ROCK - RO
ROCKING - RK

SCISSORS - SC
SHIELD - SH
SHRINE - SN - 
SKULL - SK
SLASH - SL
SLED - SE
SPADE - SD
SPARKLING - SG 
SPUR - SP
STAR - SR
STETHOSCOPE - SS
STIRRUP - ST
SUN - SU 
SWASTIKA - SW

























































































TEETH - TH
TOOL - TO
TRACKS - TR
TREES - TE
TRAIN - TN
TRIANGLE - TI

UMBRELLA - UM

WALKING - WA
WINE GLASS - WG

Appendix 2

Alphabetical List of Brand Symbols

Acorn		Cloverleaf		Hoove		Scissors	
Anchor		Crecent Moon		Horseshoe		Shield	
Animals		Cross		Hourglass		Shining (Sunrise)	
Animal Head		Crown		House		Slash	
Anvil		Cup		Key		Sled	
Arrowhead		Diamond		Keyhole		Spade	
Arrow		Dollar Sign		Knife (Seaving)		Spanish	
Axe		Dots		Keystone		Spring (Coil)	
Bar		Fish		Ladder		Spur	
Bell		Flag		Laddle		Star	
Bench		Flower		Leaf		States	
Bird (Swan)		Fork		Lightning Bolt		Staple	
Bridle Bit		Fruit		Man		Steps	
Bone		Glove (Mitten)		Milliron		Stirup	
Boot		Gun		Mountain		Stump	
Bottle		Hanger		Music Note		Tadpole	
Box		Hammer		Ox-Yoke		TeePee	
Bug		Hat		Pin (Cotter)		Track (Turkey)	
Cactus		Heart		Pitcher		Tree	
Chair		Hexagon		Pipe		Triangle	
Check Mark		Hook		Rafter		Wine Glass	
Circle Quarter				Rake		S Wrench	
				Pick		Wrench (Wagon)	