

This column features questions from landowners submitted via the Web site. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit BarnyardsandBackyards.com. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to *Barnyards&Backyards!*



ask Sam

question

Dear Sam,

My wife, two children, and I just moved to southern Wyoming, and we are purchasing two horses. Our children, ages 9 and 11, want to enter some shows and gymkhanas with the local 4-H and riding clubs. Some of these events will be in Wyoming, and some will be out of state. What paperwork will be needed to travel with our horses?

– Fred, Laramie County

Dear Fred,

It sounds like you are in for a lot of travel, horse care, and fun. When transporting a horse within the state, you must carry a brand inspection. Failure to do so is a violation of Wyoming law. When you buy the horses, be sure to get brand inspections at the time of purchase. This is required by law, is proof of ownership, and is valid in all brand inspection states. There are many types of inspection paperwork, each having different functions. You might want to get a permanent brand inspection, called an H Form, a wallet-sized card specific to each animal and that bears the description and markings of each horse. This inspection will allow movement outside your county and across state lines without having to find a brand inspector. If you do not have the H Form, you will need to have a brand inspection every time you leave the county with the horse. If a brand inspector is needed, call the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLB) for one nearest you (contact information below). They are also often in the Yellow Pages under Brand Inspection.

For added security, a permanent radio frequency identification (RFID) chip could be implanted in the horses and tied to the permanent brand inspection papers. Some large-animal veterinarians in the state perform this service. The fee is about \$40 to \$50 per horse. The chip, the size of a grain of rice, is implanted in the neck and can be read with many electronic readers. No matter how the animal is identified – chip, brand, photo, or diagram – the papers must be in your possession when moving the animal.

Along with the brand inspection, you must have a current health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian when crossing state lines. Most states will require a yearly Coggins test, also. A Coggins test samples for equine infectious anemia, an incurable viral disease, transmitted by biting and sucking insects. Almost all states require a negative blood test every six to 12 months.

For more information, contact a local brand inspector, see the WLB Web page at <http://wlsb.state.wy.us/>, call the WLB at (307) 777-7515, or contact the state of destination as some states have different livestock rules

Sincerely, **Sam**

