



Memo: ODA Brand Inspection Staffing

To:	Oregon Cattleman's Association
From:	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Subject:	Brands Inspection Staffing

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is planning for possible staffing shortages starting October 19, 2021, due to the state's COVID-19 vaccine requirements. ODA is committed to the state's requirement that state employees be fully vaccinated, started the vaccine process or approved for a medical or religious exception by the **October 18, 2021**, deadline. Employees who have begun but not completed the vaccine process, have until **November 30, 2021**, to be fully vaccinated.

Customers of ODA's Livestock Identification Program will likely experience some changes as the department works through potential staffing modifications over the next few months. While ODA is working hard to maintain a high level of service, our customers must know what to expect and how best to connect with ODA staff during this time of transition.

ODA has filed temporary emergency rules to keep the livestock industry moving during this busy time of year. The goal is to provide ODA customers with options to do business when an inspector is not available. The emergency rule will allow:

- Cattle, of any quantity with a single brand, or no brand, owned by the seller, and for which the buyer and destination of said cattle is within Oregon.
- The exemption only applies if ODA determines an inspector is not available.
- The inspection Certificate will be written by a brand inspector on normal country brand certificate documenting the usage of the emergency rule and that cattle have not been physically inspected.

ODA is also prioritizing auctions and out-of-state shipments. As a result, brand inspection customers may see new ODA staff in their region replying to calls for service. As part of the department's contingency plan to be responsive, existing staff from other ODA programs are being trained and assigned to this critical work keeping the industry moving to create as little disruption as possible.

To arrange for livestock inspection services, please contact your local brand inspector or the ODA Salem office at (503) 986-4681. To locate your local brand inspector, please use the ODA [Search Brand Inspectors](#) online tool.