



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Resources and Development Committee provides notice regarding Navajo Nation livestock inspection requirements**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The Resources and Development Committee (RDC) is notifying Navajo Nation livestock owners of a memorandum issued Feb. 9 by the Division of Natural Resources and the Department of Resource Enforcement that clarifies the livestock inspection process and the documentation required to legally obtain a resale permit and transport livestock to auction.

RDC Chair Brenda Jesus said the inspection requirements support responsible livestock management and help protect rangelands across the Navajo Nation.

“Navajo Nation laws are designed to safeguard our land from overgrazing, exceeding livestock carrying capacity, and livestock theft,” said RDC Chair Jesus. “These guidelines are in place to help livestock owners move their animals through the proper process while ensuring our grazing resources remain sustainable for future generations. The RDC is also working to update laws so they align with current governmental structures and operations.”

The memorandum explains that livestock owners must obtain a “certificate of inspection,” also known as a resale permit, to transport livestock to a sale destination in accordance with 3 N.N.C. § 1256. The certificate serves as verification of livestock ownership and confirms that the individual transporting or selling the livestock is authorized to do so.

Pursuant to 3 N.N.C. § 1254, livestock owners must provide a list of brands or other necessary evidence of ownership. Livestock inspectors are required to verify that the person in possession of the livestock is the owner or is otherwise authorized to sell the animals.

The memorandum outlines four documentation areas related to livestock inspections: grazing permits, tally counts, livestock inventory, and branding. It clarifies that grazing permits and related ownership documents establish proof of brand ownership and authorized grazing areas, supporting proper land use and permit accountability.

The memorandum further explains that tally counts and livestock inventories are not required for ownership verification when issuing resale permits. Tally counts are conducted to ensure grazing capacity is not exceeded, while livestock inventories are intended to support theft investigations and missing livestock reports.

The memorandum also clarifies that the “-N” brand is required only for livestock bearing three-character brands on the left side of the animal and is not required for all state-branded livestock.

The Resources and Development Committee encourages livestock owners to review the memorandum in full for detailed guidance on acceptable proof-of-ownership documentation and livestock inspection procedures.

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