



DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION  
**APPLICATION FOR BRAND RECORDING**

(page 1)

OFFICE USE ONLY

CC/CHECK/MO \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT REC'D \_\_\_\_\_  
TRANSMITTAL # \_\_\_\_\_

**All fields are required unless specified otherwise.**

**Type of Ownership:**  Sole Owner       Joint Tenancy       Tenants in Common  
(Select only one)      See **Requirements for Brand Recording** for information about ownership types & authorized bill of sale signers.

**Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Separate owner names with a comma. Do not use "and", "or", "and/or".      Business names must be registered with Montana Secretary of State.

**Physical MT Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary physical address or location of livestock that will bear this brand      City \_\_\_\_\_      County \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address      City \_\_\_\_\_      State \_\_\_\_\_      Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone number      Cell phone number

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bill of Sale Signer(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
Required if Owner (above) is a business.

**Do you own livestock in Montana?**       YES       NO      **If so, you are required to pay a PER CAPITA FEE.**  
Visit [www.liv.mt.gov](http://www.liv.mt.gov) for more information.

**Additional Montana county(ies) of range:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Not required)

**Identifying Marks:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e. ear notches, waddles, etc.) (Not required)

**Species:**       Cattle       Horse       Sheep       Bison

**Sheep and Bison:**      If applying for sheep or bison, list the preferred brand location for each species.  
If more than one location is acceptable, list them in preferential order.  
• Preferred position(s) for sheep: \_\_\_\_\_      Paint Color: \_\_\_\_\_  
• Preferred position(s) for bison: \_\_\_\_\_

**Freeze Brands:**      Add cattle freeze brand?       YES       NO

**Brand Choices:**      See reverse

**Application Fee:**       **Standard Brand Recording Fee: \$200\***  
(Select one)      \*\$100 of the application fee is nonrefundable. Fees are subject to change.

**Applicant's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable to:** Montana Dept of Livestock  
**Mail Application & Payment to:** MT Dept. of Livestock  
ATTN: Brand Recorder  
PO Box 202001  
Helena, MT 59620-2001  
**For More information:** (406) 444-2045 or [www.liv.mt.gov](http://www.liv.mt.gov).

**APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED IN-PERSON  
AND MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY.  
PLEASE ALLOW 2-4 WEEKS FOR PROCESSING.**  
Application approved by: \_\_\_\_\_



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**APPLICATION FOR BRAND RECORDING**

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**All fields are required unless specified otherwise.**

**Brand Choices:** Carefully draw one brand image in each box. List choices IN PREFERENTIAL ORDER.  
 The first available brand choice listed on this application will be issued to the applicant.  
 Indicate the position on cattle, horses, or both for each image.  
 Per 81-3-103, MCA, new brands must be distinguishable with reasonable certainty from all other marks and brands.

1)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	2)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	3)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	4)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____
5)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	6)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	7)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	8)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____
9)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	10)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	11)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____	12)  Cattle: _____ Horse: _____

If you prefer to have MT Dept of Livestock select and assign a brand to you, using the criteria listed below, please select the box below and follow the instructions.

Finish the process by printing, signing, dating, and returning the form with your payment.

If none of the above brand choices are available, I will accept **ANY BRAND** with the following two (2) characters on the position listed. You may choose two (2) characters from the acceptable brand character list in the Requirements for Brand Recording (see page 3)

Character

Character

Circle any position you will accept:

Position on cattle: LS RS LR RR LH RH

Position on horses: LS RS LT RT LJ RJ

**NOTE:** There will be a Bar, Slash or Quarter Circle added to your chosen characters to complete your Brand.

**Applicant's printed name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION  
**REQUIREMENTS FOR BRAND RECORDING**

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Do you own livestock in Montana? If so, you are required to pay a PER CAPITA FEE.  
Visit [www.liv.mt.gov](http://www.liv.mt.gov) for more information.

**NEW BRAND CONFLICT CHECK:**

The primary purpose of livestock brands in Montana is to help clarify ownership of branded livestock. Applications for new brands are compared to over 50,000 existing brands to ensure that they are “distinguishable with reasonable certainty” from all other brands, per 81-3-103 MCA. This is a meticulous, specialized process that utilizes data from thousands of Montana livestock inspections. Even if a brand is not recorded, it may be too similar to an existing brand to be issued.

**APPLICATION PROCESSING:**

**APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED IN-PERSON. THEY MAY BE MAILED IN OR DROPPED OFF FOR PROCESSING.**

Applicants are encouraged to include multiple choices, listed in preferential order on their application. The conflict check is performed beginning with the first choice; the first brand that passes the conflict check will be issued to you. Once issued, the brand is yours until the next rerecord (2031), at which point you may choose to either renew it, or let it expire.

If you select the option to allow MT Dept of Livestock to select your brand, you will receive an official brand certificate. Once issued, the brand is yours until the next rerecord (2031), at which point you may choose to either renew it, or let it expire.

If none of your choices pass the conflict check, you will receive a letter with three options: 1) submit a W-9 form to receive half (\$100) of your application fee back, or 2) submit additional choices to be checked for conflict, or 3) appeal to the Brands Enforcement Administrator. If MDOL receives no response for six months following the date of this letter, your application is nullified, and no fees will be reimbursed.

**SELECTION OF BRANDS**

**Acceptable Brand Characters**

The following characters are the only characters that will be issued in new brands:

- A, B, C, D, E, F, H, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z,
- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- Box, Diamond, Heart, Triangle
- bar, slash, quarter circle (only in the formats shown below)

**Acceptable Brand Formats:**

- The ‘H’ and ‘B’ in example brands (right) may be replaced with any of the Acceptable Brand Characters listed above.
- Individual characters may be rotated 90\* either direction (“lazy” orientation).

H <sub>B</sub>	H <sup>B</sup>	⊙	⊠	△	♡	◇	⤴
⤵	⤶	⤷	⤸	⤹	⤺	HB,	HB
⤻	⤼	⤽	⤾	⤿	⤺	'HB	HB,
HB	H-B	HB-	-HB	HBH	$\frac{H}{B}$	H/B	H\B

**BRAND OWNERSHIP TYPES**

- **Sole Owner:** one individual person\* or business\*\* is listed as the only owner of the brand.
- **Joint Tenancy:** multiple individuals\* listed as owners; in the event of the death of one owner, the decedent’s interest passes to the surviving owner(s); ANY owner may sign a bill of sale to sell branded livestock.
- **Tenants in Common:** multiple individuals\* listed as owners; in the event of the death of one owner, the decedent’s interest passes to the heir(s) of the decedent; ALL owners must sign a bill of sale to sell branded livestock.

\*Individuals must use their full, legal name as it appears on a driver’s license or birth certificate.

\*\* When recording a brand to a corporation, partnership, or LLC, the entity MUST be registered with Montana Secretary of State ([sos.mt.gov](http://sos.mt.gov)). Bill of sale signers must be listed on the application to designate who can sell branded livestock.