# Missouri State Archives
# Finding Aid 102.1

## Department of Agriculture

## Animal Health

---

## County Brand Books, 1836-1971

*Abstract*: Photocopies of county brand books (1836-1971) filed with the Animal Health Division within the Department of Agriculture.

*Extent*: 2.4 cubic ft. (6 Hollinger boxes)

*Physical Description*: Paper

*Location*: MSA Stacks

## Administrative Information

*Access Restrictions*: No special restrictions.

*Publication Restrictions*: Copyright is in the public domain.

*Preferred Citation*: [Item description], [County], [Date]; *County Brand Books, 1836-1971*, Record Group 102; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information*: Agency transfer.

*Processing Information*: Processing completed by Daniel Reeder on April 10, 2012.

## Additional Descriptive Information

### Related Material

The Archives also holds four flat boxes of cards, arranged by county, that give brief information and drawings of expired brands.

## Historical and Biographical Notes

Branding has helped to establish ownership of livestock for thousands of years. Images of oxen being branded are depicted on the walls of Egyptian tombs. Ancient Romans and Greeks practiced branding of livestock as well. Brands consisted of an image or symbol that was seared into the hide of the animal using a brand heated over an open flame. This symbol established ownership.

Branding also provides name recognition to farmers and ranchers for livestock that they own. Although the methods have changed, branding is still practiced today. Brands are now applied using electric irons or through the use of a steel die cooled with dry ice.

According to the laws of Missouri, “Any person having cattle, sheep, horses, mules, or asses shall have the right to adopt a brand for the use of which he shall have the exclusive right in this state, after recording the brand” with the Department of Agriculture, which “shall secure the brand to the person and shall be considered personal property of the owner.” (Missouri Revised Statutes 268.021 and 268.051)

It is difficult to track how long some brands have existed in Missouri. Prior to 1971, brands were registered by counties. The Department of Agriculture post-1971 has assumed responsibility for registering brands and preparing a directory of the symbols along with the names and addresses of the producers who own them.

# County Brand Books, 1836-1971

*Arrangement*: Alphabetical by county.

## Scope and Content

This series consists of photocopies of original brand books (bulk 20th century) held at the county level. Folders contain records of marks and brands and a small amount of correspondence. Some of these records are faint and missing some information that may have been cut off in the process of copying.

## Container List

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Adair County, 1957-1971 |
| 1 | 2 | Andrew County, 1944-1971 |
| 1 | 3 | Atchison County, 1957-1971 |
| 1 | 4 | Audrain County, 1876-1971 |
| 1 | 5 | Barry County, 1891-1971 |
| 1 | 6 | Barton County, 1886-1971 |
| 1 | 7 | Bates County, 1934-1971 |
| 1 | 8 | Benton County, 1904-1971 |
| 1 | 9 | Bollinger County, 1895-1971 |
| 1 | 10 | Boone County, 1907-1969 |
| 1 | 11 | Buchanan County, 1967-1971 |
| 1 | 12 | Butler County, 1905-1971 |
| 1 | 13 | Caldwell County, 1941-1971 |
| 1 | 14 | Callaway County, 1928-1971 |
| 1 | 15 | Camden County, 1902-1971 |
| 1 | 16 | Cape Girardeau County, 1898-1971 |
| 1 | 17 | Carroll County, 1954-1971 |
| 1 | 18 | Carter County, 1926-1971 |
| 1 | 19 | Cass County, 1945-1971 |
| 1 | 20 | Cedar County, 1949-1971 |
| 1 | 21 | Chariton County, 1951-1971 |
| 1 | 22 | Christian County, 1900-1971 |
| 2 | 1 | Clark County, 1957-1971 |
| 2 | 2 | Clay County, 1940-1971 |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | Clinton County, 1957-1971 |
| 2 | 4 | Cole County, 1966-1971 |
| 2 | 5 | Cooper County, 1883-1971 |
| 2 | 6 | Crawford County, 1890-1971 |
| 2 | 7 | Dade County, 1952-1971 |
| 2 | 8 | Dallas County, 1883-1971 |
| 2 | 9 | Daviess County, 1963-1971 |
| 2 | 10 | DeKalb County, 1966-1971 |
| 2 | 11 | Dent County, 1936-1971 |
| 2 | 12 | Douglas County, 1890-1971 |
| 2 | 13 | Dunklin County, 1891-1970 |
| 2 | 14 | Franklin County, 1940-1971 |
| 2 | 15 | Gasconade County |
| 2 | 16 | Gentry County, 1963-1971 |
| 2 | 17 | Greene County, 1942-1971 |
| 2 | 18 | Grundy County, 1894-1971 |
| 2 | 19 | Harrison County, 1938-1971 |
| 2 | 20 | Henry County, 1949-1971 |
| 3 | 1 | Hickory County, 1949-1971 |
| 3 | 2 | Holt County, 1879-1971 |
| 3 | 3 | Howard County, 1946-1971 |
| 3 | 4 | Howell County, 1890-1971 |
| 3 | 5 | Iron County, 1956-1971 |
| 3 | 6 | Jackson County, 1956-1971 |
| 3 | 7 | Jasper County, 1883-1971 |
| 3 | 8 | Jefferson County, 1951-1971 |
| 3 | 9 | Johnson County, 1884-1971 |
| 3 | 10 | Knox County, 1883-1971 |
| 3 | 11 | Laclede County, 1890-1971 |
| 3 | 12 | Lafayette County, 1971 |
| 3 | 13 | Lawrence County, 1958-1971 |
| 3 | 14 | Lewis County, 1959-1971 |
| 3 | 15 | Lincoln County, 1971 |
| 3 | 16 | Linn County, 1967-1971 |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | 17 | Livingston County, 1970-1971 |
| 3 | 18 | McDonald County, 1892-1954 |
| 3 | 19 | McDonald County, 1966-1971 |
| 3 | 20 | Macon County, 1962-1971 |
| 3 | 21 | Madison County, 1907-1971 |
| 3 | 22 | Maries County, 1967-1971 |
| 3 | 23 | Marion County, 1941-1971 |
| 3 | 24 | Mercer County, 1954-1971 |
| 4 | 1 | Miller County, 1890-1971 |
| 4 | 2 | Mississippi County, 1917-1971 |
| 4 | 3 | Moniteau County, 1963-1971 |
| 4 | 4 | Monroe County, 1952-1971 |
| 4 | 5 | Montgomery County, 1924-1971 |
| 4 | 6 | Morgan County, 1891-1971 |
| 4 | 7 | New Madrid County, 1889-1902 |
| 4 | 8 | New Madrid County, 1903-1971 |
| 4 | 9 | Newton County, 1896-1971 |
| 4 | 10 | Nodaway County, 1836-1971 |
| 4 | 11 | Oregon County, 1890-1971 |
| 4 | 12 | Osage County, 1969-1971 |
| 4 | 13 | Ozark County, 1952-1967 |
| 4 | 14 | Ozark County, 1968-1971 |
| 4 | 15 | Pemiscot County, 1971 |
| 4 | 16 | Perry County, 1889-1955 |
| 4 | 17 | Pettis County, 1953-1971 |
| 4 | 18 | Phelps County, 1881-1971 |
| 4 | 19 | Pike County, 1965-1971 |
| 4 | 20 | Platte County, 1969-1971 |
| 4 | 21 | Polk County, 1966-1971 |
| 4 | 22 | Pulaski County, 1911-1971 |
| 5 | 1 | Putnam County, 1943-1971 |
| 5 | 2 | Ralls County, 1971 |
| 5 | 3 | Randolph County, 1966-1971 |
| 5 | 4 | Ray County, 1958-1971 |

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | 5 | Reynolds County, 1956-1971 |
| 5 | 6 | Ripley County, 1891-1971 |
| 5 | 7 | St. Charles County |
| 5 | 8 | St. Clair County, 1959-1971 |
| 5 | 9 | St. Clair County, 1949-1967 |
| 5 | 10 | St. Francois County, 1968-1971 |
| 5 | 11 | St. Louis County, 1971 |
| 5 | 12 | Ste. Genevieve County, 1880-1971 |
| 5 | 13 | St. Louis City County |
| 5 | 14 | Saline County, 1880-1971 |
| 5 | 15 | Schuyler County, 1954-1971 |
| 5 | 16 | Scotland County, 1971 |
| 5 | 17 | Scott County, 1891-1971 |
| 5 | 18 | Shannon County, 1895-1971 |
| 5 | 19 | Shelby County, 1883-1971 |
| 5 | 20 | Stoddard County, 1965-1971 |
| 5 | 21 | Stone County, 1906-1971 |
| 5 | 22 | Sullivan County, 1882-1971 |
| 5 | 23 | Taney County, 1934-1971 |
| 6 | 1 | Texas County, 1930-1971 |
| 6 | 2 | Vernon County, 1943-1971 |
| 6 | 3 | Warren County, 1954-1971 |
| 6 | 4 | Washington County, 1937-1971 |
| 6 | 5 | Wayne County, 1893-1971 |
| 6 | 6 | Webster County, 1953-1971 |
| 6 | 7 | Worth County, 1960-1971 |
| 6 | 8 | Wright County, 1897-1971 |