

**Stock Inspector, Authority on Indian Reservation. Estrays, on Indian Reservations. Indian Reservation, Authority of Stock Inspector on.**

Indian reservations are not within the jurisdiction of state stock inspectors, and estrays found thereon are exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Indian agent or inspector, in charge of the reservation.

June 23, 1915.

Hon. D. W. Raymond,  
Secretary State Board Stock Commissioners,  
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your communication under date the 21st instant, enclosing a letter from the Superintendent of the Fort Peck Indian Agency, relative to stray animals found on the reservation and gathered in the course of a roundup. He states that there are certain stray animals upon the reservation branded with brands that are not recorded in this state, and that they wish to dispose of such animals, and if possible use the proceeds arising from the sale thereof toward paying the expenses of the roundup. You ask what jurisdiction a stock inspector would have upon the reservations in such a case?

I am of the opinion that Indian reservations are not within the jurisdiction of state stock inspectors. Indian reservations are not public range, and cattle may be pastured thereon only after permit or license issued by the United States Government, or its agents, or in some cases, by contract with the Indian tribe. Such animals are, therefore, exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Indian agent or inspector in charge of the reservation, and he should apply to the Federal authorities for direction in the disposition of them.

Yours very truly,  
J. B. POINDEXTER,  
Attorney General.