

Livestock—Hides—Inspection—Hide Dealers.

A hide dealer may lawfully have in his possession hides which have been purchased outside the state and which have not been inspected or tagged but cannot sell or offer for sale such hides without the same being inspected and tagged.

Mr. Paul Raftery,
Secretary, Livestock Commission,
Helena, Montana.

July 1, 1931.

My dear Mr. Raftery:

You have requested my opinion whether a hide dealer maintaining a place of business in the state of Montana, but who buys hides across the state line in Idaho, is required to have such hides inspected and tagged the same as though they had been bought in the state.

It is at once obvious that the state of Montana has no jurisdiction over the purchase of hides outside of the state. However, chapter 69, laws of 1929, is a police regulation and therefore the state has a right to regulate the handling of these hides after they are brought into the state. While the above law does not make it unlawful to possess hides which have not been inspected and tagged section 4 of said act provides that "it shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm, corporation

or association to sell or offer for sale any hide or hides from neat cattle which have not been inspected by authorized inspector.”

It is therefore my opinion that while a dealer may lawfully have in his possession hides which have been purchased outside of the state and which have not been inspected and tagged he cannot sell or offer for sale such hides without their being inspected and tagged, and should he do so he would be guilty of a violation of the law.

Very truly yours,

L. A. FOOT,
Attorney General.