



## Ohio Revised Code

### Section 904.04 Administration and enforcement of chapter.

Effective: September 30, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 96

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(A) In order to assist the Ohio livestock care standards board in the administration and enforcement of this chapter, the director of agriculture shall do all of the following:

(1) Hire all employees of the board, including an executive director. Employees of the board shall be in the unclassified civil service, serve at the pleasure of the director of agriculture, and be compensated with money from the animal and consumer protection fund created in section 943.26 of the Revised Code.

(2) Enter into contracts on behalf of the board;

(3) Do all of the following with regard to rules governing the care and well-being of livestock adopted by the board under section 904.03 of the Revised Code:

(a) Process and submit the rules to the joint committee on agency rule review pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code;

(b) Contract for surveys and analyses;

(c) Perform any other activities that assist the board in adopting the rules.

(4) Publish and distribute information related to livestock care, including educational materials, to livestock producers and members of the public;

(5) Investigate complaints regarding violations of the rules adopted under section 904.03 of the Revised Code in accordance with the authority granted by this chapter, sections 901.25 to 901.29 of the Revised Code, and rules adopted under this chapter and section 901.03 of the Revised Code;

(6) Enforce the rules adopted under section 904.03 of the Revised Code and levy the civil penalties



established by those rules. The director may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for a temporary or permanent injunction or other appropriate relief for violations of this chapter and rules adopted under it. For purposes of this division, the court of competent jurisdiction shall be either the court of common pleas of Licking county or the court of common pleas of the county where the violation is occurring. Money collected from civil penalties levied under division (A)(6) of this section shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the general revenue fund.

(7) Perform any other duties necessary to assist the board in the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

(B) With the consent of the premises owner and, if the premises owner is different from the livestock owner, the livestock owner, the director or the director's authorized representative may enter at all reasonable times on any premises for the purpose of determining compliance with the rules adopted under section 904.03 of the Revised Code. If the director or the director's authorized representative is denied access to the premises and the director or the director's authorized representative suspects that those rules are not being complied with, the director may apply for a search warrant authorizing access from a court of competent jurisdiction. The court shall issue the search warrant if there is probable cause. Probable cause may be based on hearsay, provided that there is substantial basis for believing the source is credible and there is factual basis for the information.

Upon entry on premises in accordance with this division, the director or the director's authorized representative shall observe biosecurity measures in order to prevent spreading disease and infecting livestock.