



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

## LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO

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## Media Release

To: All Media Outlets  
From: Jennifer L. McFarland  
Public Information Officer  
Date: 17 June 2006  
RE: Livestock Seizure in Harvard

Latah County Sheriff's Office deputies served a search warrant today at 09:00, on a property at 3016 Deary Street in Harvard, Idaho. The search warrant, signed by Magistrate Judge William C. Hamlet on June 14, 2006, allowed for the seizure of any and all livestock at the Deary Street address. According to the affidavit for the search warrant, the owner of the livestock, Delmer R. West, had been admonished in writing, by a State vet and by the Department of Agriculture Livestock Investigator, to fix problems on his property concerning the care and health of the animals. This admonition was delivered on 6/6/2006 after both the Department of Agriculture and the Sheriff's Office has received citizen complaints about the animals' living conditions. However, between 6/6/2006 and 6/14/2006, the Sheriff's Office and the Dept. of Agriculture continued to receive complaints regarding the animals. On 6/13/2006, a WSU College of Veterinary Medicine Professor Emeritus faxed a complaint against West citing "poor body condition and emaciated" animals as well as lack of food and water. The professor had viewed the animals on 6/12/2006.

Sheriff's Deputies, with the aid of volunteers from the Latah County Search and Rescue Mounted Horse Posse, rounded up and seized 23 horses, four cows, and two llamas. All the animals were taken to the Lewiston Stockyard where they will be examined and treated by a veterinarian from the Lewiston Veterinary Clinic. The animals will remain there under treatment until the owner of the animals arranges for their sale (as was agreed). Proceeds from the sale will go toward covering treatment costs as well as other costs associated with the animals' care and seizure.

The seizure service went without incident and Mr. West is cooperating with Latah County deputies in ameliorating the situation.