

Sept 22 2018 Education Report- respectfully submitted by Marybeth Conger BCHI Education Chair

Last year in Idaho, a bill was proposed to change Title 25, Animals, Chapter 11, State Brand Board and eliminate equine annual and lifetime brand inspections since fees collected did not cover expenses. Fortunately, this bill was tabled to give an opportunity for industry input. On September 10, I and many others, attended a collaborative industry meeting at the Idaho State Police Headquarters located in Meridian, Idaho. The purpose of this meeting was for discussions regarding different ideas/proposals to make the equine brand inspection program more financially sustainable. Attendees included Cody Burlile State Brand Inspector, Idaho Cattle Association, The Beef Board, Idaho Dairy Bureau, Idaho Farm Bureau, Back Country Horsemen of America, Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, American Quarter horse association, Dressage, Idaho Horse Council and the Idaho Horse Board. It was agreed that the Idaho Horse Council (IHC) would take the lead and write a proposal to reflect a higher fee for equine inspections and submit the IHC board ratified proposal to the other meeting attendees. IHC will work with Cody Burlile to collect information and program insight when drafting the proposal. IHC would need to hire a lobbyist too. As equine owners, we know these inspections legitimize ownership. But let's not forget that the Idaho Horse Board (IHB) gets \$3.00 for each inspection. Funds collected are then given back to Idaho horse industry yearly in the form of grants to further interests in promotion, research, and education. Since 1989, \$496,395 in grants have been awarded. If your chapter is looking for monies to further chapter education or promotion and research, make sure to complete and submit your grant application by December 1st. Details can be found at www.idahohorseboard.com. Please help to spread the word and let me know, if any questions about the proposed fee increase or how Idaho Horse Board grants can help BCHI chapters achieve education goals.

Well it is official. BCHC cancelled the 2018 Master Educator course that Marybeth was enrolled in due to fires. She has many, many questions to be answered during her Master Educator training. For example, one is whether she can certify as a trainer someone who clearly demonstrates all the required skills or does that person still need to go through the 2-day course. Since fires are a real and continuing threat in California, it is time to look at the logistics to bring the LNT Master Educator team to Idaho to certify 3 new master educators. These master educators will then facilitate train the trainer sessions within reasonable geographic areas. After successful completion of this course, these trainers can then put on LNT awareness workshops for BCH members and other interested parties. We already have three folks with the necessary skills who would be positive master educators for Idaho and re-energize our education efforts. We have the BCHI Foundation to reimburse some of the master educator tuition costs. We can request grants from the Idaho Horse Board too. Visit idahohorseboard.com for more details. Also, in 2019, Karen and I together plan to organize two Leave No Trace training workshops one up north and another down south. These workshops will be taught by certified Leave No Trace trainers. Any BCH or other interested parties can attend, especially our newer members.

Lastly, let's all take ownership for BCHI and leverage any and all opportunities to get BCHI expenses reimbursed. Recently, I submitted a reimbursement request to the BCHI foundation for some 2018 recruitment/ education expenses. The whole process took less than 20 minutes. All the information is out there. Please take the time to do the right thing. The BCHI foundation along with other grant opportunities are tools to help us achieve our financial goals and mission. Hope you enjoyed Phil and Kay Ryan's presentation on Calendars too. On behalf of BCHI, here is a small token of THANKS! Although the current calendar program is the primary funding mechanism for BCHI it should not be the only item on our ways and means list. Look for other ways and means ideas gathered from BCHA states in Marybeth's National Director report.

All for now and hope to see you on the trail!