

From the President...

By Robert Heidlage

Your Oklahoma Horse Industry Council has some very diverse horse interests represented in its board. The board consists of Breed Association leaders, trail riding enthusiasts, race horse owners, professional trainers, youth equine activity persons, "backyard" horse owners and just plain horse lovers. The board recognizes the many common problems among all groups and by virtue of its diversity can become aware of problems unique to specific interests. The board has set goals educate horse owners about EIA and is going to try to work with regulatory people to improve enforcement of EIA rules.

On the horizon is National Animal Identification. Within the American Horse Council, a task force is working to keep horse interests involved in the decision making processes of this effort.

Of primary importance to the OHIC, is the welfare of the horse in Oklahoma. The board will make every effort to be aware horse welfare issues and react when necessary.

August OHIC Meeting

Please join us August 2nd for our first Equine Infectious Anemia Forum. The OHIC is inviting representatives from the Department of Agriculture, facility managers and show/event managers to discuss this important health issue. Currently, Oklahoma has no funds or "Coggins" police for enforcement. It is up to the individual event manager to enforce the rules about showing proof of negative Coggins. This is a very important issue for all horse people whether you show, trail ride or compete with your horse.



New Treasurer Assumes Duties

Due to the a career move to Georgia for Maria Luke, DVM, Angie Bailey has been elected as treasurer for the OHIC replacing Maria on the board. Angie is the Records Management Administrator for the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. She is married with four children, three dogs and one horse.

"I got my first horse about a year ago and now own a nice little quarter horse mare named Cloud. We live in SE Oklahoma City near Lake Draper. I enjoy trail riding, camping and NASCAR," Angie said. Welcome, Angie!

OHIC 2005 Officers

Bob Heidlage

President

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Ann Cole

Vice President

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(Tecumseh, OK)

Angie Baily

Treasurer

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Lynn Dowds

Secretary

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(Oklahoma City, OK)

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor

Terri Folks

trfolks@cox.net
(Edmond, OK)

2005 OHIC Meeting Schedule



The Oklahoma Horse Industry Council has regular quarterly meetings and an Annual Membership meeting in January. The board welcomes your attendance and input at these meetings. Please come! A light meal is provided.

**Pinto Horse Association of
America Conference Room
7330 NW 23rd Street, Bethany OK
(405) 491-0111**

6 p.m.

Tuesday, February 1

Tuesday, May 3

Tuesday, August 2

Tuesday, November 1

New Committees Formed

At the May membership meeting, the board organized two new standing committees. The first committee will be focused on Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). This group will be working on educating the public, horse associations/clubs and the Oklahoma legislature about EIA. Serving on the EIA committee are Ann Cole, Nancy Trait-Lira, Paulette Schroeder and Angie Bailey. EIA will also be the focus of the August OHIC meeting.

A membership committee was also formed. This committee will be looking at ways to grow OHIC. Serving on this committee are Peggy Hunnewell, Jo Rench, Shelly Maas and Terri Folks. The membership committee will be networking with other Horse Councils of neighboring states. Since the OHIC is entirely run by volunteers, the committee hopes to gain some insight on how to spread the word and let more horse people know about this great association.

Order your OHIC Equine Limited Liability Law Warning Signs

Signs are 18" x 24" Vinyl and can be adhered to both metal and wood.

**Cost: 1 or 2 signs \$20.00 ea
3 or more signs... \$15.00 ea
Prices include postage.**

The sign order form is on the OHIC website. Shirley can be reached at (405)359-8204 or by e-mail: wsgmorgans@juno.com

Help Us Grow



The OHIC is working hard for Oklahomans and their horses. We need your support and participation. At the May OHIC meeting, horse clubs and associations were invited to attend. While our membership is growing, we are still way behind other surrounding states in our membership numbers. As we grow in numbers, we strengthen our voice. There are several looming issues in which the OHIC may need to get involved with legislative-wise and we need your support.

How can you help as an OHIC member? Copy off membership forms (off of the website) and/or this newsletter (we even have a one page flyer we could email to you) and pass them out at your club meetings, post them in your local feed store, etc. Spread the word about supporting the OHIC.

EIA...what is it?

Equine infectious anemia (EIA) is a disease caused by a virus and the onset brings on anemia, intermittent fever and severe weight loss. Equidae (horses, ponies, mules, zebras and donkeys) are the only animals affected by the virus.

Once an animal is infected, it is infected for life. Other common names for EIA are swamp fever, malacial fever, mountain fever, slow fever and Coggins disease. The death rate of infected equidae varies from 30 to 70 percent.

EIA is transmitted by the exchange of certain bodily fluids, usually blood, from an infected to a non-infected animal. Transmission methods include insect bites (blood feeding flies such as horseflies, stable flies and deer flies, not mosquitos); mechanical means – hoof knives, needles (tattooing or bleeding), syringes, etc., and blood transfusions.

The AGID test, also known as the Coggins test, is the most commonly used official test to detect antibodies from equine blood against the EIA virus. When an equine tests positive on one occasion, it will prob-

ably do so for the rest of its life.

Prevent EIA by reducing the flies in barns or stables and pastures by removing manure, eliminating standing water and controlling brush. Use new sterile needles on each animal. Do not share saddles, bridles or other pieces of equipment between any animals with open or bleeding wounds or sores. Don't breed mares or stallions that you suspect or know are infected. Observe your animal daily and call your vet if you suspect disease.

Only purchase animals after they have been tested and found to be free of any evidence of the disease. Require a copy of the test report before you finalize the sale. Only participate in events (show, sale, racetrack, trail ride, etc.) that require prior testing for all animals. Establish a routine EIA testing schedule with your veterinarian. In Oklahoma, your horses should be tested on a yearly basis. Remember to carry your Coggins papers whenever you are transporting your horse and going to events to show proof of a negative test result.

Still confused about the liability insurance that comes with your membership (individual and family memberships only)? Visit the "JOIN OHIC" area on our website for Frequently Asked Questions.