



Across the Fence



Volume 5, Issue 3

Winter, 2016

Notes from the 2016 Annual Meeting

The Coalition held its annual meeting on October 29th. Among the items addressed was the election of board members to provide direction for the organization.

Jon Adams, Sandra Adix and Nick Cockrell were elected to three year terms, and Elizabeth Pagan was elected to a one year term to fill a vacancy.

The new board met on November 16 to select officers for 2017. Elected were Nick Cockrell, president; Sam Reed, vice-president; Kathy Fogle, secretary and Sandy LeaVell as treasurer. All of the officers and board members are volunteers who provide direction to manage activities for the Coalition.

The **Washington State Livestock Coalition** is fully recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)3 tax-exempt organization, and is registered as a non-profit corporation with the WA Secretary of State. Coalition membership is \$20 per year.

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Veterinarian discusses issues of caring for aging horses



Dr. Sarah Perkins, large animal veterinarian, speaks to Livestock Coalition members about issues involved in providing care to aging horses during a seminar at Tractor Supply in Yelm on October 29.

Many horse owners are faced with care for aging horses after retiring their horses from active riding. There appear to be some similarities in understanding the physiological changes that occur with both humans and horses as they get older.

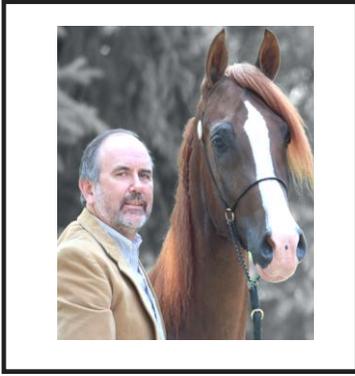
Understanding the signs of aging and elements of treatment for these conditions were the major topics of a seminar offered by Dr. Sarah Perkins, of Equine Medical Services in Rainier, to Livestock Coalition members.

Some of the signs of aging in horses include weight loss, dental problems, feet and muscular issues, as well as range of metabolic changes

One of the key aspects is noting the normal changes that occur with horses over the age of 20 to determine the potential influence of Cushing's disease. Laminitis and unusually dense hair coats are two symptoms that could indicate the onset of Cushing's disease, which may also include diabetes.

A periodic examination by a veterinarian is critical in assessing the horse's medical condition and how certain symptoms should be treated. With medications, diet and through management practices, you can keep an affected horse in use and in good health for many years following diagnosis and on-going treatment.

President's Roundup



by Nick Cockrell

Nick was one of the founders of the Coalition in 2009 and has remained part of its leadership. He grew up on a dairy farm, and was active in 4-H. He and his wife, Sandi, raise Arabian horses and Australian Shepherds.

As we look forward to 2017, Winter is once again threatening to impact our area with colder weather, snow and freezing temperatures.

It's a good time to check the list of actions to be ready for inclement weather that affects both us and the livestock that we raise.

It can be a long list. These include:

- *mud management* – making sure livestock have means to get out of the mud (higher ground, concrete or other means).
- *electrical connections*—likely we will be using more lighting and heaters during the winter. Check electrical cords and remember to remove cob webs (they are flammable!)
- *access to water* – colder weather does not reduce the consumption of water for livestock. Hydrants should be insulated and heaters can be placed in stock tanks.
- *ventilation* –barns and shed will be more enclosed as barriers to wind and rain. Care should be given to assure ventilation in combating mold and mildew.
- *manure management* –with animals more concentrated in loafing sheds or in stalls, attention must be given to removing, storing or composting manure.

Attention to details can make these issues less demanding during cold and dark Winter months.

Serving the Community

Livestock Coalition announces scholarships for 2017

Two scholarships of \$1,000 each will be offered by the Livestock Coalition in 2017 to assist students with post secondary education. Previous scholarship awards by the Coalition in previous years have been very successful, and due to the recognition of rising educational costs, the Coalition board and membership have supported an increase in the amount of scholarships from the prior \$500 awards.

Eligibility requirements for both the Buster Smith Scholarship and the Dr. Everett Macomber Scholarship are the same:

- The applicant must be a resident of Grays Harbor, Lewis, Thurston, or Pierce counties
- Must be High school senior, or college, technical/vocational school enrollee

- Enrolled in post-high school education with the intent of involvement with agriculture, focused on livestock.

Students may apply for both scholarships. A separate evaluation process will address applications for each scholarship by a committee of community leaders selected by the Coalition.

Information about the scholarship and the application form is available at the Coalition website -- (<http://waslico.com>), or the website focused on scholarships –

(<http://washboard.org>)

Applications must be post-marked not later than 17 April, 2017

Scholarship recipients will be announced prior to 1 June, 2017



The Coalition's 2017 Prize Ride Is Scheduled for June 17

Now is the time to mark your calendars for the 2017 Prize Ride, sponsored by the Livestock Coalition.

The 2017 Prize Ride is scheduled for Saturday, June 17 at the Evergreen Sportsmens Club near Olympia. Two different ride lengths will be offered, along with a continental breakfast during the registration/sign-in period. Following the ride, lunch will be served and a variety of prizes will be awarded.

Prizes will include cash amounts for the best poker hand, as well as a consolation prize for the "worst" non-winning hand. During the 2016 Prize Ride, prizes valued at more than \$3,000 were awarded.

As in past years, overnight camping at no additional charge will be available at the site, and Discover passes are not required.

More details will be posted on our website as planning for the event progresses in the next several months.

Pre-registration for the ride is appreciated, and will help in planning a successful event.

Hope to see you there!



Riders check in at the termination of the 2016 Prize Ride in Capitol Forest as a way of tracking and accounting for all riders on the trail.

The Ride is the most important fund-raising activity of the organization. Proceeds help fund our seminars, assistance efforts and other programs to assist livestock owners.

Coalition looks at educational programs for 2017

The Coalition has offered a number of seminars and educational activities to provide livestock owners with information beneficial to a wide variety of interests.

To better target the specific seminars, we are requesting feedback on potential topics, which may include:

- “Ask Your Vet” – an open discussion with a veterinarian to answer your livestock questions
- How to maintain multiple livestock species on your farm.
- Burial options for large animals – identify options for livestock that die or are euthanized.
- Understanding what constitutes animal cruelty –legal and ethical issues.
- Emergency preparedness to respond effectively in caring for livestock.

Please let us know what topics interest you – respond via email, or call our Coalition telephone number.

Coalition’s Assistance Committee often simply provides “information”

People who need temporary assistance in caring for their livestock, due to illness, job loss or other impacts often call the Coalition’s Assistance Committee.

But, according to Jon Adams, Coalition Assistance Committee chairperson, the assistance may be in the form of information or counseling. “Often people need information more than they need assistance that may be in the form of feed or a direct response such as transportation or repair of fencing,” said Adams who has been involved in agriculture, farming and raising animals for many years. He can be reached at 360/280.5313 for information or assistance.

Livestock Coalition’s 2016 Year in Review

Our 7th year of operation, 2016 was a busy one for the Livestock Coalition. It began with our Spring Seminar on various topics on animal care. Other activities and programs focused on topics that support agriculture and livestock care.

The Coalition spotlighted educational activities for 2016 to assist livestock owners (and those contemplating raising animals) in areas of disease, nutrition, and general animal care.

The seminars included: *Spring Animal Care Seminar*, *Equine Behavior Clinic* and *Care for the Aging Equine*. Plans are already underway for educational offerings on several different topics in 2017 that are of interest to livestock owners.

A lively discussion about saddle fitting was one of the topics at the Spring Animal Care Seminar conducted by the Coalition.

Pointing out that not all saddles fit the same, Richard Galarza described the importance of measuring aspects of the horse’s back and withers to reduce saddle pressure-points and to alleviate fatigue for the horse during long distance riding. Fitting of both English and Western saddles was discussed in detail, including locations to measure that indicate proper fit.



Two scholarships were offered by the Livestock Coalition in 2016. The \$500 **Buster Smith Scholarship** to recognize the accomplishments of Buster Smith was awarded Elizabeth Warren who is enrolled at Washington State University. A new \$500 Scholarship was also offered to honor the commitment to livestock provided by local veterinarian, Dr. Everett Macomber. The **Dr. Everett Macomber Scholarship** was awarded to Amy Hoium, a local high school graduate.

The Coalition will continue awarding two scholarships to assist with post-secondary education. It will increase the value of each scholarship to \$1,000 in 2017. No Finish Line, a local business, has agreed to sponsor the Dr. Everett Macomber Scholarship for 2017. Other corporate sponsors and partners are being sought for the balance of the scholarship awards.

Our assistance program included responses to a variety of requests in 2016. Of these, 4 calls were for feed assistance which resulted in deliveries of hay and grain, 1 request for repairing/building fence to keep out a neighbor’s horse, 2 requests for transporting horses (1 from the Sheriff’s Office), 1 complaint regarding a skinny horse and donkey (owner did not want help).

A large effort was made to respond to 4 requests for assistance in burying horses for elderly owners, as this has been a significant problem for livestock owners unable to take care of this issue. The Assistance Committee has also provided counseling livestock owners on a variety of topics.

Our annual Prize Ride on June 18th included more than 115 riders on both the 8 mile and 15 mile courses in Capitol Forest. More than \$3,000 in prizes was distributed to participants, including a \$500 gift certificate to be used at K&S Saddlery in Spanaway. The trail ride continues to be the Coalition’s primary fundraiser, this year generating more than \$3,500 in funds for the organization to support its activities.



Dr. Everett Macomber retired in 2006 following four decades as a practicing large animal veterinarian in the Puget Sound region. He served as president of the Washington State Veterinarian Medical Association, and president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AMVA).

Dr. Macomber is a charter member of the Coalition. During the last several years, he has provided educational seminars for the Livestock Coalition.

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a virus that causes inflammation to the nervous system of animals and humans and is recognized in the State of Washington. It is a serious threat to horses as well as humans. The virus was first identified in East Asia and Africa. It's presence was documented in the United States in summer of 1999 in New York City and was identified in Los Angeles California 3 years later. It has since been confirmed in all the lower 48 states.

WNV is a leading cause of *arbovirus encephalitis* in horses and humans in the US. Horses seem to be especially susceptible, however they are recognized as a "dead-end" host. The virus does not replicate in the horse to be transmitted directly from horse to horse, nor from horse to man or from man to man. The primary reservoir host is birds, (crows, ravens, blue jays and robins) and the virus is transmitted from the primary host to other animals by blood-sucking mosquitos. Viremic birds may show signs of central nervous system disease resulting in death.

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Routine testing of dead birds is no longer performed as most emphasis is devoted to insect testing as a means to identify the environmental presence of the virus.

Signs of disease in horses are most closely related to nervous system paralysis such as twitching of muscles around the face and muzzle, leg and body muscle weakness, incoordination, flaccid paralysis, unable to stand or walk, unable to eat or drink, drooping eyelids and or lips.

Treatment consists of supportive therapy, IV fluids, vitamins, and anti-inflammatory products. Many animals will show no signs of disease or only limited signs and will recover with minimal support, however, about 30% will die or result in euthanasia.

Prevention is one of the best management options. This can be most readily accomplished by eliminating areas of standing water, especially during the warmer months of the year. Clean and flush water troughs, place fish in water gardens and survey your premises for other potential mosquito breeding sites.

Vaccinate your horses in the Spring of the year so they will have maximum anti-body protection at the time of maximum exposure during Summer and Fall. This can be done at the same time that you do other core vaccinations. If your horse's immune status is unknown, it is recommended to give a booster shot at 3 to 6 weeks after the first vaccination and then annually thereafter. Be sure to read and follow label directions.

Consult with your veterinarian when developing a vaccination protocol for your farm.

