



# Across the Fence

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring, 2017



## 2017 Trail Ride in Final Planning Stage

Members of the Livestock Coalition have been working over the past six months in planning all aspects of the annual Prize Ride in Capitol Forest.

This year the Prize Ride is scheduled on June 17, at the Evergreen Sportsmens Club near Littlerock. Riders can arrive for registration after 7:00 a.m. with a choice of either 5 or 8 mile distances, over marked trails.



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.

### To contact us:

**Washington State Livestock Coalition**

PO Box 987

Rochester, WA 98579

Message telephone: 360.280.5313

[www.waslico.com](http://www.waslico.com)

e-mail: [info@waslico.com](mailto:info@waslico.com)

Join us on Facebook:

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## "Ask Your Vet" provides many answers for attendees



*Dr. Everett Macomber, retired veterinarian, speaks to Livestock Coalition members about numerous issues regarding diseases, vaccinations, and nutrition that affect horses and other farm species.*

Attendees at the "Ask Your Vet" seminar in March were rewarded with valuable information provided by Dr. Everett Macomber on a variety of topics related to the care of large animals.

Dr. Macomber discussed the need to provide **core vaccinations** to protect against common diseases which affect horses. These include vaccines for encephalomyelitis viruses, equine influenza, tetanus, and rhinopneumonitis that are commonly available in combination dosages (such "5-way"). The discussion included frequency of application including exposure, age of animal and other indicators.

Discussion also included the difference between vaccine for tetanus and treatment for affected animals which

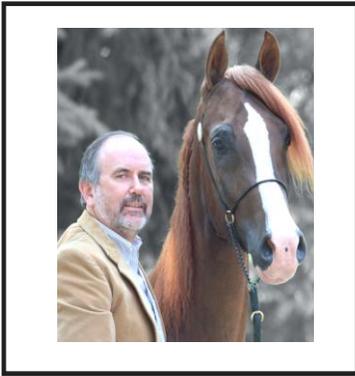
is rarely successful. Vaccination with 'tetanus toxoid' should be used for all horses and ponies as the bacterium *Clostridium tetanii* is very common in the equine environment and often infects wounds on the soles of the feet.

The recurring nature of West Nile Virus was also a topic of interest (see the information in **Veterinarian's Corner** on Page 4 for specific information).

Information about transitioning animals to early Spring grasses was presented, along with caution that the amount of sugar in emerging grass can increase founder and hoof problems in some horses.

Questionnaires feedback about the Seminar included comments, "Dr. Macomber's seminars are always good" and "very informative".

## 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.

Our Winter weather has been, at the very least, one of the wettest in recent history. Even though Spring has thus far continued with rain, many of us are wanting to get out on the road with our horses.

Some of the locations and events you may be considering include Oregon and Idaho. Just the thought of transporting horses across State lines brings up the requirements for entry into other states, as well as potential exposure to West Nile virus which is prevalent east of the Cascades. (see page 4).

In general, all horses and other equines crossing state lines must be accompanied by a *Certificate of Veterinary Inspection* (CVI) issued less than 30 days prior to entry.

Washington residents, however, may take their horses into adjacent states, returning within 96 hours (4 days) without a CVI.

A Six-Month Equine Certificate (also known as a *horse passport* or extended validity CVI) is valid for travel in most of the Western states for 180 days. This veterinarian inspection is also intended to screen for Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) since the neurological form of this disease is often fatal in horses.

The Six-Month Equine Certificate cannot be altered once it is issued. Your veterinarian can issue the form.

For additional information on requirements for transporting animals (including quarantine), contact the Animal Health Program of the Washington Department of Agriculture.

## Serving the Community

### Considerations for controlling fly populations at your barn

Anyone with livestock, predominately horses and cattle, is challenged with combating flies on their animals during the Summer months. There are a number of potential solutions – some more positive than others – to solve the ongoing issues. There is no known method of fly control that offers 100% eradication of pest flies. In most cases, an effective fly control plan includes multiple processes over several months.

House flies and stable flies are common pests around horse barns, stables, and corrals. Persistent house flies are very annoying as well as being potential carriers of human and animal pathogens. Stable flies give painful bites making activities unpleasant for humans and making horses both nervous and difficult to manage.

**Waste management:** House flies and stable flies need breeding material, moisture, and warmth to develop. A successful fly control program must rely on timely elimination of breeding sites and moisture control. Insecticides can help to provide some temporary reduction of house fly and stable fly populations but cannot be the basis of effective fly management.

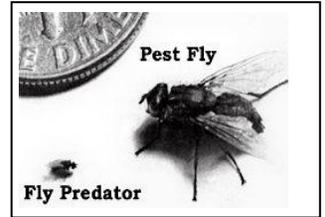
Elimination of breeding sites is the key to a successful fly control program. Barns and corrals should be cleaned once a week to break the 10-20 day life cycle of flies. Removed manure and other fly breeding materials should be spread thinly over an appropriate area to dry out or composted, if practical.

The methods of fly control include:

**Mechanical methods:** use of fly masks, installation of screens around stalls, use of fans that direct a downward and outward air flow to keep flies out of your barn, and installing fly traps or sticky paper will capture flies (they may be most useful as a means of documenting fly numbers over time). Most horse owners will need three different trap types as no one trap catches all types of flies.

#### Biological methods: Fly Predators--

While waste management should be your first line of defense in the battle against flies, fly predators and beneficial insects prevent flies from hatching. Fly predators are tiny non-stinging wasps that are part of a total farm fly control program. In the natural environment, fly predators serve as a major check of pest fly populations by destroying the next generation of flies in their immature pupa (cocoon) stage. Fly predators can be obtained from several vendors, and should be ordered several times over the course of the Summer to provide adequate control of fly larvae.



**Chemical methods:** Insecticides are used to kill adult flies after a problem has developed. While they can help to reduce fly numbers, they do not address their source – moist breeding materials. Large numbers of flies mean lots of breeding sites and a situation that cannot be corrected by insecticides alone.

Residual insecticides are applied to walls, ceilings, and rafters of barns and sheds where flies rest, such as 'Pryanha'. Usually, these are pyrethrins with short residues so treatments have to be repeated.

Topical pastes, body spays and lotions are "repellents" which may offer temporary fly relief of up to two weeks, but must be replenished frequently. 'SWAT', 'Repel-X' are examples.

**Natural methods:** birds are nature's methods of controlling insect populations. Set up nesting boxes for swallows or bat houses as both consume hundreds of insects each night.

Remember - there is no single method that will eliminate all the flies around your farm. Regardless of the actual method, develop a plan that protects your animals, and that you can easily manage.

## Coalition updates its website to better serve animal owners

People who access the Coalition's web presence ([www.waslico.com](http://www.waslico.com)) will notice many new features, including configuration to display information for tablets and cell phones.

Design and layout and the website has also been updated to allow quicker display of content. Some of the changes were required due to previous programming limitations that prohibited display on mobile devices.

The Coalition's Communication Committee directed the changes in website design. Our thanks to Brigitte McIntosh, who directed the update of the website.

We invite users to log onto the new website and see the changes to layout and content. Additional information about our programs is also posted on our Facebook page.

And we welcome your comments and suggestions to improve our communications with the community.

## 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 simply 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. His experience, and of others on the Assistance Committee include many years in agriculture, farming and raising animals.

Our new website Assistance Request Form is on line, and will be directed to Adams for immediate response.

## Information about legal disposal of animal remains

As a large animal owner, there may come a time when you have to deal with a difficult end-of-life decision regarding your livestock—such as horses, cattle, alpacas, goats and sheep. If your animal dies or has to be euthanized, what are your options for disposal of the remains? By state law (Chapter 16-25-030 WAC), you have 72 hours to remove or dispose of the dead animal. Upon discovery, the dead animal must be immediately covered or removed from public view, to avoid public health issues. You likely may consider several options:

**Burial by owner:** First, you must own the land or if you rent or lease, you must have written permission of the owner to bury an animal on the property. Carcass burial is not allowed on a property of less than five acres, unless it is the burial of a single carcass weighing less than two hundred pounds. The burial site must be at least 300 feet from any well, spring or stream to protect water sources and at least 300 feet from any residence not owned by owner of the livestock. All parts of the carcass must be covered with at least 3 feet of earth or material.

**Disposal at landfill:** you may transport the dead animal for disposal at a regulated landfill, accompanied by a letter from your veterinarian stating the animal did not have a contagious disease. You should call first and they will help you unload.

**Removal and disposal by others:** several companies offer services to remove dead animals from your site, and will dispose of the remains.

**Cremation:** several companies offer cremation services, including private cremation. You may request return of ashes if you wish.

**Burning:** open incineration of an animal carcass is prohibited.

**NOTE:** *The carcass of a livestock animal that has died from a reportable disease must be disposed of in consultation with your veterinarian.*

A list of resources that will handle disposal of animal carcasses is provided on the Coalition's website with information posted under the "Library" section. Please feel free to copy and share any of the information with other livestock owners.



## Fundraising, Sponsors and Services to Our Members

We want to give a special thanks to the donors and sponsors of the Coalition, who have assisted with our scholarship program which awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year, as well as our Prize Ride (see page 1), seminars and other events.

A list of our sponsors, along with photos of their businesses is located on our website, [www.waslico.com](http://www.waslico.com)

An increased marketing effort is directed to bring more talent and energy to the organization. This includes improvements to our website, web-based forms and communications (Facebook, website and newsletter) because we want to be more responsive and accessible.

Membership is just \$20 per year. If you have time, consider joining a group of livestock owners!



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

Over the past several years, a pronounced increase in West Nile Virus has been documented in Washington State. Unfortunately, the existence of West Nile is not limited to the eastern side of the state. In 2016, there were 9 cases of positive cases of West Nile Virus in humans and 27 cases identified in horses.

Now is the time to prepare for exposure to the West Nile Virus which has turned out to be a significant Zoonotic disease in both animal and human populations. In humans, the virus results in fever but may show neurological symptoms with people over 60 at higher risk. The virus is very similar to the Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis Virus (EEV and WEE) often seen in horses.

The veterinarian industry has been successful in developing a vaccine that is effective for control of the disease in the equine population. The vaccine should be administered in the spring or early summer in order to develop the highest antibody level

during summer months of July, August and September when the highest level of exposure exists.

Horses receiving their first vaccination, typically in May or June, should be revaccinated with a booster shot 30 to 60 days after the first vaccination. If the horse has been vaccinated routinely each year, then one vaccination should be adequate to develop adequate antibodies for protection.

Prevention is an important component of disease management. In addition to vaccination one should eliminate all sources of stagnant water such as old tires, pools of water from overflow water troughs on the property, or large water tubs that are not drained at-least weekly to avoid mosquito breeding grounds.

Mosquitoes are the prime source of transmission with birds, (such as migratory jays and robins) being the reservoir hosts which become infected. Mosquitoes feed on the blood of the birds and then move to the horse or human and when feeding will transmit the virus from the bird to the more disease susceptible host.

Should you find dead birds of these species it is advisable to place the bird in a plastic sealable bag, refrigerate and deliver to the county health department for evaluation for the presence of the West Nile Virus. We recommend you call first to be sure they are capable of handling your request.

Now is the time to vaccinate for West Nile Virus to protect your animals!

**Washington State Livestock Coalition**  
Post Office Box 987  
Rochester, WA 98579

