

OII Report to BCBFA Annual General Meeting - June 2014

OII is a not-for-profit organization designated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in 1997 to administer the brand registration and inspection program in British Columbia. The company is run by a board of directors and managed out of the head office in Kamloops.

The program conducts the livestock brands registry and the inspection service of cattle and horses for lawful possession prior to transportation, sale and slaughter.

The program is financed in its entirety through the brand registration and inspection fees paid by livestock industry participants.

In the Office

Bob Miller – General Manager

Cathy Stewart – Office Manager

Heather Miller – Brands & Reception

Janette Speller – Receptions Associate

Board of Directors

President – Ellen Hockley, Horse Council BC

Vice – President – Agnes Jackson, BC Cattleman's Association

Mark Grafton – BC Cattleman's Association

Terry Schalles – BC Association of Cattle Feeders

Gary DeBruin – BC Breeders & Feeders Association

Peter Raffan - Mountain Livestock Marketing Association

Re: RCMP Livestock Coordinator

OII is proud to report a very good working relationship with Cpl. Ralph Overby – RCMP Livestock Section Coordinator. While performing such duties Cpl. Overby remains in constant dialogue with OII, BCCA, SPCA and LIS in Alberta.

It is imperative that our industry have a person in this position with genuine interest in agriculture as someone who continues to provide an enforcement service for the livestock sector in BC.

The RCMP Livestock Coordinator in conjunction with OII area brand inspectors plan to approach rural RCMP Detachments providing them with furthered education to detachment members of general livestock knowledge and industry protocol.

Contact Information: 250-371-1242 (RCMP cell) Ralph.overby@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Brian Hill Memorial Scholarship

OII is pleased to announce the recipients for the 2014 scholarships are;

Mathew Armes – Williams Lake, BC

and

Ashley Gilliland – Delta, BC

The deadline for annual applications is April 30.

Please remind family members, neighbors and friends of the annual scholarship funding available from OII, through the Brian Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund.

This annual scholarship is designed to offer two (2) five hundred dollar bursaries annually.

Further information including application forms is available by visiting the web pages of OII, BCCA and 4H Council BC.

Practice Due Diligence When Marketing Your Livestock

Strengthen Trust with Due Diligence

The responsibility for safe sales transactions is based upon the due diligence of all parties involved. Do not be complacent in your sales or purchase agreements. The livestock industry is big business. While it is admirable to maintain a quality of trust with a handshake agreement that trust can easily be strengthened with solid business practices of:

- properly completed paperwork (manifests, bills of sale)
- payment up front
- proper identification and verification of ownership (brand inspection)
- this assures both the buyer, seller and transporter of safe and secure transactions

At OII, we suggest the best way to move livestock within the industry is to make sure that proper Bills of Sale are completed and all transactions go through brand inspection.

We believe that if livestock are sold without adequate identification or proper bills of sale, producers are setting themselves up for a potential financial disaster, as there currently is no vendor security plan in BC, unless the transaction involves a licensed/bonded dealer or agent.

NOTE: Section 20 Article (4) of the Livestock Identification Regulations states:

The seller of cattle in the prescribed area shall, within 24 hours of the transaction, notify the nearest inspector of the change in ownership and deliver or send to him a completed Form 3 showing the particulars when; a) cattle are sold at a place other than an outlet Example: Private Treaty Sales

We believe the need to identify cattle and horses through the practice of branding are still the best way to establish identification and ownership.

Livestock with no brands require special attention to detail in selling and buying, as there is no way to legally identify a “slick” (unbranded) animal based solely on animal description.

- Sellers should be prepared to provide, if required, the verification of ownership of livestock with multiple brands indicating at least the most recent changes in ownership for that particular animal
- This means maintaining good records
- **Using due diligence in selling or purchasing livestock sets the stage for safe and trusted transactions that will assist in keeping your operation in business**

What's New

- **2014 Brand Registration Renewals have been sent out and are due prior to June 30. Reminders; 2nd Notices were sent in mid May.**
- *if at any time you have a change of address, please let our office know in order for us to maintain accurate records and mailing information*
- *please provide the office with as much contact information as possible, including your e-mail address*
- OII currently administers approximately 6000 registered brands combining cattle and horses
- In 2013, OII signed a new “Livestock Brand Program Operating Agreement” with the Minister of Agriculture of the Province of British Columbia. This agreement re-confirms the designation of OII to establish and administer a livestock brand registry program and a livestock brand inspection program
- **For the 3rd consecutive year, OII was commissioned to provide third party agency duties conducting BCBFA annual herd audits. These herd audits were completed during the months of February and March**
- The 2014 OII Brand book will be available in September and may be purchased for \$25.00 plus mailing
- OII has added a column on the manifest (form 3), for producers to include their Premise Id #
- OII has added a copy of a bill of sale in the manifest (form 3) books – **New**
- **OII has ramped up their awareness by conducting more visits to Cut & Wrap Shops throughout the province. In a constant effort of continued education for the use and need for properly completed manifests when transporting live cattle or carcasses, a information brochure has been printed and circulated**
- OII has completed Phase I, of Bio Security Practice and Procedures for the brand inspectors. Phase I specifically, involved the introduction and delivery of a boot sanitization plan. The intent is to reduce the risk of introducing diseases to a farm, facility or region, where they do not already exist

On the Horizon

- OII was instrumental in organizing and staging a March meeting in Prince George, with other industry representatives, agencies and government representatives.
The purpose of this meeting was to further explore emergency response and operations delivery for Livestock Transportation Accidents.
 - A “straw dog” committee comprised of; Reg Steward / FARSHA, Larry Garrett / BCCA –Livestock Protection Committee, Cpl. Ralph Overby / RCMP Stock Section, Brent

Barclay / Ministry of Ag, Bob Miller and Harold Kerr, representing OII was formed as a result of this meeting.

- An action plan was implemented. Follow up is ongoing. Results to be determined.
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- OII continues to be an active partner in a multi agency relationship involving BC Abattoirs Association and Provincial Slaughterhouse Meat Inspections working in conjunction with Interior Health liaison officer Dave Charchuk.
Collectively we deliver continued education surrounding regulations surrounding the slaughter, transportation and cut /wrap shop procedures for beef and beef carcasses.
 - In doing so, OII has printed and circulated an information brochure handout specifying the need for properly completed manifests (form 3's) bills of sale and record keeping requirements for facility operators.

Did You Know

- OII currently has 33 part time brand inspectors located throughout the province
- Creston and area brand inspector personnel has changed over the past year, with Charlie Moon retiring last September after serving 26 years with the Ministry and OII. In December, Bill House resigned due to health reasons.
Rob Davidson now serves the Creston Valley as the OII livestock brand inspector
- In December, 2013 Cranbrook area brand inspector Jerry Thibeault retired after serving the Ministry and OII for 25 years. OII has hired Landis Galandy as Thibeault's replacement.
- Tom Vicars retired after sixteen years as an OII director
- OII reports approx 600 head of cattle or 50.0 hours, of accumulated clipping time, has been spent by brand inspectors in order to verify brands and determine ownership to date in 2014
- **Brand inspectors require a 24 hour notice prior to providing an inspection service**
- **It is the owner / contributors responsibility to properly present the livestock for brand inspection**
- **It is the responsibility of the contributor to provide a properly completed manifest (form 3) to accompany all livestock movement and shipment, when applicable**
- **Part 5 – General (Livestock Identification Act) Sec; 47 – Evidence of Ownership where brand not owner's**
 - A contributor, who presents purchased livestock which are branded with a brand other than that registered in his name, shall present to the inspector satisfactory evidence of ownership for the livestock.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● It is the responsibility of the contributor to have the manifest made out in the same name(s) the brand is registered in. If this is not the case, then a properly completed bill of |
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sale shall serve as the best means of proving ownership for animals not carrying the contributors brand

- **When consigning Finance Association cattle, carrying an association brand, the manifest must be completed in the name of the association. Otherwise an authorized association release must be provided**
 - **Violation of any of the previously listed regulations could result in detention of funds**
 - OII web page – Missing Livestock (Cattle & Horses) reported is posted for a period of one year, unless located. Currently approx 121 head posted
 - OII participates in approx 3-4 “Stop Checks” annually at highway traffic weigh scales throughout the province, in conjunction with other industry agencies hosted by CVSE
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- Please see Inspection Stat sheet attached

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Miller
General Manager
Ownership Identification Inc.