

Feedback from Working Meetings Held on April 8, 9 and 10

52 members attended meetings.

5 directors attended meetings (This does not include Mike and Gordon)

6 of the attendees were not current members of the CTHS (Alberta Division) at the time of these meetings.

2 members attended more than one meeting. (Only counted once in the total)

1 phone interview was conducted with a member from the Lethbridge area.

1 member came to the office to meet with the manager.

2 written submissions (one letter and one e-mail).

Availability of Stalls

Comments/Concerns:

-Need more stalls.

-Need stalls for our 2 year olds.

-Stall assignments must be done differently.

-Encourage stall allocation

-How are stalls allocated?

-Need to have transparency as to how stalls are assigned.

-Economics of stalls: You can only have so many stalls at a track venue in order for it to be financially viable for the track. Cost of the building, the land it sits on not to mention water, waste removal etc. are all factors that add to the cost. A large number of horses on site results in horses being in the barns for long periods of time and not racing. This increases costs to the owners.

Suggestions:

-Owners apply for stalls. This works in jurisdictions where there is only one governing body.

-Owners are charged a per diem to have horses in at the track.

-Make it a priority for Alberta-bred to get stalls first.

-Encourage more training centres to open up.

-Encourage training centres so that there can be stalls available off track.

Need To Make It Attractive to Own an Alberta-bred

Comments/Concerns:

-There needs to be an advantage for you to be an owner/breeder of an Alberta-bred.

-Need an incentive to buy an Alberta-bred.

- Need to look after Alberta-bred horses first.
- Need to make it attractive for owners to race Alberta-breds.
- Too many American bred horses in Alberta.
- Must have confidence that you will be rewarded for owning an Alberta-bred.
- Alberta-breds need to be upgraded.
- Raise the level and raise the bar for the Alberta-bred.
- Incentive to buy an Alberta-bred should come from the market place.
- We need more people to buy Alberta-breds and we need to give people a reason to buy an Alberta-bred.
- Need a way to get the cheaper Kentucky horses out of the races.
- Look at the classes of races. Where are the Alberta-breds winning?

Suggestions:

- Pay every Alberta-bred that wins a race.
- Restricted Alberta-bred races and have one per day.
- Have every race an Alberta-bred preferred.
- Must be Alberta-bred to run in Alberta.
- Direct all the money you can to the Alberta-breds.
- Alberta-breds get first priority.
- Alberta-bred only races.
- Every race an Alberta-bred preferred race. This might reduce the number of \$7,000 Kentucky-bred horses.
- Have significantly more races for Alberta-bred horses.
- Hold more restricted races in the spring and then at the end of the season open the races up for other horses to compete with the Alberta-bred horses.
- Increase the purse money.
- Better purses.
- Have restricted claiming races.
- \$500 bonus for Alberta-breds.
- % needs to go to Alberta-breds.
- Bonus for every Alberta-bred horse that runs.
- Have Accredited Alberta-breds with the definition being Alberta sired and Alberta foaled. There would be perks for having an accredited Alberta-bred.
- Supplement open allowance races for owners.
- Run Sales Stakes races later in the fall and have a Sales Stakes day similar to the Fall Classic day.
- Bonus and incentives for Alberta bred money earners. See New Mexico program.

Trainers/Training

Comments/Concerns:

- Due to our climate we are often behind in training compared to horses that are coming from other places.
- There are too many high profile trainers who are buying horses elsewhere. (Not Alberta-bred).
- How do people go about finding things like trainers?
- Owners do not get any respect from the trainers. Are sometimes called “sponsors” instead of “owners”.
- There are not enough trainers or exercise riders.
- Too many horses, too few good trainers.
- Reward trainers for buying Alberta-bred at the sales.

Suggestions:

- Encourage the opening of training centres.
- Incentives for trainers to get them to use Alberta-breds. Egg. \$50,000 to be split amongst trainers who have the most Alberta-bred winners. This would be based on the number of winners or a point system.

Mare Incentive Purchase Program

Comments/Concerns:

- Mare incentive program is good.
- Mare program is a good direction but what is the bottom line?
- Add more incentives.
- Boost the mare purchase program.
- Age limit should be looked at. Possibly have it moved to 14 years of age rather than 12.
- Age restriction too low. Should be increased or have other criteria like it should have been a stakes winner.
- Need more qualifications for the mare purchase program.
- Detail the program on criteria like production and breeding soundness. Reproduction history should be a factor or part of the criteria.
- Take the age off completely.
- Want to have a choice where to send a mare.
- Not enough performance measures for the Mare Purchase program.
- Mare purchase program is a subsidy.
- Why the set value for a mare in the Mare Purchase program.
- Mare program to be rethought: a) What do you do with the foal? b) Do you have to breed back to an Alberta stallion? c) Information should be disclosed.
- Why is mare purchase program information not disclosed?
- Help people who want to breed outside of the province.
- Make the mare purchase program more public for accountability reasons.
- Over time look at removing the mare incentive program.

Suggestions:

- Amount of money goes down if you buy a horse older than 16 years of age. Maximum amount available would be \$5,000 for mares over 16 years of age.
- Get \$10,000 if you buy something over a certain amount of money.
- Use money to subsidize to send a mare out of the province. Pay the shipping costs. (e.g. B.C. program)
- Pay the top brood mares based on what their offspring do at the track.
- Illinois Mare program is based on if the offspring win, place or show. It is a performance based program.
- Change conditions of the mare program: You must apply 30 days after purchasing the mare. This information would then be posted on the website.
- Allow people to bring fillies into the province and then keep them here to use later as broodmares. This would make them a long term investment.

Stallions

Comments/Concerns:

- Any program has to be good for stallions and mares.
- There is a conflict of interest between stallion owners and mare owners.
- What has happened with the Stallion Task Force?

Suggestions:

- Payout for stallions based on progeny earnings.
- Increase to 12% for stallion owners.
- CTHS to lease a stallion and rotate it short term through the province. You could give a % of the lease amount to be shared with those who have the stallion at their farm.
- Alberta-sired races like the Ontario program.
- Alberta Resident Sire Stakes Race Program
 - a). Owners choose to take part
 - b). \$1,000 or \$2,000 minimum fee or at advertised stud fee whichever is greater.
 - c). Nominated when the mare is pregnant, based on entry fee of \$40-\$50. Would need a deadline. Two year olds would pay \$100.00
 - d). Would have a logo which would be used on stall cards and papers.
 - e). Need four races which would be 3yr old colts and geldings, 3yr old fillies, 4 and up colts and geldings and 4 and up fillies.
 - f). Minimum black type purse of \$50,000
 - g). Stallion owner would get 5%, mare 5%, place 3% and show 2%.
 - h). Hold race on Canada Derby Day.
 - i). Subsidize purses.
 - j). All stallions must be nominated.
 - j). Check with Lorne Mitchell at Hastings Park for more information

Comments on suggested Sire Stakes Program: Administrative nightmare, needs to be fine tuned and people pay up front. Stallion owners are already nickel and dimed. Ontario Sire Stakes how do they administer it? Early closing stakes hated it!, If you collect money, do it once or send a letter out during the yearling year, need to track it.

- Stallion service auction.
- Must be bred every other year to an Alberta stallion.
- Raise current stallion program.
- Award top two stallions.
- Have an Alberta sired stakes races, not necessarily Alberta bred.

Attracting New People to the Industry

Comments/Concerns:

- Are we attracting new owners to the industry?
- Economics of business, first time owners need to be subsidized for the first couple of years.
- Bring new people into the business through syndications.
- Owners need help in getting started.
- Get more people involved.
- Provide opportunities for owners and breeders to offset their costs.
- Do we need more mare owners?
- Need salesmen (or women) who can sell the industry and then be able to close the deal.
- Be proactive and find ways to promote new ownership and encourage new ownership.

Suggestions:

- Education for new owners and breeders. We need to get people involved through education.
- Have races for new owners.
- Form syndications.
- Mentors and mentor programs.
- Need to have information available to support people who wish to be involved in the industry.
- Marketing program where people are invited to the backstretch, farm tours, help with business plans.
- New owners' webcast at www.toba.org or www.bloodhorse.com
- First time horse owners could be subsidized for the first couple of years.

Overall Program

Comments/Concerns:

- Programs need to be performance based.
- We shouldn't be supporting programs that cause people to go outside of the province.
- Distribute any money left over at the end split between people by a %.
- Are there too many horses in the province?

- Need to have the HBPA, HRA, CTHS and tracks working together collectively and collaboratively to make sure these programs are working.
- Encourage soundness in horses and allow some of these programs to be available to horses over the age of 5.
- Tighten up the program, it needs more accountability.
- Need a level playing field for everyone.
- Need equity between owners and breeders.
- Programs should not exclude anyone, they should be accessible to all.
- Looks like a band-aid approach.

Suggestions:

- Reverse back to \$12,000 for 2 year olds.
- Put money towards breeders' bonuses.
- Owners should be getting 25%.
- Give owners more money by increasing the owner's bonus.
- Move some of the money around that isn't being used in some of the areas.

Marketing

Comments/Concerns:

- TV commercials are good.
- TV programs not as good, the number of them should be scrapped. Programs should be interesting enough to tweak people's interest.
- Going to the races must be an event. You need something to fill the time between the races.
- Need to look at marketing.

Suggestions:

General Comments

- Are we looking at a two-tiered system?
- Make the track fun for people.
- Maiden special weight for owners.
- Money at Derby Day, should we give the money if it may not be needed?
- The number of live foals appears to be decreasing; we need to increase the number of live foals.
- Remove programs and let the market deal with it.
- How were the stats in the letter that quoted 110 mares shipped out of the province arrived at?
- Have the CTHS Directors look at the program suggestions and give them final voting power and approval.
- Do not create another committee to look at this; it should be the CTHS Board.

- Need to follow process.
- Appreciate the forum and having a chance to make comments.
- Everyone's goal is to have a stakes horse.
- Board member recruitment and Board Governance. Should schedule a Board Governance workshop for all board members.
- Create an executive council consisting of Board members, breeders, horsemen and general managers from tracks.
- Need a different mindset with the changes that are coming to the industry.
- Racetracks should not be telling us what should be done.
- Need a balance between all groups that are involved.
- Process should involve the Board of Directors in order to ensure credibility.
- Number of starters, How many are actual winners?
- Have a two year old in training sale.
- Sell cheap beer.
- Owners and breeders fuel the industry.
- What's happening re: Section 31 of the Income Tax Act?