

O.H.R.C. makes changes to Oklahoma Bred Program

At the Horse Racing Commission meeting on March 26th, they voted on proposed changes to language and rules for the Bred Program. Several items changed will affect the thoroughbred breeding and racing portions of the program. The following significant items were approved and will be sent to the Oklahoma Legislature for approval. The complete rules are listed on the OHRC website.

1. Beginning with the breeding season of 2010 (foals of 2011) a mare must produce a foal every other year by an accredited Oklahoma Bred stallion, in order for the foal to be eligible for Oklahoma Bred status. Thus if you breed to an out of state stallion in 2010, you must breed to an Oklahoma stallion in 2011. Thus the breeding requirements are going back to the way they were prior to 2001.

2. The first year that a mare is placed into the broodmare registry of the Ok. Bred program, if she is in foal to a stallion from outside Oklahoma, the foal she is carrying is eligible to be placed into the Bred program. That mare will be eligible to receive 100% of the broodmare awards. (This is a change from the current rule, which only gives 50% of the broodmare money for all foals of stallions from outside Oklahoma). The mare would have to produce a foal by an Oklahoma stallion the next year for that foal to be Ok. Bred eligible. The purpose of the rule change was to encourage breeders to buy quality mares that may be in foal to stallions outside of the state, and allow the mare to receive full funds from the program to help offset purchase costs.

3. Registration fee increases. For thoroughbreds the fee to register a foal in its weanling year increases to \$50, for a yearling to \$150, for a 2 year old to \$450, and an older horse \$1,000. For broodmares the fee to register into the program prior to December 31 each year is \$75, after December 31 and prior to foaling it becomes \$150. Broodmares applying under the hardship rule will be \$350. For stallions to be placed into the program prior to February 1, the fee will be \$225, after February 1 and prior to breeding (or June 30) the fee will be \$400. A new charge is being added for each stallion to certify they are still breeding and standing in the state each year at \$25 if done prior to February 1, and \$50 if done after that date. The transfer fee is changing to \$25 for any horse.

a) The commission also approved a rule which if the legislature approves a state statute, to place some of the funding (50%) from the fees for thoroughbreds into a fund to help cover costs related to retired Oklahoma Bred horses. Thirty five percent (35%) of the money would go into the Oklahoma Bred program for purses and breeders awards, and fifteen (15%) percent would go to increase funding for the O.H.R.C. to cover administrative costs and to increase the frequency of inspections related to the Oklahoma Bred program.

b) If the statute is not passed to create the retirement fund, then (85%) of the funds will go to the Oklahoma Bred program and (15%) will go to the O.H.R.C. for the purposes listed above.

4. Adopted a change in the rule regarding horses leaving the state after the August 15th date for broodmares to maintain domicile. A section was added to allow a mare to go out of state for a period of time (while in foal), if she is consigned into a recognized sale, without losing her accreditation and that of a foal she might be carrying. There are requirements on notifying the commission for this occurrence and other authorized situations.