

# OII Ownership Identification Inc.

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## Greetings to BCCA 87<sup>th</sup> AGM from Ownership Identification Inc.

**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 manages and delivers the registration of livestock brands and the inspection of cattle and horses for rightful possession prior to transportation, sale and slaughter.**

The company operates within the jurisdiction of the Livestock Identification Act and Livestock Identification Regulations.

The program is financed in its entirety through brand registrations and fees paid at the time of livestock inspection.

### 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

Peter Raffan - Mountain Livestock Marketing Association

Mark Grafton – BC Cattleman's Association

Terry Schalles – BC Association of Cattle Feeders

Gary DeBruin – BC Breeders & Feeders Association

### Re: RCMP Livestock Coordinator Position

- Is vacant at the time of this writing
- March 25, 2105, Cpl. Ralph Overby retired after 38 years of RCMP service
- **Responsibility now falls heavier on local ranchers, cattleman associations, the OII office and area brand inspectors, to continue communication with local RCMP Detachments regarding industry related matters, by providing contact names, numbers and industry protocol**
- OII has sent a letter to the Chief Superintendent responsible for reviewing the Stock Section position, requesting strong support and encouragement in naming a replacement ASAP
- **This is a much needed role for continued communication, education and resolution for many cases. This role is crucial for the livestock sector and other agencies within BC.**

## **Brian Hill Memorial Scholarship**

- In 2014, the OII board of directors changed the application criteria in an attempt to encourage more applications
- **Qualifying applicants now may or may not be 4H members**
- The need for enrollment in post secondary education in an agricultural field still remains
- 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
- 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.

## **What's New**

- **2015 Brand Registration Renewals have been sent out and are due prior to June 30**

### ***Reminders;***

- ***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***
- For a 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, OII was commissioned to provide third party agency duties for BCBFA annual herd audits. These were completed during the month of February
- OII printed a new brand book in 2014, which are available for purchase for \$25.00
- OII added a blank bill of sale in the latest printing of the manifest books

## **On the Horizon**

- **OII is currently working together with Reg Steward and FARSHA in the design and introduction of a work place Safety Program for their brand inspectors**
- OII continues to be an active partner in a multi agency relationship involving BC Abattoirs Association and Provincial Meat Inspections working in conjunction with Interior and Northern Health liaison officers. Collectively we deliver continued education involving regulations surrounding the slaughter, transportation and cut /wrap shop procedures for beef and beef carcasses
- OII continues to provide education and information sharing with local RCMP Detachments, primarily in the heavier populated livestock areas of the province

### **Did You Know**

- OII currently has 32 part time brand inspectors located throughout the province
- OII brand inspectors reported 1633 head of cattle or 135.0 clipping hours to verify brands and determine ownership on cattle delivered to sale facilities only, 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
- 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 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 will continue to participate in “Stop Checks” at highway traffic weigh scales throughout the province in conjunction with other industry agencies hosted by CVSE
- OII currently administers approximately 5700 registered brands for horses and cattle
- **\*OII has seen an increase in cattle brand registrations in 2014 and 2015 to date\***

Please visit our web page [www.ownership-id.com](http://www.ownership-id.com) for updated information and printable versions of various brand registration and transfer forms.

Please review the Livestock Inspection Summary and Stats provided in this report for your knowledge and information.

We invite everyone to visit the OII display booth at the conference trade show.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Bob Miller  
 General Manager