

(The FHANA Board of Directors has decided to hold a membership vote to help decide on the issue of registration and full recognition of B Book II horses)

What is a B-Book II horse? This is a purebred KFPS Friesian horse, sired by an unapproved purebred KFPS Friesian stallion. NOT a crossbreed.

The KFPS, our parent organization in the Netherlands, does recognize such offspring, whereas FHANA does not. If a foal is born in North America as a result of such mating, even by accident, FHANA will not register the foal. FHANA will, however, offer advice to the owner as to how to go about registering the foal into the B-Book II registry, but the owner must correspond directly with the KFPS in the Netherlands and registration fees are paid in euros to KFPS as well.

Furthermore, in 2009 the FHANA Board of Directors decided that B-Book II registered Friesians would not be welcome at North American inspections. Since then, many FHANA members have expressed disagreement with FHANA's present position on this contentious issue.

The natural tendency of a FHANA member is to take the position that we need to protect and promote legitimate breeding to approved Friesian stallions. However, the present position regarding B-Book II foals/horses has not eliminated nor influenced such breedings. By not recognizing B-Book II foals/horses, potential members are driven away and educational opportunities are missed. The vast majority of breedings, which are those that occur to approved stallions, will not be undermined. In Australia, South Africa and the Netherlands, the recognition of B-Book II offspring has not had a negative impact on breedings to approved stallions, nor the studbook as a whole. FHANA is the only KFPS daughter organisation in the world that does **not** recognize BBook II horses.

Here are some reasons why FHANA should recognize BBookII horses.

Furthermore, "to recognize" is not the same as "to promote". A membership referendum vote in favour of FHANA recognizing B-Book II foals would mean that:

1. Our FHANA office would facilitate registration of B-Book II foals (black and white papers).
2. B Book II Friesians would be welcome at all FHANA inspections: Inspected by certified judges and awarded premiums and predicates.

Reasons for supporting this position are:

1. The policy would follow KFPS policy and be aligned with FHANA's own bylaws, article 3.1 that states that " the Association recognizes **all the rules, regulations and the statutes of the studbook**, established by "Het Friesch Paarden Stamboek: (K.F.P.S), the Friesian horse studbook authority in The Netherlands. The Association shall be the designated registrar in North America and **shall provide registration of all eligible Friesian horses** which have a traceable record documenting correct parentage."
2. FHANA will finally recognize the rights of members whose membership fees it collects but refuses to provide services for KFPS registered horses (even though they are B-Book II).
3. Given the current status of our genetic population (high kinship, high inbreeding, and genetic diseases), we should not miss the opportunity to retain as many healthy breeding animals as possible. To do this we need to register and inspect all purebred Friesians. KFPS,

genetic experts and veterinarians agree that retaining all purebred Friesians is in the breed's best interest. The alternative is that these horses are registered in other registries and thus lost to the KFPS.

4. KFPS policy allows the third generation offspring (great-grandchild) of a B-Book II mare to enter the Main Studbook again, provided the 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation offspring are all sired by approved stallions. Taking that fact into consideration, why would FHANA ostracize these offsprings so significantly, as the present FHANA policy does?

5. Let's be clear, B-Book II foals ARE **purebred Friesians**: Purebred Friesian mares are being bred to unapproved **but still** purebred Friesian stallions. Our present policy pushes these people away. Let's recognize them officially and FHANA will be better informed about this aspect of Friesian ownership.

6. Our membership has the potential to grow (we are presently shrinking) as owners of B-Book II Friesians will be allowed to feel at home within the FHANA family.

7. FHANA will have additional revenue from collecting fees for registrations and inspections of B-Book II foals/horses.

8. Inspection sites that could not hold an inspection because of the low number of entries may be able to have enough entries by attracting B-Book II foals and horses to be inspected.

9. B-Book II registration will always be inferior compared to Main Studbook registration (because foal book stallions are less known, not approved on offspring and of lesser value than approved stallions) approved stallion breedings will not be jeopardized.

10. B-Book II Friesians will command lower values, effectively discouraging breeders from this practice.

11. Lower-valued Friesians have the potential of widening the Friesian family circle, as these horses are within the reach of a lower economic group of horse owners. And the owner of a B-Book II horse will always aspire to become a Main Studbook Friesian owner.

12. Lastly, we should respect the individual Friesian breeder and their right to decide which stallion to breed their mare to. There are some members who have no other option than breeding to a foalbook stallion, available to them.