

October 20, 2021

Dear BCEC Boarders and BCRA Students,

BCEC Update

This is a transition time for the Bell Canyon Equestrian Center. The main goal of the BCEC Board is that the equestrian center become a more central element of our community, a welcoming place for our owners and residents, equestrians, and non-equestrians. As we work toward that goal, improving the facility, changing the mix of trainers using the facility to conduct their businesses, and integrating the center into our community, there will be changes, some minor, some significant. We can all agree that these days, having a neighborhood equestrian center, one with a growing riding school, and opportunities for residents to learn and participate, is an unusual amenity, and it is one that we want to share with our neighbors and friends more fully.

Part of that effort is building up the BCEC's financial strength, part is implementing more programs and incorporating community events into the BCEC's schedule, and there are further improvements and projects for the facility too. One planned development is adding a second round pen, using materials donated to us by a BCA owner.

Finances

Enhancing the financial health of the BCEC requires that we handle our finances responsibly and address cost issues as they arise. As you are aware, despite the recent local rain showers, the country, including most of the west, is undergoing a prolonged drought, higher than normal temperatures, and almost constant wildfires. These circumstances are impacting the price and supply of hay that our horses depend on. We are looking for new sources, but hay growing areas are limited in number and all are impacted by the same environmental forces.

Price Increases - Hay prices have increased significantly in the last two and a half months, with timothy increasing in price almost 5% between June and September and nearly 18% in one year. It's increased even more for orchard grass, jumping over 9% this summer and 20.5% in one year. Alfalfa prices rose 9.5% this summer. These increases cannot be absorbed by the BCEC and will impact the price you pay for orchard and timothy, effective November 1. Both timothy and orchard will increase by \$10/month. Shavings costs also increased this summer, but fortunately by less, 3%. Monthly boarding fees, which include alfalfa and shavings, will increase by \$10/month effective January 1, 2022.

While these increases are not happy news to report, they are necessary for the sustainability of the BCEC. These cost increases also impact the expense of maintaining the BCRA school horses, and we are working on other cost savings to minimize the effect on lesson rates. We appreciate our resident boarders' and students' understanding. If and hopefully soon, hay prices decline, we plan to pass that decrease on to our boarders so that we all share in the benefits of lower costs.

Happy Halloween - Please don't miss the Halloween Horse Parade on, not surprisingly, Halloween, beginning at noon. This is a fun way for both boarders and equestrians to enjoy the holiday with our residents and share the facility with our community.