



Goals and Objectives of the Minnesota Horse Council

- ◆ Promote and/or support equine educational activities
- ◆ Improve communication in all horse related activities with the general public
- ◆ Gather information of value to equine related activities
- ◆ Distribute gathered information as appropriate
- ◆ Provide expertise, consult and advise
- ◆ Establish, develop and enhance equine trails and other infrastructure and encourage their prudent use

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Did you know this about the Minnesota Horse Council?

Our Programs

The Minnesota Horse Council promotes and supports the state's horse industry through a variety of activities and funding mechanisms.

- ◆ We sponsor the Minnesota Horse Expo which brings thousands of horse-related vendors, professionals and equine enthusiasts to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds every April.
- ◆ We fund and improve horse trails in Minnesota through our Trail Blazers group.
- ◆ We work on state legislative issues and with local governments on laws and rules that affect the keeping of horses, their use, and sale.
- ◆ We promote equine-related education through scholarships to students.
- ◆ We promote equine-related activities through grants and direct funding awards.
- ◆ We provide disaster relief when horses need immediate space, feed and care due to natural disasters.
- ◆ We certify stables throughout the state to promote quality and safety in the stable industry.
- ◆ We promote education about various horse breeds through our Aisle of Breeds at the Minnesota State Fair.
- ◆ We recognize outstanding horse people in the state with our Horseperson of the Year Award and Pioneer Award.
- ◆ We have taken a lead in the state's response to Unwanted Horses in Minnesota.
- ◆ We provide sponsorships at horse shows and other events.

REMINDER
MHC Scholarship Applications
Due November 1

The MHC/Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarships are offered for high school seniors, undergrads, graduate, and vocational students, to be used toward education that would further the applicant's career in and contributions to the horse industry in Minnesota. Applications are due by November 1st. The scholarships will be presented at the MHC Annual Meeting in January.

Contact Trina Joyce ♦ 612-729-7798
scholarships@MnHorseCouncil.org



We have received several questions regarding commercial vehicle operation as it applies to horse owners and trailering horses. Below is a "check list" to see if your horse operation meets the requirements for a commercial vehicle.

1. Do you declare prize money as income from a business for tax purposes?
2. Are the costs for the underlying activities deducted as a business expense for tax purposes?
3. Do you accept products and/or money for advertising a sponsor?
4. Is the transport vehicle being used in the furtherance of a commercial operation?

If you answered "YES" to either question 1, 2, 3 or 4, continue to question 5. If you answered "NO" to ALL questions (1-4), STOP HERE: you are not in the furtherance of a commercial operation.

5. Is the "gross vehicle weight" of the single vehicle or combination (truck and trailer) greater than 10,000 lbs?

Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) is the greater of the manufacturer's gross weight rating (GVWR) or the actual weight of the vehicle plus the load. If the transport vehicle consists of a truck and trailer, add the GVWR or actual weight of truck to the GVWR or actual weight of the trailer to obtain the gross vehicle weight of the combination. DO NOT use the registered weight on the vehicle license plate(s) to determine your GVW or GVWR.

If NO, STOP HERE. You are not subject to the commercial vehicle regulations. If YES, You must follow the appropriate regulations for the location(s) you travel (i.e. interstate or intrastate).

Interstate requirements. If you travel into another state you are an "interstate" carrier. If the vehicle/combination's GVW is greater than 10,000 lbs:

- ♦ CMV driver must be at least 21 and possess a valid USDOT physical card
- ♦ Equipment requirements apply
- ♦ Hours of Service requirements apply
- ♦ You must have a USDOT number and display it on the power unit (i.e. truck) in addition to the carrier name.
- ♦ Transport vehicle(s) must carry proof of an annual inspection
- ♦ Record keeping requirements apply
- ♦ Accident recording requirements apply

If the vehicle/combination's GVW is greater than 26,000 lbs: You must follow the above items.

- ♦ CMV drivers must possess the proper class Commercial Driver's License
- ♦ Drug and Alcohol Testing requirements apply.

Commercial Vehicle Regulations

Minnesota State Patrol, June 2012

Intrastate requirements. If you operate only in Minnesota. If the vehicle/combination's GVW is greater than 10,000 lbs:

- ♦ CMV driver must be at least 18 and possess a valid USDOT physical card/form
- ♦ Hours of Service requirements apply
- ♦ Carrier must have a USDOT number if the power unit has a GVW/GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds. The USDOT number must be displayed on power unit in addition to the carrier name.
- ♦ Record keeping requirements apply
- ♦ Accident recording requirements apply

If the vehicle/combination's GVW is greater than 26,000 lbs: You must follow the above items, and CMV drivers must possess an appropriate Commercial Driver's License.

- ♦ Drug and Alcohol requirements apply.
- ♦ Transport vehicle(s) must show proof of an Annual Inspection performed by a Minnesota Certified Inspector.

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www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/care/commercial-vehicle-regulations/

For more info, see

www.mnhorsecouncil.org/docs/mndot-horse-trailer-regs.pdf

Call for Board of Director Candidates Deadline is November 1st!

Each Minnesota Horse Council (MHC) Board of Director is elected to a 3-year term. That means that the MHC membership has the opportunity to vote to fill one-third of the board positions. This year five board positions are up for election. Current board members whose current terms expire on December 31, 2014 include: Doug Persian, Marian Robinson, Jan Schatzlein, Missie Schwartz, and Jennifer Willey. As of October 1, the Nominations Committee has received written notice that Jan Schatzlein and Marian Robinson do not intend to run for re-election.

Any MHC member in good standing is eligible to submit their name as a candidate for a MHC Board of Director. A candidate biography and picture must be submitted to the Nominations Committee Chairperson, Tom Tweeten, by November 1. Each candidate biography and picture will be included with election materials that will be distributed to MHC members in December prior to the MHC Annual Meeting in January 2015.

The Nominations Committee encourages all perspective candidates to attend monthly board meetings to meet current board members and get a feel of what the board does. Our next Board Meeting is October 14, 6:30 pm, at the University of Minnesota Equine Center Conference Room. We encourage you to consider contributing to the success of the Minnesota Horse Council by being a candidate and perspective Board of Directors member.

Thomas Tweeten, MHC 1st Vice-President
Nominations Committee Chairperson

Fall Pasture To-Do List

By Betsy Gilkerson, University of Minnesota

Fall is a busy and important time of year for pasture care. Here is a list of things you can do in the next few months to keep your pastures looking great, and give them a boost for next year.

Seed Pasture Grasses

August 15th to September 15th are the best time of year to seed or reseed your pastures (usually adequate moisture, less weed competition, and cool, desirable weather conditions). Common grass species used are Timothy, Orchard Grass, and Smooth Brome. Turf-type lawn grasses like Kentucky bluegrass can be used for higher traffic areas and serve as a good base for your pasture.

Take Soil Samples

See if your pastures need any nutrients. Any time from now until the ground freezes is a good time to take samples because the soils are drier and more stable.

The plants have also taken up the majority of nutrients for the season. Contact your county Extension office or the University of Minnesota Soils Lab for a sample kit. The lab's phone number is 612-625-3101.

Dispose of Manure

If you are going to fertilize your pastures with manure, sample the manure first so you know how much you should spread. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has a list of Certified Manure Testing Labs. Only spread manure on your pastures if you have more than 2 acres per horse. However, spreading additional manure (other than what the horse naturally leaves behind) on your pasture can result in greater chances of parasite exposure. Never the less, its nice to remove your manure pile once a year (actually its required by the MDA). If you cannot spread it on your pasture, hire a local farmer or landscaper to remove the manure for you.

Fertilize

Use compost or a commercial fertilizer and drag manure piles in your pasture. As stated above, test your soils first so you know how much you need. Often, only nitrogen is needed in pastures since manure provides quite a bit of phosphorus and Minnesota soils tend to be naturally higher in phosphorus and potassium.

Weed Control

If you want to control perennial weeds with an herbicide, now is the time. Perennial plants are storing nutrients for winter in their roots. As the nutrients go into the roots, so will the herbicide, giving the best change for a successful kill. It is best to have mowed the perennials throughout the summer so they are not so mature. Herbicides usually work best on re-growth or plants that are 4-8 inches in height. Mowing three to four times throughout the year will help keep all weeds in check, but never mow your pasture shorter than 4 inches.



Check fences

Make sure your fences are in good shape before the snow flies. Pay special attention to posts, and fix any broken posts before they are frozen into the ground.

Rest The Pasture

If you have a pasture that is over grazed, rest it for the remainder of the year. This will give the grass a chance to store up nutrients for next year so the pasture will be healthier in the spring. On average, a pasture needs 30 days of rest after 1-2 weeks of grazing. However, this depends on time of year, number of horses, acreage, quantity and quality of forage, and soil fertility. Generally speaking, pasturing horses over winter causes damage to plants and offers the horse no nutrition. Keeping the horses in a sacrifice paddock where they have access to hay, water and shelter is preferred.

Get Ready to Take Animals Off During Frosts

Hoof traffic after a frost can damage grasses. Have a sacrifice area set aside where the horses can be held until the grass thaws.

Hay Storage

Make sure your hay storage area is free from leaks and rodents.

How many small square-bales are in a round-bale?

By Krishona Martinson, University of Minnesota

It depends on the weight of both the large and small-square bales. For example, if the round-bale weighs 1,000 pounds, then 20 50-pound small-square bales would be equivalent to 1 round-bale. If the large round-bale weighs 1,200 pounds and the small-square bales weigh 40 pounds, then 30 small-square bales would be equivalent to one round-bale. It important to know the weight of hay bales both for feeding and economic efficiencies.

Care of Elderly Horses

By Julie Wilson, DVM, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota



Many horses and ponies can live into their 20's or even 30's with good health care. These equine senior citizens play many roles for their owners, providing trustworthy mounts for new riders, children, and people with special needs as well as companionship to other horses and their owners. Like people, their health needs shift as their bodies age.

Impact of aging on body systems

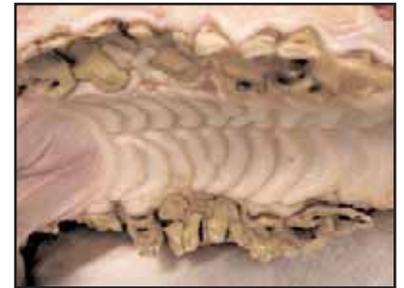
1. Digestive tract: Dental issues arise as teeth wear out or are lost. Diminished absorptive capacity of the intestinal tract can lead to weight loss or loose manure. A higher likelihood of some types of colic such as small intestine obstruction by a lipoma (fat tumor) requires prompt attention.
2. Musculoskeletal system: Arthritis of multiple joints may cause stiffness or limit the range of motion with exercise. Laminitis (founder) may occur if the horse develops Cushing's syndrome. Muscle wasting may develop, particularly over the horse's topline.
3. Immune system: A mild reduction in efficiency of response to microbes leads to increased susceptibility to infections. This vulnerability is significantly greater if the horse develops Cushing's syndrome, which causes high blood levels of cortisol, a hormone which further diminishes the immune system's responsiveness.
4. Respiratory system: Recurrent airway obstruction (heaves), the horse equivalent of asthma, tends to progress with time, and affected horses may need more active medical and environmental management as they age.
5. Reproductive system: Fertility in both mares and stallions declines. Sperm quality and quantity may limit conception rates. In mares, there is age-related progressive degeneration of the uterine lining which is responsible for the exchange of nutrients from mare to fetus, and the eggs produced by the ovaries are less fertile. This means that the pregnancy is more difficult to achieve and sustain.
6. Cardiovascular system: Age related changes may impact the heart or blood vessels, leading to heart failure or sudden death if a major vessel ruptures.
7. Nervous system: Coordination may diminish slightly, resulting in a decline in agility. Arthritic changes in the neck or degeneration of the spinal cord can result in progressive incoordination.
8. Endocrine system: Abnormal hormone production by the pituitary gland at the base of the brain results in Cushing's syndrome, which is characterized by progressively more severe signs, including poor shedding of winter coat and premature winter coat in the fall, greasy skin, increased thirst and urination, founder, and increased susceptibility to infections.

Health care suggestions for elderly horses

Work with your veterinarian to make a proactive plan for your horse. Depending on the horse's age and condition, annual or semiannual physical examinations should be done for early detection of problems. This examination should include assessment of dental needs, weight tape and body condition score, soundness check, and vaccine planning. Close inspection for early signs of cancer is also warranted. Gray horses often develop lumps, melanomas, under the skin. These should be monitored for size at each examination. White skin in areas with little or no hair coat, such as around the eyes, muzzle, vulva, and penis, should be checked for any reddened or raised areas that could be squamous cell carcinomas. If detected early, local treatment is often successful. If the horse or pony is still being ridden, this is a good time to look at saddle fit, as the less muscular back of the elderly horse is more likely to develop saddle sores. Routine blood screening and urinalysis for more subtle signs of age-related internal organ problems may be a good idea for your horse too. You and your veterinarian can then use all of the examination findings to plan health care and nutrition for the next 6-12 months.

Nutrition

Elderly horses benefit from at least yearly attention to their teeth and a high quality diet. Most major feed companies now make "senior" diets, which are typically pelleted, easy to chew, and more energy dense than other concentrates. A horse can be fed a senior diet in addition to hay or pasture to improve its body condition, if it is having trouble maintaining its weight without an apparent health problem. Senior pellets can be fed in larger volumes as the sole feed for the horse, particularly if its teeth are worn past the point of effectively chewing hay. Palatability may vary between brands, so if the horse is not eager for more, try another brand. However, follow feeding instruction carefully, and insure that adequate amounts of vitamin and trace mineral are being supplemented.



Worn out teeth from a horse in his 20's.

Soundness

Worn out teeth from a horse in his 20's.

Horses need regular feet trimming throughout their lives. Good hoof balance promotes even weight bearing, and less stress on the joints. Joint friendly supplements like glucosamine with chondroitin sulfate may help some arthritis horses get around, or a low dose of anti-inflammatory drugs such as phenylbutazone may be needed to keep the horse comfortable. Daily light exercise or turn-out as well as longer warm-up and cool down will also help maintain the horse's usefulness. Specific joint therapy may be needed if the horse is lame, such as intraarticular medications, or shock wave therapy.

Care of Elderly Horses--continued on page 5



Research Update: Bodyweight Estimation

Summarized by Krishona Martinson, PhD, University of Minnesota.

Excessive bodyweight has become a major health issue in the equine industry. The objectives of the study, conducted at the University of Minnesota, were to determine if the addition of neck circumference and height improved existing bodyweight estimation equations; develop an equation for estimation of ideal bodyweight; and develop a method for assessing the likelihood of being overweight in adult equines.

In 2011, 629 adult horses and ponies were measured and weighed at two horse shows in Minnesota (WSCA Champ Show and State 4-H Horse Show). Personnel assessed body condition score (BCS) on a scale of 1 to 9, measured wither height, body length from the point of shoulder to the point of the buttock, neck and girth circumference, and bodyweight using a livestock scale. Individuals were grouped into breed types and equations for estimated and ideal bodyweight were developed. For estimated body weight, the model was fit using all individual equines. For ideal bodyweight, the model was fit using only individuals with BCS of 5. Breed type, height and body length were also considered as these measurements are not affected by fat deposits. Finally, a bodyweight score to assess the likelihood of being overweight was developed and standardized using horses with a BCS of 5.

Breed types included Arabian, stock and pony. Mean BCS was 5.6. Bodyweight (lbs) was estimated by taking girth (in) 1.486 x length (in) 0.554 x height (in) 0.599 x neck (in) 0.173/119 (Arabians), 119 (ponies) or 114 (stock horses). Ideal body weight (lbs) was estimated by taking length (in) x 15.65 + height (in) x 23.47 – 1,344 (Arabians), 1,269 (ponies) or 1,333 (stock horses).

Equines with a BCS of greater than or equal to 7 had a greater likelihood of being overweight and the model suggested cutoffs at the 48th and 83rd percentiles for underweight and overweight horses, respectively. In conclusion, body measurements were successfully used to develop equine bodyweight-related equations.

To encourage use of the equations, the research team developed a mobile app for Apple and Android operating systems. Users enter the body measurements and the app calculates estimated and ideal bodyweight and a bodyweight score. Information on the "Healthy Horse" app can be found here.

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MHC Education & Resources

Check out
www.mnhorsecouncil.org/education.php for
links and information the MHC has considered
relevant and accurate for Minnesota's horse
owners and enthusiasts.

See information on:
Books
Business
Health and Wellness
Legal
Minnesota Schools
Newsletters
Riding Tips

Care of Elderly Horses--continued from page 4



Unseasonably long hair coat on a horse with Cushing's syndrome.

Cushing's syndrome

Unseasonably long hair coat on a horse with Cushing's syndrome. If a horse keeps its winter coat longer than its herd mates and starts to grow the winter coat a bit early in the fall, Cushing's Syndrome may be responsible. Founder without apparent cause is another reason to suspect this syndrome. Management consists of clipping the untimely coat, and suppression of the excessive hormone production from the pituitary, using daily medications such as pergolide. Particularly if left untreated, these horses are more susceptible to infections.

Management consists of clipping the untimely coat, and suppression of the excessive hormone production from the pituitary, using daily medications such as pergolide. Particularly if left untreated, these horses are more susceptible to infections.

Vaccinations and deworming

As the immune system wanes, elderly horses become more susceptible to microbial diseases and parasites. Retirement is no reason to stop routine health care. Indeed, if the elderly horse is kept with active show horses, they may need more frequent vaccinations, particularly against the respiratory diseases such as strangles, herpes and influenza.

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House Passes Bill to Block Proposed Clean Water Act Rule

On September 9, 2014, the House passed the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014 (H.R. 5078), introduced by Representative Steve Southerland (R-FL). The bill would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) from finalizing or implementing a proposed rule to define "Waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The bill is supported by the AHC and a broad coalition of Agricultural groups.

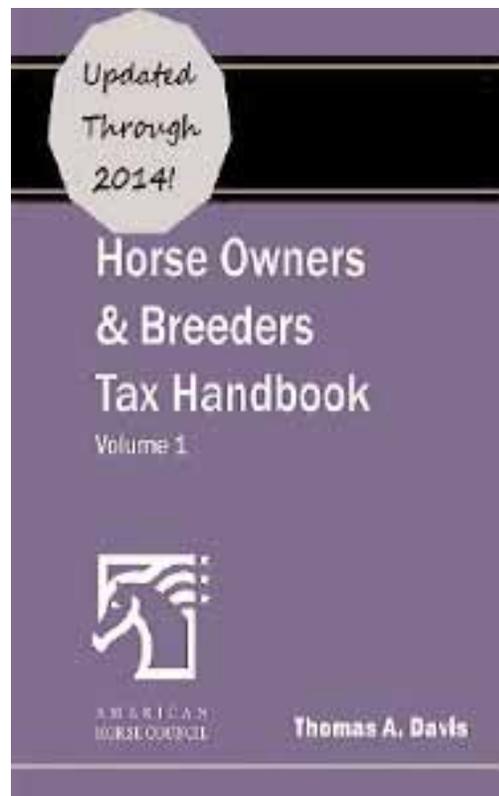
Earlier this year the EPA and Corps published a new proposed rule to redefine "Waters of the U.S." under the CWA. The CWA regulates discharges of pollutants into the Waters of the United States. The proposed rule appears to redefine "Waters of the U.S.," in a manner that would significantly expand the waters subject to the requirements of the CWA. Additionally, in conjunction with the proposed rule, the EPA and Corps issued an "interpretive rule" (IR) regarding CWA section 404 exemptions for agricultural discharges of dredge and fill materials (dirt or soil) into "Waters of the U.S." that was made effective immediately. The IR could potentially place new constraints on farms and ranches,

particularly if the proposed rule is finalized.

The CWA does include exemptions for agriculture, however the AHC and other agricultural groups have serious concerns regarding both the proposed rule and the IR. Any expansion of the waters regulated by the CWA could potentially impact horse farms, ranches and race-tracks, create uncertainty regarding requirements under the CWA, and impose a new unnecessary regulatory burden on the horse industry. The AHC has joined with other groups in requesting that the proposed rule and IR be withdrawn.

The proposed rule is currently in the public comment period that ends October 20, 2014.

The House passed bill would prohibit the EPA and Corps from finalizing or implementing the proposed rule or using the proposed rule, any successor document, or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance as the basis for any rule making or decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the CWA. It also requires the withdrawal of the IR regarding CWA section 404 exemptions for agricultural discharges of dredge and fill materials. Additionally, the bill



Available at www.horsecouncil.org.

would require the EPA and Corps to consult with relevant state and local officials to develop recommendations for a regulatory proposal that would identify the scope of waters covered under the Clean Water Act and the scope of waters not covered.

The bill must now be debated and approved by the Senate.

CHEROKEE WISDOM

A Cherokee Indian elder was teaching his grandchildren about life.

He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me... it is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves.

One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

This same fight is going on inside of you, and inside every other person, too."

The children thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee elder replied simply ... "The one you feed."



To Have a Horse in Your Life

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice.

Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you - you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to humor will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive."

In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences - if it suits him.

It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover

just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn.

And, while some people think the horse "does all the work," you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses - it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow.

We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To Have a Horse in Your Life--continued on page 9



MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES - July 8, 2014

Meeting Location: Nutrena Conference Room - Leatherdale Center, U of MN St Paul

Board Members Present: Trina Joyce, Mark Ward, Glen Eaton, Missie Schwartz, Tom Tweeten, Kim Otterson, Tracy Turner, Tim Bonham, Dave Fleischhaker, Darrell Mead, Jan Schatzlein, Doug Persian, Jennifer Willey

Absent: Dawn Moore, Sue McDonough, Kris Kelly, Marian Robinson

Members/Visitors: Meg Sax, Allison Eklund

I. Meeting called to order: 6:38 P.M. by President Tracy Turner.

II. Introduction of Board Members/Visitors

III. Call for Additions/Changes to Agenda

1. David Fleischhaker added TEEFA to Committee Reports.
2. Tracy Turner added American Horse Council to New Business.

IV. Treasurer's Report for July was presented by Tim Bonham. Assets total \$790,068.69. Liabilities total \$341,795.47 with net available funds \$448,273.22. Discussion and review followed. Tom Tweeten motioned to increase the budget for special projects by \$250 to accommodate the reservation for the 2015 State Horse Council meeting in Minnesota. Darrell Mead seconded, motion carries. Tim Bonham advised the tax accountant phoned today and asked about the value of the promotional items/apparel.

V. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the June meeting were presented to the board electronically prior to the meeting and in hard copy at the July meeting. Missie Schwartz motioned to approve the June minutes as presented. Darrell Mead seconded, motion carries.

VI. Secretary's Report: Dawn Moore absent. No report.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Treasurer's Ad Hoc Committee: David Fleischhaker advised he has spoken to a couple of people but has not yet found the proper person to help audit the treasurer reports. The committee continues to break apart the reports and clarify the contents.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Expo: Glen Eaton advised the gate attendance was down 40% and the rodeo attendance was down 30%. The planning for 2015 is well underway and committees are meeting monthly.

B. Direct Funding: Mark Ward. One new application was received in June which was approved. It is listed as item 8 below. Here are the 2014 applications and committee actions.

1. Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Association: \$500 to cover costs of clinician Lavert Avent at a ranch horse judged schooling show clinic (Aug. 1-3). Approved
2. Pennington Co. 4H Horse Project: \$500 to purchase new pole weaving poles and a wireless mic for 4H clinics and other horse shows (May-Aug). Approved
3. Traverse Co 4H: \$500 to cover costs of clinicians for four clinics (June 10, June 24, July 15, & August 29). Approved
4. Great Prairie, Inc: \$500 to pay architect's fees to plan a future Pentathlon Park (no date planned). Not Approved
5. Lac qui Parle County 4H Horse Project: \$500 for clinician fees (Litta Hottel) for a 3-day horsemanship clinic, June 25-27, 2014 at the Lac qui Parle County horse arena. Approved
6. North Country Horsemen: \$500 for a new laptop computer and printer/copier to be used in support of their club functions. Not Approved (The committee considered this a "typical operating expense" which is specifically excluded from our criteria for funding.)
7. Northern Lakes Region United States Pony Club: \$500 for 4-5 instructors at a pony club "D Camp," June 26-29 2014. Approved (Despite the

concern by two committee members that although east Minnesota riders are being served by this group, their rally is being held in River Falls Wisconsin, instead of in Minnesota.)

8. Douglas County 4H: \$500 for helmets and other items for start-up of "I Wish I Had a Horse Camp," to be held sometime between July 16 and 27th, 2014. Approved

Our budget started with \$6,000 available, which would equal twelve \$500 direct funding grants. Now we have approved six \$500 grants, leaving \$3000 remaining in our budget.

C. Website/Directory: Mark Ward reported the latest addition to our website has been the education pages, thanks to the hard work of committee member Jennifer Willey. The education section boasts links to articles on helping horse business professionals plan their business, links to U of MN equine newsletters, articles on equine related laws, equine health and wellness, and practical riding tips. Our Horse Council website and the Horsemen's Directory site continue to be frequently updated with current information and are visited by users from all over the world.

Our membership payment and renewal through PayPal is bringing in new members and making it easy for returning members to re-subscribe. Recent stats on www.MnHorseCouncil.org show 734,000 hits by 139,000 visits to view 320,000 pages during the past 12 months through June 2014. That's about 5% more than last year.

Our Minnesota Horsemen's Directory website, www.MNHD.org, now has over 990 users registered. That's an increase of about 260 from last year. www.mnhd.org supports about quadruple the activity of the MHC home site: over 3.2 million hits during the past 12 months with over 239 thousand unique visits viewing over 1.9 million pages. That's a small increase over last year's activity level. In June 2014 alone, 5,000 visitors come from about 100 different nations around the world, viewed 70,000 pages with over 135,000 hits. That's about 10% more than last year at this time. The Minnesota Horsemen's Directory continually updates its information with the help of committee members who search through the listings to confirm correct categorization and current information. If you find anything erroneous on the site, please contact me. MarkWard@MnHorseCouncil.org.

Mark Ward was asked to add Equine educational opportunities onto the education page on the website.

D. Pioneer Award: Doug Persian advised there have been no nominations received at this time. Doug Persian asked that any potential candidates be shared with the committee.

E. Grants: Tim Bonham advised the annual mailing of the press release on the Grants and Scholarships deadlines and criteria is currently being produced.

F. SHCC: Glen Eaton advised he and Tracy Turner attended the meeting and Jean Ligon has been elected to the position of Chair and Bill Scabbe is now Vice-Chair. The fall meeting will be held in Illinois and Glen Eaton will not be attending. Tom Tweeten and Darrell Mead will represent the MHC.

G. Aisle of Breeds: Glen Eaton needs help in the form of two people to tend the table at all times. Set up will be August 12th at 10am. Help is needed for the set up and tear down process as well. Tim Bonham advised the volunteers need to contact Glen Eaton and Tim Bonham well in advance so that gate tickets can be provided before their shift. A signup sheet was provided to the directors.

MHC July Minutes--continued on page 9

MHC July Minutes--continued from page 8

H. Promotions: Dawn Moore submitted her report electronically. We continue to have sponsorship requests trickle in. At this time we are remaining conservative in our spending. The bottled water has been a huge hit and most of the groups like the idea more than cash. We have had committee members at various shows and events helping spread the word, pass out information on MHC and try recruiting new members. We have used the banner and MHC chairs at a few events and it does draw attention to us. A mailing was done in June to all facilities listed on our MNHD to send out info on MHC, EHV-1, and memberships. They were also asked to make sure their info on MNHD was accurate.

I. Scholarships: Tim Bonham advised the annual mailing of the press release on the Grants and Scholarships deadlines and criteria is currently being produced.

J. TEEFA: David Fleischhaker advised there is currently one application pending at this time.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. AHC: Tracy Turner reported on the 2014 American Horse Council Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum.

Day one of the meeting consists of several committee meetings. MHC was represented at the Unwanted Horse Coalition meeting as well as the Welfare and Horse Show Committees. The Unwanted Horse Coalition was a review of the past year. The most significant updates were the major breed groups have all adopted a "full circle" program where at the end of the horse's career an individual can list themselves as a contact if the horse needs a home. In addition, the American Quarter Horse Association has started a Grade Horse Registry. If interested, you should contact the AQHA. Another program update was from the Equine Network, a group of equine magazines and on line sites. This group sponsors "A Home For Every Horse," a website where rescues can post animals up for adoption and can get access to a nationwide audience. The site is free to rescues. To date, the site has helped find homes for thousands of horses.

The UHC will continue to update and distribute its educational materials. The UHC will continue to support Operation Gelding, which has, to date, supported projects that have castrated nearly 1,000 stallions. An action item for the Minnesota Horse Council, we should have posted on our website a list of Minnesota's Equine Welfare Laws. This would give easy access to all our members so that they are knowledgeable with regards to the laws and it will help us make sure all our programs are in compliance with Minnesota State laws.

There is a program called Equine Protection Registry. Microchip your horse and put it in a national database to find horses lost in disasters or stolen.

The welfare and horse shows committees began with a status update of legislation on Capitol Hill. The only legislation that is close to coming to a vote is the PAST Act, Prevent All Soring Tactics. The bill has over 51 co-sponsors in the Senate and over 268 co-sponsors in the House. The bill has excellent bi-partisan support with having a majority of the majorities in the House and Senate.

The second day is the National Issues Forum with this year's topic "Where Have All the Horses Gone." This series of lectures had many frightening statistics. All across the industry the theme was 2014 is the smallest foal crop since the 1960s and ownership has declined 25% over the past decade. Further, since the recession started in 2008, the number of horses has declined by 13% and their value has declined 35%. The number of horse farms has declined by 10%. So the question arises, how do we re-invigorate the industry? Several ideas and statements were made. (1) Better use of social media, (2) industry must attract more diverse and younger demographics, (3) horse organizations must have a

strong welfare statement, (4) classes for novices. Time to Ride is a project sponsored by major equine stakeholders (12 partners, each sponsoring \$25K/year) to re-invigorate the market, see timetoride.com.

**Sidenote: The Veterinary Mobility Act has passed.

B. Montana Horse Expo: Glen Eaton advised he has been contacted by a group looking to put on a new horse expo in Billings, Montana.

C. Glen Eaton shared his experiences at the Shriners Drill Competition yesterday.

Announcements:

July 11th is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

X. Tracy Turner adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.

NEXT MEETING ♦ September 9, 2014 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
University of MN ♦ Leatherdale Center



University of Minnesota Extension
Regional Horse Owner Program

November 6, 2014
6–8:30 p.m.

Bluff Country Equine
(Formerly known as Town & Country Vet)
29161 Wilson Frontage Rd
Winona, MN

To Have a Horse in Your Life--continued from page 7

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle.

Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse, of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion.

In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses--or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place.

~ Author Unknown

Ask the Expert: Hay Consumption

By Krishona Martinson, PhD, University of Minnesota



Question: How many square bales does a horse eat a day. Is it necessary to have hay/feed in front of a horse all day?

Answer: It is difficult to estimate how many small square-bales of hay a horse needs each day since bales vary in size and weight. Its better to feed based on weight. The average adult horse required about 2% of its bodyweight in feed (hay plus grain) each day. For example, a 1,000-lb adult horse at maintenance would require 20 lbs of feed daily. If your small square-bale weighs 40 lbs, then the horse should be fed half the bale each day. If the bale weighs 80 lbs, then one quarter of the bale would be required each day.

If you are feeding grain, then subtract that amount from the hay meal. For example, if you are feeding 5 lbs of grain, then reduce the amount of hay fed by 5 lbs. Using the above example, the hay ration would then be reduced from 20 to 15 lbs. Adding the 5 lbs of grain to the 15 lbs of hay fed daily would help ensure the horse was receiving 2% of their bodyweight in feed each day. It is also a good idea to assess horse body condition each month and adjust the amount of hay (and grain) fed as needed.

It is not necessary for horses to have feed in front of them all day. In fact, this practice can lead to obesity if high quality, energy dense feed is offered without sufficient exercise. Feeding two to four small meals throughout the day, that equal 2% bodyweight, is ideal since horses evolved to consume several small meals throughout the day. However, feeding more than two meals throughout the day is not feasible for many horse owners. One management method that has proven to extend foraging time while allowing horses to remain on a controlled diet in the use of slow feed hay nets. A recent study at the University of Minnesota found that horses took 3.2 hours to consume a hay meal when fed off the stall floor and 6.5 hours to consume the same hay meal when fed from a slow-feed hay net. Researchers concluded that slow-feed hay nets represent simple and affordable management tools for extending foraging time when meal feeding horses.



MEETING SCHEDULE

www.mnhorsecouncil.org and
www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.org

MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MEETINGS

Leatherdale Equine Center Center ♦ 6:30 pm
1801 Dudley Ave ♦ St. Paul (U of M St. Paul Campus)
MHC Board Meetings are open, MHC members welcome to attend.

Oct. 14, 2014	Feb. 10, 2015	July 14, 2015
Nov. 11, 2014	March 10, 2015	Sept. 8, 2015
Dec. 9, 2014	April 14, 2015	Oct. 13, 2015
Jan. 17, 2015	May 12, 2015	Nov. 10, 2015
Annual Meeting	June 9, 2015	Dec. 8, 2015

MINNESOTA HORSE EXPO BOARD MEETINGS

6:30 pm
Call 952-356-2090 for location.

Oct. 28, 2014	Mar. 31, 2015	Sept. 29, 2015
Nov. 25, 2014	April 21, 2015	Oct. 27, 2015
Dec. 30, 2014	May 19, 2015	Nov. 24, 2015
Jan. 27, 2015	June 30, 2015	Dec. 29, 2015
Feb. 24, 2015	July 28, 2015	Jan. 26, 2016

For Horse's Sake

Editors: Linda Dahl and Missie Schwartz

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For Horse's Sake is the official newsletter of the Minnesota Horse Council (MHC). Statements appearing in *For Horse's Sake* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the MHC. To reprint any material published in *For Horse's Sake*, please notify MHC of your intentions. Full credit needs to be given to the author. Articles of relevance to the equine industry are earnestly solicited. The Minnesota Horse Council is a non-profit member-supported volunteer organization representing all equine disciplines and breeds in Minnesota's equine livestock industry.

Please e-mail or send potential articles to:

Dahl Graphics & Printing
39257 Taray Road ♦ Pine River, MN 56474
E-Mail: fhs-mhc@dahlgraphics.com

Newsletter Deadlines

Nov. 2014	10/17/14	May 2015	4/17/15
Dec. 2014	11/14/14	June 2015	5/15/15
Jan-Feb 2015	1/23/15	July-Aug 2015	7/17/15
March 2015	2/13/15	Sept. 2015	8/14/15
April 2015	3/13/15	October 2015	9/11/15

MINNESOTA HORSEMEN'S DIRECTORY

The Minnesota Horsemen's Directory is a free resource provided by the Minnesota Horse Council to help you find horse-related information and services in and near Minnesota.

♦ Find a farrier, trail riding stable, boarding, lessons, tack stores, and much more! Use the Events Calendar to find shows, clinics and other horse-related activities. Use the new Jobs category to find a job or skilled job seeker.

♦ Find what you're looking for by choosing a category, or search the directory. Once you are in a category, browse the results alphabetically or by a sub-category or region.

♦ Help make this site comprehensive and accurate. Submit a free listing of your Minnesota horse-related business or organization. Once listed, you can edit your listing as often as you wish.

♦ Whether you are looking to hire or looking for an equine-related job in or near Minnesota, submit a Help Wanted or Seeking a Job ad here.

www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

www.mnhorsecouncil.org

- Individual - \$15
- Family - \$20
- Organization - \$25
- Corporation - \$25
- Certified Stable: First Year - \$35
- Certified Stable: Renewal - \$25

Name _____

Farm/Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Alt. Phone _____

E-mail _____

Brief description of your stable/business/involvement with horses:

Would you like to volunteer with MHC? If so, please list any interest you have: _____

I'd like to receive the MN Horse Council newsletter, "For Horse's Sake" by:

- E-mail United States Postal Service - B&W

Please complete this form and send with your check to:

Minnesota Horse Council
 PO Box 223 ♦ Plato, MN 55370

or join online at www.mnhorsecouncil.org/membership



Minnesota Horse Council

PO Box 223 ♦ Plato, MN 55370

763-755-7729 ♦ mn.horsecouncil@comcast.net

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Thomas Tweeten ♦ 952-226-4190 ♦ thomastweeten@mnhorsecouncil.org

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Pioneer Award

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Promotions

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Scholarships

Trina Joyce ♦ 612-729-7798 ♦ trinajoyce@mnhorsecouncil.org

Show Facilities

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State Horse Council

Glen Eaton ♦ 952-922-8666 ♦ gleneaton@mnhorsecouncil.org

Temporary Emergency Equine Feed Assistance (TEEFA)

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Trail Blazers

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Out the Back Door . . .

Time

How is it that we all have the same amount of time, yet for some they never have time. I am fairly certain there are 24 hours in the day. For everyone.

Yet why is the most common excuse for not finishing a project, returning a call or meeting up with friends, "I didn't have time." It also amazes me when someone comments how a holiday or anniversary snuck up on them. Hmmm. Pretty sure the calendar doesn't skip days. Sadly, we are all getting used to the retail outlets with the very early seasonal displays that we don't even see them anymore.

I will admit I was admiring the changing colors this past weekend. I thought to myself, it's really early for the trees to be changing. It then occurred to me that it is almost October.

When we are younger we cannot wait for the weekend or birthdays or holidays. Somewhere along the way, we start wondering where time went. Time went the same place it always does and at the very same pace it always did. Once upon a time we could not wait to enjoy it. As we age, we dread and regret it.

Take the time, make the time to enjoy your weekends, birthdays, and yes even Tuesday. We cannot go back and we truly do not know what tomorrow brings. Don't procrastinate and don't regret. Live your life and the time you have. Enjoy the people and the horses you love - right out your back door.

Missie.Schwartz@MNHorseCouncil.org

APRIL 24, 25, & 26

Minnesota Horse Expo 2015

Return Service Requested

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Minnesota Horse Council

