



# For Horse's Sake



### 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

### 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

#### President

Dan Dolan ♦ 651-459-4527  
danandjandolan@comcast.net

#### 1st Vice President

Mark Ward ♦ 651-436-6557  
markward@windyridgeranch.com

#### 2nd Vice President

Darrell Mead ♦ 763-420-3697  
darrellmead@comcast.net

#### Secretary

Dawn Moore ♦ 952-949-6659  
dmoore834@comcast.net

#### Treasurer

Tim Bonham ♦ 612-721-1007  
t-bonham@scc.net

#### DIRECTORS

- Glen Eaton.....952-922-8666
- Teresa Hanson.....763-434-2799
- Judy Jensen.....763-972-6397
- Trina Joyce.....612-729-7798
- Sue McDonough.....651-699-8117
- Marian Robinson.....763-588-0297
- Missie Schwartz.....763-428-7532
- Laurie Slater.....763-434-4057
- Tracy Turner.....651-351-7206
- Tom Tweeten.....952-226-4190
- Christie Ward.....651-603-8702
- Lynn Wasson.....320-398-8085

## AMERICAN GINA MILES WINS OLYMPIC SILVER U.S. EQUESTRIAN TEAM FINISHED SEVENTH



Gina Miles on McKinlaigh celebrates after completing the individual show jumping portion of the equestrian Eventing competition at the Olympic Games

Gina Miles of the United States won the silver medal in the eventing final of equestrian at the Olympics, finishing just behind Hinrich Romeike of Germany. Kristina Cook of Great Britain earned the bronze.

Miles, riding McKinlaigh a 14-year-old Irish Sport Horse owned by Thom Schulz and

Laura Coats, had a clear round that brought her up from fourth to second place on 56.10 penalties. Romeike had 54.20 penalties.

Germany edged Australia for the gold medal in team eventing. Great Britain earned the bronze medal. In the team portion, Germany had 166.10 total penalty points and won the gold thanks mostly to Romeike with his ride aboard Marius. Australia had a total of 171.20 penalty points, while Germany had 185.70.

The American team of Amy Tryon, Karen O'Connor, Rebecca Holder, Phillip Dutton and Gina Miles was seventh.

Miles' victory wasn't without a little bit of drama. McKinlaigh was put in the holding box at the final horse inspection. McKinlaigh was re-presented and passed after discussion between the Ground Jury of Martin Plewa, Christian Landholt and Marilyn Payne and the Veterinary Panel.

52 horses show jumped over the Leopoldo Palacios course and it became clear quite early that clear rounds would be hard to find. The first round was for every horse remaining in the

competition and to determine the team medals. The top 25 horses (a maximum of three from each nation) returned for the second round to determine individual medals. This format is only used in the Olympic Games.

Phillip Dutton had two uncharacteristic rails down in the first round on Bruce Duchossios' Connaught. The 15-year-old Irish thoroughbred gelding is known to be incredibly careful but he was a victim of the very electric atmosphere.

Dutton also returned for the second round with Connaught and the horse jumped his typical clear round. Unfortunately Dutton was eliminated from the individual portion of the competition because he inadvertently broke an FEI Rule for using illegal equipment. Connaught was wearing a pair of hind boots that were too heavy under this new rule incepted in February. Neither the Chef d'Equipe Mark Phillips or Dutton knew about the rule. There was never any intention to operate outside the rules.

Becky Holder and Courageous Comet put in a solid effort. Holder has struggled with the show jumping in the past with 'Comet' and was pleased with the 13-year-old Thoroughbred's effort. They had two down but Holder wasn't disappointed in her horse.

Karen O'Connor will use these Games as a stepping stone for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games with Mandiba.



Minnesotan, Becky Holder riding Courageous Comet during the Dressage portion of the Olympic Games



# Minnesota Horse Council News

## TONY GASSER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 1

The Minnesota Horse Council is currently accepting applications for Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarships. Several educational scholarships of at least \$2,000 are offered each year.

### Who is Eligible?

- ♦ Applicants majoring in, or planning to major in, any equine-related field of study
- ♦ High school seniors and college students
- ♦ Minnesota residents

### Additional Requirements

- ♦ Three letters of recommendation (no more than one page, please) from individuals who are familiar with the applicant's equine experience and ability, leadership ability, and/or scholarship
- ♦ Proof of acceptance or enrollment from the school in which the scholarship will be used (required only after the scholarship is awarded).

### General Selection Criteria

- ♦ Equine background
- ♦ Leadership capability
- ♦ Scholastic achievement
- ♦ Sense of direction in furthering education
- ♦ Financial need

### Comments

- ♦ All scholarship applications and letters of recommendation should be mailed or delivered directly to the address below. Please **DO NOT** send your application by Priority or Express Mail.

Scholarship Committee  
Minnesota Horse Council  
c/o Trina Joyce, Chair  
3835 Standish Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407-3028

- ♦ All application materials must be received by **November 1**
- ♦ Scholarships will be awarded at the Minnesota Horse Council annual meeting in January.
- ♦ Scholarships will be paid in the name of the recipient and the school involved.
- ♦ The names and fields of study of each scholarship recipient will be published in press releases and on the MHC website [www.horses-mn.org](http://www.horses-mn.org)

### Information Required in Your Scholarship Application

#### Identifying Information

- ♦ Date of application
- ♦ Name
- ♦ School mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if available).
- ♦ Home mailing address and telephone number
- ♦ Date of birth
- ♦ Name and address of the school you are currently attending or plan to attend
- ♦ Present educational status (i.e., high school senior, college freshman, etc.)
- ♦ To help us in distributing information and application blanks, please tell us how you found out about this scholarship.

#### Selection Criteria Information

- ♦ Describe your past and present involvement with horses and the horse industry.
- ♦ State your reasons for deciding to study in your chosen field, your future educational plans, and how this scholarship will help you to achieve them
- ♦ Describe your leadership experience (type of activities, offices held, etc.)
- ♦ Outline your educational history and field of study, or degree major
- ♦ Provide your grade point average for the most recent academic year
- ♦ List any other scholarships you have received previously, including the name of the scholarship, year received, and dollar value.
- ♦ List any other scholarships you are applying for this year
- ♦ Describe how you plan to finance your education.

For further information, contact Trina Joyce, Chair, MHC Scholarships Committee by phone at 612-729-7798 or at:

Trina Joyce  
3835 Standish Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407-3028

## 2009 MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The MHC has chosen to hold the Annual meeting on the third Saturday in January each year going forward. This will help members remember the date, and allow other organizations to plan their meetings and banquets without a date conflict.

Please mark your calendars for January 17, 2009 at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park.

## AAEP Issues White Paper on Ending the Soring of Tennessee Walking Horses

Calling it one of the most significant welfare issues affecting any equine breed or discipline, the American Association of Equine Practitioners issued recommendations for eliminating the abusive practice within the Tennessee Walking Horse industry known as soring. Soring is the infliction of pain to create an extravagant or exaggerated gait in horses for training or show purposes.

Even though soring is prohibited by the federal Horse Protection Act of 1970, some within the industry still abuse horses. Its continued practice is documented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's issuance of 103 competitor violations during the 2007 Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration, the industry's championship event.

"As an organization with the primary mission of protecting the health and welfare of the horse, the AAEP is strongly opposed to soring," said AAEP President Dr. Eleanor Green. "This wonderful breed must be preserved and protected in a climate in which its future is not challenged by the practice of soring. The true measure of success will be that soring no longer exists because the Tennessee Walking Horse industry itself brought it to an abrupt end."

Key points in the white paper, "Putting the Horse First: Veterinary Recommendations for Ending the Soring of Tennessee Walking Horses," include:

- ◆ Immediate institution of drug testing at every competition.
- ◆ The abolishment of the Designated Qualified Persons (DQP) Program and the establishment of a corps of independent veterinarians to conduct horse inspections and impose sanctions for violations of the Horse Protection Act.
- ◆ The development of objective methods to detect soring in order to eliminate the current practice of conditioning horses to tolerate pressure applied to the limbs.
- ◆ Establishment of a single industry organization that has governance responsibilities and sets and enforces uniform standards and regulations.
- ◆ Reevaluation of judging standards so that the innate grace and beauty of the breed are valued instead of rewarding the currently manufactured exaggerated gait.



The recommendations in the white paper were developed by the AAEP's Tennessee Walking Horse Task Force, a group with specific knowledge of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry and equine welfare issues. Dr. Midge Leitch of Cochranville, Penn., chaired the Task Force.

"The white paper is not intended to be a revision of the Horse Protection Act," explained Dr. Leitch. "We know we are suggesting radical changes to current practices within the industry, but if industry leaders are intent on solving this issue, they will give serious thought to the recommendations that have been made."

The AAEP recognizes that it has no regulatory authority over the Tennessee Walking Horse industry but intends its white paper to provide guidance and support to those within the industry who are working to permanently end the soring of horses.

"On behalf of the AAEP, I express gratitude to Dr. Leitch, who chaired the task force, and the other dedicated AAEP members who accepted the charge of this task force and were so thoughtful in the development of the white paper," added Dr. Green. "I also want to thank the members of the various Tennessee Walking

Horse industry organizations who came last year to the first Tennessee Walking Horse Summit in Lexington. These groups encouraged the AAEP to develop this white paper and they have a unique opportunity to eliminate the practice of soring."

The white paper is available from the AAEP. For more information, contact Sally Baker, AAEP director of marketing and public relations, at (859) 233-0147 or sbaker@aaep.org.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its nearly 10,000 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

**I AM a horse-aholic. If you can answer YES to more than three of the following, you might be one also.**

1. Can you say "sheath" in public without blushing?
2. Do you drive a big truck with a towing package when everyone else drives a real car?
3. Do you have more than one vehicle? One for you and one for the horses?
4. Do you spend your holidays going to shows, clinics and seminars when everyone else goes on a cruise?
5. Do you discuss things at the dinner table that would make most doctors leave in disgust?
6. Do you consider formal wear to be clean jeans and freshly scraped boots?
7. Is your interior decorator State Line Tack?
8. Was your furniture and carpeting chosen with your horses in mind?
9. Are your end tables really tack trunks with tablecloths thrown over them?
10. Is your mail made up primarily of horse catalogs and horse magazines?
11. Do you get up before dawn to ride? Go to horse shows? Clinics? [but have trouble getting up for "work"]
12. Do you remember the name of their horse sooner than you remember their name?
13. Do you find non-horse people boring?



**AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL**  
Your Unified Voice in Washington



## AHC and USDA Host All-Day Forum on Unwanted Horses

The issue of unwanted horses was the center of attention on June 18, 2008 as the American Horse Council and the United States Department of Agriculture sponsored a day-long forum on "The Unwanted Horse Issue: What Now?"

AHC President Jay Hickey framed the purpose of the forum, stating that it was to "collectively identify the current situation regarding the well-being of these horses and to discuss solutions and alternatives to deal with them before they slip into the 'unwanted' category."

The forum brought together speakers from Congress, USDA, equine industry groups, welfare groups, equine rescue centers and more. There were discussions on historical and ethical perspectives of the issue, what is fact and fiction, the Federal role in creating viable solutions, transportation issues and potential solutions and options for unwanted horses.

### Various Perspectives

Dr. Nat Messer from the University of Missouri and the American Veterinary Medical Association brought a historical perspective to the forum, reviewing current equine-related legislation and asking what the consequences have been and whether they were successful in protecting horses. He also introduced basic questions that would be discussed throughout the day, such as what is an "unwanted horse" and what makes it "unwanted."

Switching gears, an ethical perspective was presented by Dr. Camie Heleski from Michigan State University. She discussed the social contract theory and whether it is ethical for one person to impart their values onto others.

### Unwanted Horse Issues

A panel titled "Unwanted Horse Issues" consisted of four speakers: David Meeker from the National Renderer's Association, Holly Hazard from the Humane Society of the United States, Dr. Tom Lenz from the Unwanted Horse Coalition and American Association of Equine Practitioners, and Karin Bump from Cazenovia College.

Mr. Meeker discussed the various carcass disposal options, from rendering to composting, burial, landfills, incineration, and alkaline digestion. Each of the various choices has certain limitations, he noted, such as regulated use in certain states, potential environmental impacts, or high costs. A general survey done by the association found that there are about 25 rendering plants that take horses and the current charges range from \$40 to \$250, depending on distance, market, and value.

The next three speakers discussed the topic of "Unwanted Horses: Fact or Fiction?" Ms. Hazard pointed out the HSUS position against slaughter, stating that the organization considers it an inhumane solution. She suggested that the general mindset in the horse community is to "trade, not train" and called for more education throughout the industry on caring for horses, the responsibilities of owning and breeding, alternatives, training, etc.

Dr. Tom Lenz introduced the Unwanted Horse Coalition's definition of unwanted horses, which reads "Horses which are no longer wanted by their current owner because they are old, injured, sick, unmanageable, or fail to meet their owner's expectations." He discussed the statistics and demographics of unwanted horses, which for the most part correlate with the demographics of the general equine population.

Dr. Lenz explained the Unwanted Horse Coalition was formed to educate the equine industry and public about the issue and how to "own responsibly." "We need to focus our efforts on the front end of the problem rather than the rear end of the problem," he said. "We need to provide for these horses before they become 'unwanted'." Dr. Lenz closed his talk by focusing on the need to minimize the problem, offering the options "buy rather than breed, adopt rather than buy, find alternative careers, euthanize rather than discard."

The final speaker was Karin Bump, who spoke about what is fact and fiction, and how the answer may not be that clear cut, concluding that in this area there may be a lot of "fiction." She asked whether unwanted horses are actually unwanted, how many unwanted horses there are, whether all the unwanted horses can be absorbed into the industry through rescues and other facilities, how much it costs to care for the unwanted horse population and finally, whether things were getting better or worse for unwanted horses.

### Transportation

Transportation issues were discussed by Dr. Timothy Cordes of USDA. Dr. Cordes described the Slaughter Horse Transport Program and the regulations in place to protect the welfare of horses while in transit to processing plants. He mentioned how some are now getting around the regulations when bringing horses to slaughter in Mexico and Canada by classifying them as "riders," which need a Coggins or EIA test.

Jennifer Woods from Alberta, Canada spoke of the importance of horses being fit to travel, and the problems that lie with the transportation of horses to slaughter. She also reviewed the Alberta Horse Welfare Report which presents facts on the humane treatment of slaughter horses in Canada, and identifies areas that need improvement.

Both Dr. Cordes and Ms. Woods noted that USDA has been working with Canadian authorities to monitor the environment and traveling conditions of U.S. horses sent to processing plants in Canada. Ms. Woods pointed out that Canada has banned the transport of horses into Canada on double-decker trucks.

*Unwanted Horses - continued on page 5*

*Unwanted Horses - continued from page 4*

### Potential Solutions and Options

The final portion of the forum focused on potential solutions and options for unwanted horses. Lynn Cross, owner of Little Brook Farm, described her facility, a rescue and sanctuary that rehabilitates and trains horses. Most horses at the facility, once in better health and trained, are used in educational programs with schools and various groups. The uses vary from teaching general horsemanship and ground handling, to riding programs, vaulting, lessons and shows, and therapeutic riding.

Mr. Tom Persechino from the American Quarter Horse Association and member of the Unwanted Horse Coalition discussed the various options available to owners with an unwanted horse. These options include rescue and retirement facilities, friends with land that may retire a horse to pasture, colleges and universities that take horses for their education and research programs, retraining and new careers, and the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association.

Dr. Al Kane closed the presentations by reiterating the need for more information and data on unwanted horses and rescue and retirement facilities.

### Moving Forward

There were great discussions and points made throughout the day on what the unwanted horse issue is, and what can be done to better the situation for these horses. It was clear that all speakers and attendees agreed that there is a critical need for more substantive information and solutions.

Proceedings from the forum will be available shortly through Mr. Richard Reynells of USDA. He can be contacted by email at [rreynells@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:rreynells@csrees.usda.gov).

## Exotic Tastes: Equine Flavor Preferences

by: Lydia Gray, DVM, MA

Does your horse have a favorite flavor? Eight research horses in England did. Deborah Goodwin, BSc, PhD, research director of Applied Animal Behaviour Programmes at the University of Southampton, set out to discover what flavors horses actually like, compared to what horse owners and product manufacturers think horses like.

In Goodwin's first trial, she offered 15 flavors to eight stabled horses in a small amount of grain and measured how much they ate, how long it took them to eat it, and if any horses partially or completely rejected it. Some horses refused to eat three flavors--echinacea, nutmeg, and coriander. This left 12 flavors that were universally accepted: apple, banana, carrot, cherry, cumin, fenugreek, garlic, ginger, oregano, peppermint, and rosemary turmeric.

In the next phase of the study, the eight flavors the horses ate the fastest of the 12 offered were presented again, in all combinations of pairings, to rank the horses' overall order of preference. The horses' top-ranked flavors were:

- |              |             |           |               |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Fenugreek | 3. Cherry   | 5. Cumin  | 7. Peppermint |
| 2. Banana    | 4. Rosemary | 6. Carrot | 8. Oregano    |

Finally, in Trial 3 she offered the horses three versions of a mineral pellet: banana-flavored, fenugreek-flavored, or unflavored. Horses ate the pellet much faster when it was flavored with either fenugreek or banana than when it had no added flavor.

The take-home: if you want your horse to eat his medication or supplements, choose products that already contain the top eight flavors horses prefer, or add them yourself.

*Goodwin D, Davidson H P B, Harris, P. Selection and acceptance of flavours in concentrate diets for stabled horses. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, Volume 95, Issue 3 - 4, Pages 223-232.*

Lydia F. Gray, DVM, MA, is medical director/staff veterinarian for SmartPak Equine.

Reprinted with permission of *The Horse*; for more horse health information and free weekly electronic newsletters visit [www.TheHorse.com](http://www.TheHorse.com).

### Horse Cookies

- 2 cups dry oatmeal
- 3/4 cup grain
- 3 cups bran
- 1 cup molasses

Mix oats, grain and bran together in a bucket. Drizzle in molasses while mixing with your hands. Cut into fun shapes such as horse or horseshoe shapes and place them on a cookie sheet. Bake at 375° for 8 minutes.

### Mash Treat

- 1 lb bran
- 1/2 cup sweet feed
- 4 packets of Maple and Brown Sugar Oatmeal
- 4 packets of Apple and Cinnamon Oatmeal
- 1/3 can of regular oatmeal(or 4 packets)
- 3 cups Kellogg's Cracklin' Oat Bran Cereal
- 1 apple
- 3 carrots
- 4 oz molasses
- Hot water

Mix dry ingredients in feed bucket. Add enough hot water to just cover the dry ingredients and let set for 12 minutes. Add molasses and stir.

### Tips

- ◆ Use apple cider instead of water
- ◆ You can use flavored oatmeal like maple syrup and brown sugar or apples and cinnamon.
- ◆ Don't have molasses? Mix two teaspoons of sugar for every five teaspoons of pancake syrup and stir.
- ◆ If it says to put it on cookie sheets but it seems too runny go ahead and put it in a muffin tin.
- ◆ When you sell a horse give a bag of different treats with the horse's paper work and a list of his skills (western, jumping, bathing, clipping, etc) and his likes and dislikes. This gives the new owner some background information and some treats to get them started.



**AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL**  
Your Unified Voice in Washington



## AHC Holds Forum on Getting Involved in the 2008 Elections

The American Horse Council's 2008 National Issues Forum was held June 16-17 in Washington. Industry leaders and horse owners alike came from all over the country to represent the industry's many different segments. The theme for this year's forum was "Getting Involved in the 2008 Elections." The half-day forum, which is believed to be the first of its kind and featured speakers with experience in federal campaigns, was followed by a half-day spent lobbying for the various issues that face the industry.

AHC Chairman Nick Nicholson set the stage. "The 2008 elections are a great opportunity for horse associations, businesses and individuals to step up and be heard by the candidates, incumbents and those running for the first time," he said. "Remember, they want to hear from you, they want your help and most of all they want your votes. This is an opportunity to educate them about the issues important to the horse community and show them your votes are important."

Jeff Glassie, Esq. of Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw and Pittman LLP, offered an overview of the limits that the Internal Revenue Code and Federal Election Commission regulations put on non-profit associations. For example, a Section 501(c)(3) charitable, educational association is limited in the amount of lobbying it can undertake, while a Section 501(c)(6) trade association is not. But both can invite candidates to events, such as meetings and shows. Individuals, of course, are not so constrained and may invite candidates to their farm, ranch, show, etc., to illustrate the importance of the horse industry.

Scott Jennings of Peritus Public Relations talked about the importance of the "grassroots" approach to campaigns. It is perhaps the easiest way to reach your representatives, he suggested. This involves sending letters, faxes and emails, as well as lobbying, volunteering and raising money. By repeating your message,

there is a stronger chance that it will get through. "If you stand on the sidelines during the election, don't expect a seat at the table after the election," Jennings said. "Find a candidate that you are excited about, and get behind them and support them." Derrick Crandall of the American Recreation Coalition said "Every even-numbered year we can affect public policy. Don't minimize your impact." Mr. Crandall suggested that organizations give awards to those federal officials who have been supportive and present them in a public forum. "Be sure to have a camera and issue a press release to the local papers and media." Mr. Crandall also stressed the importance of voting. "There will be states where the outcome may be determined by fewer people than those who are equestrians in those states. The horse community has to be registered to vote. Get out and talk to friends and families and get them to register to vote. Get the people who care about your issues to register to vote," Crandall said. "Becoming involved in local and community events is a good way to make people aware of the issues that are facing the horse community," he said.

Greg Cohen of the American Highway Users Alliance emphasized the importance of not only speaking to representatives, but also staff that supports those representatives. Leaving information for them is one way to make sure that the information stays in front of them. Getting in front of the media and local press will help make the subject matter known publicly as well. "Have an army of grassroots people ready to move quickly on issues." Representative Lincoln Davis (D-TN), a horse owner, spoke to the group about the impact that the horse community in his home state of Tennessee has, and encouraged horse owners and breeders to speak up and voice their issues to their representatives. That importance gives the industry strength.

*2008 Elections - continued on page 7*

### AHC Publishes Horse Industry Guide to Getting Involved in the 2008 Elections

The American Horse Council has released "Getting Involved in the 2008 Elections," a federal election guide for the horse industry. The guide stemmed from the program at the AHC's National Issues Forum in Washington explaining how the horse industry could take advantage of the 2008 federal elections to get more involved with their elected representatives.

"The 2008 elections are a great opportunity for horse associations, businesses and individuals to step up and be heard by the candidates, incumbents and those running for the first time," said AHC Chairman Nick Nicholson. "Remember, they want to hear from you, they want your help and most of all they want your votes. This is an opportunity to educate them about the issues important to the horse community and show them your votes are important." The AHC 2008 election guide explains how to do this.

The guide discusses why the horse industry should get involved in the upcoming elections and ways individuals and organizations can go about doing so. It includes sections on why candidates care about the horse community, being able to communicate issues of importance to the horse industry, getting to know the candidates, volunteering and fundraising, as well as knowing the laws governing political activities.

"I believe this guide will be an important resource for all members of the horse community who wish to play a greater role in the democratic process," said AHC President Jay Hickey.

Copies of "Getting Involved in the 2008 Elections" can be obtained by contacting the AHC at (202) 296-4031 or by email at [ahc@horsecouncil.org](mailto:ahc@horsecouncil.org).

*2008 Elections - continued from page 6*

Representative Cliff Stearns (R-FL), Co-Chair of the Congressional Horse Caucus, spoke to the group about the impact that the horse industry has on the economy in Ocala, Florida, which is in his district. "Horse owners represent a significant portion of my constituency in Florida, and they can be an influential group," he said. He encouraged the horse community "to get out and speak with their Congressional representatives about the issues they face as horsemen and horsewomen and mentioned inviting candidates to farms to observe the issues first hand." He specifically mentioned that he had recently been to a therapeutic riding facility and praised the work going on for the children.

Other ways to get involved, he suggested, are writing a letter to an editor and attending public meetings to inform candidates, as well as other constituents on the issues.

The American Horse Council has prepared a guide for the horse industry on "Getting Involved in the 2008 Elections." Copies can be obtained by contacting the AHC at (202) 296-4031 or by email at [ahc@horsecouncil.org](mailto:ahc@horsecouncil.org).

**Mark your calendars now  
and join us next year**



**APRIL 24♦25♦26**

**NEW  
ANIMAL PLANET  
EQUINE  
PROGRAMS**



FTI Hampton Classic Grand Prix  
Premieres Saturday, October 4, 2 pm  
(Event date: August 31, 2008)

In the Hampton's, New York, held just after the Olympic Games, the FTI Hampton Classic Grand Prix will take place, attracting many of the key competitors just back from the Summer Games. This is one of America's most prestigious equine events taking place in one of our country's most fashionable locales.

***Animal Planet Sporthorse Cup***

Premieres Saturday, January 10, 2 pm  
(Event date: November 2, 2008, Syracuse, NY)

One-of-a-kind all-star event featuring a unique three-round show jumping competition designed just for television. Competing will be a limited invitational all-star field of international competitors and horses.

**2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games  
Announces Partnership with NBC Sports**

The World Games 2010 Foundation and NBC Sports announced NBC as the official network broadcast partner for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, which will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY from September 25 to October 10, 2010.



The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games will be the largest equestrian event ever held in the United States, and will be America's largest spectator sporting event in 2010. More than 800 athletes and 900 horses from 60+ countries will compete for eight world championships in equestrian sport.

NBC's coverage of the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games represents the largest major network broadcast of equestrian sport in U.S. television history.

NBC Sports will provide six hours of televised coverage during three weekends across the sixteen days of the Games. The programming will include coverage of the world championships in each of the eight equestrian disciplines of the Games--show jumping, dressage, eventing, driving, reining, vaulting, endurance and para-equestrian, as well as coverage of opening and closing ceremonies and other features surrounding the event. Additionally, NBC Sports holds the digital rights for the event, making it available on multiple platforms including mobile and live streaming on NBC Sports.com.

"NBC Sports is thrilled to be the broadcast partner of the world's most prestigious Equestrian event," said Jon Miller, Executive Vice President, NBC Sports. "By devoting six hours over three consecutive weekends, in addition to our digital rights, we will bring viewers comprehensive coverage of the biggest event in the sport of Equestrian."

"NBC's historic commitment to the 2010 Games is a significant milestone for equestrian sport and for the World Equestrian Games, and we are very enthusiastic about their decision to devote such considerable coverage to America's largest spectator sporting event in 2010," said World Games 2010 Foundation CEO Jack Kelly.



The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, to be held at the Kentucky Horse Park September 25-October 10, 2010, are the world championships of the eight equestrian disciplines recognized by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), and are held every four years. The Games have never before been held outside of Europe; nor have all eight disciplines ever previously been held together at a single site— both firsts that will be achieved at the Kentucky Horse Park. The 2010 Games are expected to have a statewide economic impact of \$150 million, and current sponsors include the Rolex Company and an unprecedented \$10 million title sponsor, Alltech. It is anticipated that more than 600,000 spectators will attend the 16-day competition.

## New Rules for Import of Entertainment Horses

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has amended its import rules to allow noncompetitive entertainment horses to be temporarily brought into the U.S. from countries affected with the venereal disease, Contagious Equine Metritis. The final rule, titled Temporary Importation of Horses: Noncompetitive Entertainment Horses From Countries Affected with Contagious Equine Metritis, is effective July 7, 2008.

Noncompetitive entertainment horses are those that participate in performances or exhibitions and are not entered into competitions, such as races or shows. Examples of such horses include circus horses, the Lippizan Horses of Austria and the performance stallions in Cavalia.

The final rules allow these non-competitive entertainment horses to enter the U.S. without having to be test bred under a special permit that is longer than the 90 day permit for competitive horses. The new rules impose additional requirements for the importation of these horses, including additional information that must be provided to apply for a permit and the plans and itineraries for housing, transit and performances while in the U.S. The permits, if approved, will last for one year, and the importer can apply to renew the permit.

The rules require that these noncompetitive entertainment horses be imported and maintained in the U.S. through a trust fund agreement executed by the horse's owner or importer. This would ensure that the government is reimbursed for the services it provides, such as administrative costs and costs for a USDA representative to monitor the horses. The agreement is also intended to ensure that the importer will be able to fully uphold the requirements specified for these horses over extended periods of time.

"The American Horse Council has been working on this issue for some time, and is pleased that the final rule has been published and will soon go into effect" states Kerry Thompson, AHC Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs. "It will provide appropriate requirements to allow the importation of these unique entertainment horses, while maintaining the safeguards currently in place for the U.S. horse population."

## MN Livestock Investment Grant Program

Reprinted with permission from the August 2008 issue of the U of M Horse Newsletter

The Livestock Investment Grant Program recently passed by the 85th Legislative Session is a major change in livestock policy in the State of Minnesota. The legislation was passed to encourage the development of all livestock enterprises (which includes horse farms and operations) in Minnesota.

Horse owners are encouraged to participate in the program and take advantage of the \$1 million dollars that is available in the first year of the program. The competitive grants include expenditures for acquisitions, and construction or improvements of buildings or facilities for the production of horses or horse products. Other qualifying expenditures can be, but are not limited to, pasture development (i.e. fence, seeding, etc.), feed storage equipment, and manure storage facilities (i.e. compost bins). Qualified expenditures do not include an amount paid to refinance existing debt, or for the purchase of livestock. The legislation allows for grants of 10% of a project with a minimum expense of \$4,000 (\$400 grant) and a maximum expense of \$500,000 (\$50,000 grant) of qualifying expenditures.

More information on the Livestock Investment Grant Program, including the application form, can be found at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/livestockinvestment.htm> or by contacting Lori Schmitt (651-201-6004) or Curt Zimmermann (651-201-6456). Applications will be accepted through September 15, 2008.

Horse owners should be proud that the growing horse industry has been recognized and is encouraged by the State of Minnesota. *Author: Harlan Anderson, DVM, Idle Acres*

---

## Research Update: Carrying Capacity

Reprinted with permission from the August 2008 issue of the U of M Horse Newsletter

The amount of weight a horse can safely carry on its back depends upon a variety of physical traits. These may include the horse's size, conformation, body condition, age, the duration of the work to be done, as well as the speed at which the work is being performed.

There are a few methods that are currently being used to help estimate how much weight a horse can carry, however, little research evidence can be found to support these methods. The objective of the study conducted in Ohio was to determine whether horse height, cannon bone circumference, and loin width can be used as indicators of weight carrying ability in light horse.

Horses demonstrated higher work rates both at the trot and canter when carrying 25% and 30% of their body weight compared to carrying 15% or 20%. Heart rates after exercise differed when horses carried 25% and 30% of their bodyweight. Horses tended to have a greater change in muscle soreness and muscle tightness

when carrying 25% of their bodyweight, with significant change demonstrated when carrying 30% of their body weight.

Loin width and bone circumference were negatively correlated with change in muscle soreness and tightness, suggesting that the horses having the wider loin area and greater cannon bone circumference became less muscle sore when asked to carry the higher weight loads.

This study shows that when horses are asked to carry over 20% of their bodyweight, the additional weight influences both work rate and heart rate, indicating higher work loads. Further studies using a larger data set will be necessary to assess the importance of loin width and cannon bone circumference when assessing weight carrying capacity in the riding horse. *Authors: Powell, Bennett-Wimbush, Peebles, and Duthie; The Ohio State University Ag Tech. Inst.*

**MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES**

June 10, 2008

Meeting Location: Nutrena Conference Room - Leatherdale Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

Board Members Present: Tim Bonham, Dan Dolan, Glen Eaton, Teresa Hanson, Judy Jensen, Trina Joyce, Darrell Mead, Dawn Moore, Missie Schwartz, Laurie Slater, Tracy Turner, Tom Tweeten, Christie Ward, Mark Ward

Absent: Sue McDonough, Marian Robinson, Lynn Wasson

Members/Visitors: Miriam E. McGurran - MAHA Liaison, Jim Lange & Joannie Lange - Animal Humane Society Board of Directors, Vickie Inget, Tim Wampfler

**I. Meeting called to order:** 6:30 p.m. by President Dan Dolan

**II. Introduction of Board Members/Visitors**

1. Miriam McGurran brought article regarding Illinois Slaughter issues.
2. Jim Lange from AHS spoke regarding concern about equine abuse and neglect in the upper Midwest. Three MHC members, Dawn Moore, Tracy Turner, and Christie Ward will join the discussion group which includes a cross section of the equine industry to look into and define the problem.

**III. Call for Additions/Changes to Agenda****IV. Treasurer's Report** (May 13)

Motion to accept - Mark Ward, seconded Christie Ward, passed.

**V. Approval of Minutes** - May 13, 2008

Tim Bonham made motion to accept with corrections, Mark Ward 2nd. Passed with corrections.

**VI. Secretary's Report** - Introduced Administrative Assistant, Andrea Dubay. Her contact information is mn.horsecouncil@comcast.net or phone 763-755-7729, leave a message and she will return the call. In the May minutes, it was brought up as to where to purchase the MN Equine Liability sign. They are available at Woodloch Stable Tack Shop 5676 170th Street, Hugo, MN 55038 (651) 429-1303.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Bylaws** - Mark Ward motioned to change Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to allow maximum of 17 directors rather than how they currently read, and that this be presented with a statement that this is the board's recommendation, and be included with the packet for the annual meeting and voted on by the MHC membership. Tracy Turner 2nd. Motion passed.

**B. Website/Horseman's Directory** - No report - absent

**C. Annual Meeting** - Dawn Moore said St Clair Room is currently reserved for the 3rd Saturday in January 2009. The MN room we have had the last few years was already booked. Darrell Mead motioned to set annual meeting date to third Saturday of January every year. Tracy Turner 2nd. Motion passed.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**A. EXPO** - Glen Eaton

**B. Direct Funding** - Christie Ward

**C. Certified Stables** - Written report - Sue McDonough. Welcome to Wayne and Lois Boettcher at BMW Stables, LLC in Isanti MN. It was a joy to meet Wayne and Lois and see their beautiful and very well organized facility, also to meet and see all their critters. As the summer progresses the CS committee will be visiting and recertifying facilities in the CS program. We will continue to inspect all new facilities interested in joining the CS program.

**D. Communications** - Missie Schwartz appointed article writers; Dan Dolan to write on Tony Gasser and the Tony Gasser Scholarship, Dawn Moore to write article regarding Annual meeting date, Katy Bloomquist to write article for legal article regarding horses. Due June 13.

**E. Inventory/Storage** - Glen Eaton/Teresa Hanson - No report

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Website** - Mark Ward presented proposal, Darrell Mead made motion to have Katy (Mark's Wife) move forward with website design. Judy Jensen 2nd. Motion passed. Committee appointed by Dan Dolan to oversee this: Tim Bonham, Dawn Moore, Missie Schwartz, Christie Ward and Mark Ward (chair).

**B. Trail Ride** - Darrell Mead reminded everyone that the MHC trail ride is Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 13-15. Dinner is provided by MHC on Saturday at 6:00 pm. Crow Hassan Park - Blue Stem

**X. OTHER****XI. ADJOURN**

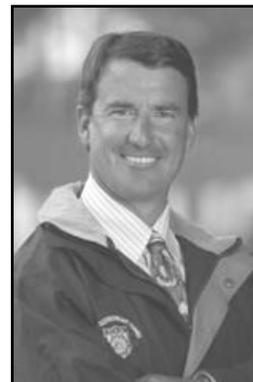
**NEXT MEETING** July 8, 2008 6:30 p.m.

NUTRENA CONFERENCE CENTER

Leatherdale Center - University of Minnesota, St Paul MN

## David O'Connor Elected to AHC Board of Trustees

David O'Connor, president of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), Olympic gold medalist, Pan American Games and World Equestrian Games medallist, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the American Horse Council.



In 2004, O'Connor officially retired from international competition and was re-elected as president of USEF for the 2005-2009 term. As president, he works closely with the FEI, the international governing body for all non-racing horse sports, and serves as the official spokesperson of the Federation on all matters relating to its governance and direction. Under his leadership, the USEF formed the United States Hunter Jumper Association, improved the Drugs and Medication Program, increased the Federation's financial stability and witnessed the success of our international teams.

In addition to his USEF duties, O'Connor has taken his career in new directions including international coaching, having accepted the position of coach of the Canadian Eventing Team. Using his skill and experience he has also become a course designer for such venues as the Ocala Horse Park in Ocala, FL, the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, VA, and the Colorado Horse Park in Parker, CO.

"We are pleased to have someone with David's experience and ability as a member of our Board", said Jay Hickey, president of the American Horse Council. "He provides great contacts with the show industry, both here and abroad."

## 2008 Van Ness Award Presented to Eldon Reyer of New Mexico



The American Horse Council's 2008 Van Ness award, named for the late Marjorie Van Ness, and sponsored by Middlesex Horse Show, New Jersey Horse Council, and Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey was presented to Mr. Eldon Reyer of New Mexico at the AHC's National Issues Forum on Tuesday June 17 in Washington, D.C.

A retired Park Ranger, Mr. Reyer has worked in some of the country's most remarkable parks, including: Yellowstone National Park, Big Bend National Park, Mount McKinley National Park, and Custer Battlefield National Monument. He went on to be Supervisory Legislative Affairs Specialist of the SW Region with the National Park Service, and later retired as the Associate Regional Director for the SW region of the country.

His long time involvement in planning and management of park units led him to become active as a trail advocate. In accepting the award, Mr. Reyer said, "I have built my life around the Park Service and horses. I advocate for the horse. I want to see and preserve more trails so horses can enjoy the trails that I enjoy." After retiring from the Park Service, he was instrumental in passing the legislation that created the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. While preserving our equine heritage, this year's winner was also organizing The Santa Fe Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen, and the Santa Fe County Happy Horse Coalition. Mr. Reyer and his wife Karen have also been of great service to the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranch, having recently retired from helping there for 14 years. He became the president of the Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association in 1992, where he continues to do great things for the horse industry.



## REMINDER

Applications for Minnesota Horse Council Grants are due **October 1**. See the July-August issue of *For Horse's Sake* for all the details.

Applications for Minnesota Horse Council Scholarships are due **November 1**. See page 2 for details.

## 2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

View [www.mnhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org) for additional events

### Minnesota Horse Council Board Meetings

Leatherdale Equine Center Center ♦ 6:30 pm  
1801 Dudley Ave ♦ St. Paul  
Located on the U of M St. Paul Campus

January 19 - Annual Meeting - Northland Inn		
February 12	June 10	October 14
March 11	July 8	November 11
April 8	August - No meeting	December 9
May 13	September 9	

### Minnesota Horse Expo Board Meetings

Pearson's Resturant ♦ 6:30 pm  
3808 W. 50th St. ♦ Edina

If you wish to order dinner, please be there by 6:00 pm.

January 29	May 20	September 30
February 26	June 24	October 28
March 25	July 29	November 25
April 15	August - No meeting	December 30

## For Horse's Sake

Editors: Linda Dahl and Missie Schwartz

Publisher: Dahl Graphic Design

888-403-2060 ♦ [www.dahlgraphics.com](http://www.dahlgraphics.com)

*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 Graphic Design

39257 Taray Road ♦ Pine River, MN 56474

E-Mail: [fhs-mhc@dahlgraphics.com](mailto:fhs-mhc@dahlgraphics.com)

### 2008 Article Submission Deadlines

January/February	1/23/08	July/August	6/13/08
March	2/15/08	September	8/15/08
April	3/14/08	October	9/12/08
May	4/11/08	November	10/17/08
June	5/16/08	December	11/14/08



## MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual - \$15
- Family - \$20
- Organization - \$25
- Corporation - \$25
- Certified Stable -  
\$35 first year, \$25 annually

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and  
send with your check to:

**Minnesota Horse Council**  
13055 Riverdale Drive  
Box 202 ♦ Suite 500  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448



### EXPO LOOKING FOR PERSON TO SOLICIT SPONSORSHIPS

The Minnesota Horse Expo is looking for a person experienced in soliciting sponsorships. The person selected will be paid on commission for the sponsorships generated. Please send information about your experience and the sponsorships you have solicited in the past to

Glen Eaton, President, Minnesota Horse Expo  
4328 France Ave. S., Edina, MN 55410  
phone 952-922-8666, cell 952-356-2090, fax 952-922-6788  
email [MnHorseExpo@horses-mn.org](mailto:MnHorseExpo@horses-mn.org)

## Minnesota Horse Council



13055 Riverdale Drive  
Box 202 ♦ Suite 500  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448  
763-755-7729  
[mn.horsecouncil@comcast.net](mailto:mn.horsecouncil@comcast.net)

[www.MnHorseCouncil.org](http://www.MnHorseCouncil.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Annual Meeting** - Dawn Moore  
952-949-6659 ♦ [dmoore834@comcast.net](mailto:dmoore834@comcast.net)

**Aisle of Breeds** - Glen Eaton  
952-922-8666 ♦ [MnHorseExpo@horses-mn.org](mailto:MnHorseExpo@horses-mn.org)

**Certified Stables** - Sue McDonough  
651-699-8117

**Communications** - Missie Schwartz  
763-428-7532 ♦ [bmschwartz@msn.com](mailto:bmschwartz@msn.com)

**Direct Funding** - Christie Ward  
651-603-8702 ♦ [malaz002@umn.edu](mailto:malaz002@umn.edu)

**Disaster Response** - Marian Robinson:  
763-588-0297 ♦ [mariana\\_1820@yahoo.com](mailto:mariana_1820@yahoo.com)

**Expo** - Glen Eaton  
952-922-8666 ♦ [MnHorseExpo@horses-mn.org](mailto:MnHorseExpo@horses-mn.org)

**Facilities** - Tom Tweeten  
952-226-4190 ♦ [tnt@integraonline.com](mailto:tnt@integraonline.com)

**Grants** - Tim Bonham  
612-721-1007 ♦ [t-bonham@scc.net](mailto:t-bonham@scc.net)

**Horseperson of the Year** - Dawn Moore  
952-949-6659 ♦ [dmoore834@comcast.net](mailto:dmoore834@comcast.net)

**Legislative** - Tracy Turner  
651-351-7206 ♦ [turner@anokaequine.com](mailto:turner@anokaequine.com)

**Nominations** - Mark Ward  
651-436-6557 ♦ [markward@windyridgeranch.com](mailto:markward@windyridgeranch.com)

**Pioneer Award** - Vacant

**Promotions** - Teresa Hanson  
763-434-2799 ♦ [trhanson2@hotmail.com](mailto:trhanson2@hotmail.com)

**Scholarships** - Trina Joyce ♦ 612-729-7798

**Trail Blazers** - Darrell Mead  
763-420-3697 ♦ [darrellmead@comcast.net](mailto:darrellmead@comcast.net)

**State Horse Council** - Glen Eaton  
952-922-8666 ♦ [MnHorseExpo@horses-mn.org](mailto:MnHorseExpo@horses-mn.org)

**Administrative Assistant** - Andrea Dubay  
[mn.horsecouncil@comcast.net](mailto:mn.horsecouncil@comcast.net) ♦ 763-755-7729

## *In This Issue*

American Gina Miles Wins Olympic Silver.....	1
Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarship Applications Due November 1.....	2
AAEP Issues White Paper on Ending the Soring of Tennessee Walking Horses.....	3
AHC and USDA Host All-Day Forum on Unwanted Horses.....	4
Exotic Tastes: Equine Flavor Preferences.....	5
Horse Treats.....	5
AHC Holds Forum on Getting Involved in the 2008 Elections.....	6
AHC Publishes Horse Industry Guide to Getting Involved in the 2008 Elections...	7
2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Announces Partnership with NBC Sports.....	7
New Animal Planet Equine Programs.....	7
New Rules for Import of Entertainment Horses.....	8
MN Livestock Investment Grant Program.....	8
Research Update: Carrying Capacity.....	9
MHC Board Minutes - June 2008.....	9
David O'Connor Elected to AHC Board of Trustees.....	10
2008 Van Ness Award presented to Eldon Reyer of New Mexico.....	10
Upcoming Events.....	10
MHC Membership Application.....	11
MHC Committee Chairs.....	11



### **Minnesota Horse Council**

13055 Riverdale Drive  
Box 202 ♦ Suite 500  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Return Service Requested