



# Horse Council Courier

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

*The Horsemen's Council of Illinois newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.*

## *Julie Goodnight Joins Curt Pate to Headline Illinois Horse Fair March 2-4*

**Haverty, Tolbert, Farrell, Speck host Riding Clinics**

Curt Pate will be joined by Julie Goodnight and renowned reining, barrel racing, Western and saddle seat equitation clinicians at the 19th annual Illinois Horse Fair, March 2-4, for an outstanding educational program presented by Purina Mills, Midway Trailer Sales, John Deere and Morton Buildings at the state fairgrounds in Springfield. In addition to expert trainers and clinicians, the three-day all-breed expo and industry tradeshow presents breed and sport demonstrations, Stallion Row and Parade, 100 horses in the HorsesForSale aisles, 140 equestrian vendors, more than 100 horse trailers on display for sale and a full schedule of educational seminars and workshops.



delivery born of personal experience – someone who knows what he’s talking about and can explain it simply, directly, effectively.

### **Principles not found in philosophies of other trainers and clinicians**

Pate grew up on a working ranch in Helena, he says, where his mentors were his two grandfathers, both horse traders. “One grandfather was ‘really good at conditioning a horse’ and the other ‘had a good eye for buying horses and making money at it,’ he explained. “He’d buy problem horses, and we’d try to fix their problems. That was really a great thing for me because I got to ride a lot of different horses.” Pate developed a natural feel for horses, and today applies principles not found in the philosophies of other trainers and clinicians.

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Horse Fair opens on Friday 3 – 9 p.m. when early bird shoppers get access to vendors’ full stock of merchandise plus save money on special Friday-only promotions and reduced admission charge...and see training demos by Curt Pate on solving three common problems: head shyness, catching and mounting.



last, as well as the AQHA World Show in 2006, Curt Pate is author of *Western Horseman* magazine’s popular book, “R a n c h Horsemanship:

How to Ride Like the Cowboys Do.” This Helena, Montana rancher is the real deal. He doesn’t just look the part of an American icon, the cowboy, he is one. He teaches the “ranch horsemanship” he lives and is an easy-to-follow teacher with an entertaining

**Curt Pate teaches how to adapt ranch-horse-training techniques** Headline clinician at AQHA’s ten Regional Experience events this year and

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## **President's Corner**

### ***It's All About Horses***

Hard to imagine while feeding more hay than you'd ever think possible and working to keep water open for the livestock during the recent arctic cold snap that Spring and the Illinois Horse Fair are just around the corner. Just a blink ... and here we are. For those who may be reading this newsletter for the first time, welcome. To our long-time supporters welcome back for another exciting year.

Your State's Horse Council plays a central role in protecting your rights as a horse owner and the equestrian lifestyle you enjoy. The Horsemen's Council of Illinois, (HCI) is the state affiliate of the American Horse Council and represents you here in Illinois. HCI works closely with state and federal legislators, monitors and responds to efforts by groups and individuals who would like to modify or take away those rights and does everything we can to develop a strong and vibrant horse industry for everyone here in Illinois. Regardless of the breed or discipline you hold dear, HCI is here for you and we need to hear from you when something needs our collective attention. HCI has Directors from all areas of the State who volunteer to protect your interests. Please contact them when you need help and maybe even consider joining the HCI Board and supporting our cause.

HCI has also established the Illinois Equine Foundation that is a rarely publicized way for you to make plans to provide for the future of equine education thru the scholarships it provides or any of the myriads of possibilities for the endowment of your favorite equine pursuit. Information on the Foundation can be found on the HCI website or thru the Association Office.

Sadly – we understand that urban legislators and their animal rights backers

intend on parading another anti-slaughter bill around in the current legislative session. Similar federal bills have already been introduced, including one sponsored by Illinois' own Jan Schakowsky. You need to know that every single equine organization that actually cares for the wellbeing of horses on a daily basis, including the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Equine Practitioners, know these bills are a detriment to the overall health of the horse herd and oppose their passage. These are meat bills, not equine welfare bills. The sponsors seek to take away your rights as a livestock owner and establish legal standing for horses. We all know there is no feel-good to this issue and that nobody wants horses to go to slaughter, but at this time, there is simply no fundable or economical alternative. If you have one, I'd sure love to hear it. Please, take your blinders off and learn fully about the issue. Horses are not puppies or kittens. Don't fall victim to the emotional spin from the humane groups. Those groups only want your money to influence anti-hunting, anti-livestock and animal rights legislation and end up paying themselves really well while taking away your rights as a horse owner.

We should also beware the bureaucrats and revenueurs. With the financial condition of the state being one of the worst in the nation, our government money grabbers are on the prowl for every potential revenue stream that may be being overlooked. You should consider having a good long talk with a tax accountant about your equine business practices and any potential exposure or tax liability you may have.

While at the Horse Fair, be sure to stop by the HCI booth for a visit.

***Frank Bowman***

(continued from cover page)

Since the early 1990s, Pate has used the skills and horse-training techniques he learned as a ranch cowboy as an equine clinician, and his experience as a rodeo announcer and auctioneer help his presentation delivery. In addition to his book for *Western Horseman*, Pate's resume includes the role of equine technical advisor for the film, "The Horse Whisperer," (at the invitation of his friend and mentor Buck Brannaman) and the highly respected position of certified AQHA Professional Horseman.

At Horse Fair, in addition to the three Friday sessions, Pate will do two sessions daily in the Coliseum: two-hour round pen demonstrations in the morning (Colt Starting on Saturday, Ranch Roping/Cattle on Sunday) and training sessions in the afternoons using the full arena ("Horse Sense-Based Horsemanship" Saturday and "Trailer Loading" Sunday), plus host Q&A sessions in the Livestock Center Seminar Hall.

### Goodnight: outstanding communicator with logical teaching style

Julie Goodnight, Poncho Springs, Colorado, is an outstanding communicator with an upbeat, logical teaching style, known for her ability to bridge natural horsemanship concepts with the principles of classical riding. Her training and teaching techniques are frequent features of *Western Horseman*, *Equus*, Certified Horsemanship Association's *The Instructor* and many other excellent equine publications and websites. She has been a full-time equine professional for 25 years, with a varied background ranging from racing, reining, colt-starting and wilderness riding to dressage and jumping. Owner of Goodnight Training

Stables, Inc., she specializes in starting young horses under-saddle and re-educating older horses.

The title of her demonstration on ground manners puts Julie's succinct teaching style into character – "Horse, this is your captain speaking." She also will demonstrate how to advance your horsemanship skills, explain all about the canter, and help every rider understand the fundamentals for all disciplines. Two of her special subjects include coping

sessions for clinic riders and interested observers in a meeting room.

Fee is \$125; up to 10 riders will be accepted. For information on riding in the Chuck Tolbert Barrel Racing clinic, contact Dave Jostes at (217) 972-7416, or email [dj@heaths.com](mailto:dj@heaths.com).

### Popular Reining, Western, Saddle Seat Equitation clinics return

National Reining Horse Association Hall of Famer **Clint Haverty**, Krum, TX, will host the 7th annual Reining Clinic during the Illinois Horse Fair. Haverty, who has been training horses for more than 35 years, was inducted into the NRHA Hall of Fame in 2005 with career winnings approaching \$500,000. He has earned more than 100 National and World titles. His early experience includes ranching, rodeoing, jockeying and blacksmithing. In the mid 1980s, his focus turned to reining and the National Reining Horse Association for which he has been an executive board member, judge and competitor. When asked by *The Reiner* to name his all-time favorite horses,

Haverty immediately responded, "Gunner (2003 NRHA Hall of Famer)... he's phenomenal." "Right now my favorite is Who Whiz It...the best horse we ever raised."

Reining clinic fee is \$225; 10 riders will be accepted. For information about riding in

the Clint Haverty Reining clinic, contact Doug Bogart at (309) 787-4271, or email [djbogart7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djbogart7@sbcglobal.net).



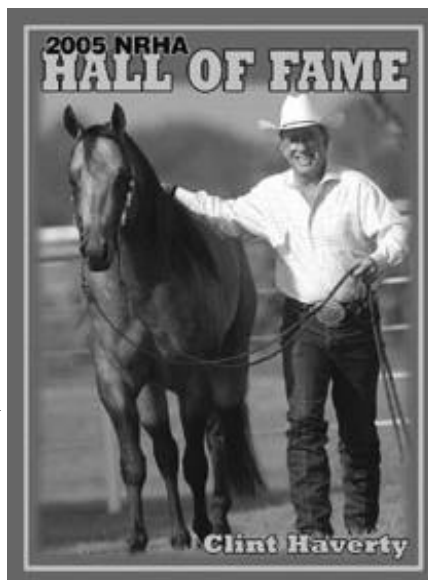
Chuck Tolbert— Photo courtesy Barrel Horse News



with a fear of horses and helping riders determine the right horse for themselves.

### New Barrel Racing clinic with Chuck Tolbert

National Barrel Horse Association five-time Senior World Champion Chuck Tolbert will host the new barrel racing clinic in two-hour clinic sessions both Saturday and Sunday in the Coliseum, followed by Q&A



Clint Haverty— Photo courtesy National Reining Horse Assn.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

AQHA World, Congress, and Honor Roll titlist **Lisa Farrell**, Durham, CT, is an educator/practitioner who will share her expertise in two-hour Western Horsemanship/Trail clinic sessions both Saturday and Sunday, followed by Q&A sessions for clinic riders and interested observers in a meeting room.



Lisa Farrell — Photo courtesy Northeast News

Farrell, who has been training and showing for nearly three decades, has trained and shown multiple Congress and AQHA World Champions and Honor Roll Titles in open, amateur and youth.

Fee is \$200; up to 10 riders will be accepted. *For information about riding in the Lisa Farrell Western Horsemanship/Trail clinic, contact Pam Sigler at (217) 553-1755, or email [gpsigler@mwii.net](mailto:gpsigler@mwii.net).*

United Professional Horsemen's Association Instructor of the Year and American Morgan Horse Association Woman of the Year **Anne Speck**, Rancho Del Mar, CA, has produced World and National Champion Saddle Seat Equitation riders on Saddlebreds and Morgans and has judged equitation at the Saddlebred World Championship and Morgan Grand National, plus the UPHA Junior and Senior Challenge Cup Finals, NHS Good Hands Finals, USEF Medal Finals and AMHA Gold Medal and UPHA Finals.

Speck's reputation as a passionate and talented trainer of equitation riders and horses has earned her icon status. Her riders have won World Championships and Medal Finals for the Saddlebred and Morgan breeds, including a double Medal Finals winner who won the Junior UPHA Finals and AHSA Medal Finals the same year at the American Royal. At the Morgan Grand National, five of her riders have won the Saddle Seat AMHA Gold Medal Finals.

Saddle Seat clinic fee is \$150; up to 10 riders will be accepted; adults as well as junior riders are invited to apply. *For information about riding in the Anne Speck Saddle Seat Equitation clinic,*

*contact Joyce Harris at (217) 787-2244, or email [Jasurbeck@yahoo.com](mailto:Jasurbeck@yahoo.com).*

**Horses and riders sought for training demos** Horses and riders are sought for Curt Pate and Julie Goodnight training demonstrations as well as sessions by regional clinicians. To

have a horse/ rider considered, contact Carrol Rodgers (618) 838-4396 or email [rodbranch@uiuc.edu](mailto:rodbranch@uiuc.edu). Fee is \$100-200.

Applications are available for the four riding clinics at the Horse Fair web site, [www.HorsemensCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org), or by contacting each clinic coordinator.

**All-Youth Horse Judging Trials may want your horse** The Horsemen's Council of Illinois, in cooperation with U of I Extension, is presenting the 2nd Annual All-Youth Horse Judging Trials Saturday (March 3) at Horse Fair. Last

year, more than 300 participants came from the ranks of 4-H, FFA and breed associations. Organizers plan to ask horsemen on the grounds to support the Trials by entering a horse in one of six to eight classes presented to these junior judges. Half the classes will be judged on conformation, half on performance. *For information about providing a horse for the Trials (or about having a team participate in the Trials), contact Debra Hagstrom, (217) 333-1785 or email [hagstrom@uiuc.edu](mailto:hagstrom@uiuc.edu).*

**Preferred seating available for Curt Pate's round-pen sessions**

While the Horse Fair general admission pass gives access to all sessions on a first-come basis without additional charge, for those interested in securing a ring-side seat in advance for Curt Pate's Saturday and Sunday morning two-hour round-pen sessions at 9:30 a.m. in the Coliseum, a preferred seat ticket is offered for an additional \$20 per session. Preferred seats are on the arena floor right outside the round-pen, affording an excellent view and permitting viewers to ask questions. General admission seating is in the Coliseum stands.

## Dean Scoggins Dies

Dean Scoggins, DVM, educator and a founding director of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, died December 29, 2006, following a lengthy battle with cancer. His death came three weeks to the day after his induction into the Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Associations Hall of Fame.

He was truly savvy, a teacher and a friend to all horsemen, said Frank Bowman, HCI president who cited Scoggins service to the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the Illinois Equine Industry Research and Promotion Board and Scoggins continuing pressure on the industry to do what's right for the horse, regardless of short-sighted political and social pressures.

Dean was an invaluable aide in helping evaluate potential clinicians and educators to present programming at Illinois Horse Fair, said Joy Meierhans, Horse Fair manager. His counsel was especially valuable because it was based on his many years of personal experience as a horse owner, trainer, exhibitor and breeder combined with his understanding of veterinary practices, Meierhans said.

Dean Scoggins was an example for us all in his life-long dedication to educating, promoting and supporting the equine industry, said Paul Briney, Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Association first vice president and Horsemen's Council of Illinois past president. Earning his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University in 1960, Scoggins practiced in Michigan, Maryland and Pennsylvania until 1977 when he became Equine Extension Veterinarian at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and College of ACES until retirement in 2004.

He was involved with his own Arabian, Morgan and Quarter horses for more than 50 years while giving seminars and clinics on health, training, care and welfare of the horse throughout Illinois, the United States and Canada. Many will recall Dr. Scoggins special interest in equine dentistry (he chaired the AAEP's Ad Hoc Dentistry Committee) and his vast personal collection of bits and antique tack.

A portrait of Dr. Scoggins will be on display at the Illinois Department of Agriculture Building in Springfield in honor of his Land of Lincoln Hall of Fame designation.

## *Illinois Horse Fair's "HorsesForSale" Concept Brings Buyers and Sellers Together – Uniquely*

"I've sold horses every year we've been there," says Marsha Morton of Morton Quarter Horses, Sikeston, MO, explaining her experience in the unique "HorsesForSale" concept at Illinois Horse Fair. "The first year we sold all three; the second year we sold two at the Fair, brought one home, then sold three more to people we met as result of being there," she said.

"I always take very gentle horses," Morton notes. "We make a lot of contacts there, plus the Horse Fair staffers are very friendly and helpful. We're planning to bring four horses this year," she said.

The HorsesForSale concept, which originated with the Illinois Horse Fair, according to Joy A. Meierhans, Horse Fair manager, allows buyers to deal directly with sellers. "There is no auction," Meierhans said, "all sales are made privately, and no commission is paid to Horse Fair."

Illinois Horse Fair, sponsored by Purina Mills, Midway Trailer Sales, John Deere and Morton Buildings, runs March 2-4 at the State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

"Being in HorsesForSale is excellent advertising for us," says Vicki Morrison of Morrison Training Center, New Boston, IL. "Where else can you go and have that many people see your horses. And you get business afterwards, too. I had a gal from Chicago call me two years later wanting to buy a horse."

Raymond Fatheree of Iuka, IL, has sold 17 horses in the years he has come to Illinois Horse Fair, "and more than double that after I get back home," he said. "What makes it (HorsesForSale concept) work is that I get to talk directly with prospects...learn what interests them...and I get to see what's selling up and down the aisles," Fatheree said. "It's a better marketing experience than I find anywhere else," he concludes.

HorsesForSale barns attract huge crowds from the more than 10,000 annual attendees at Horse Fair, which this year features Curt Pate and Julie Goodnight

plus reining, Western, barrel racing and saddle seat riding clinics, stallion row and more than 140 commercial exhibitors with "everything for the horseman."

More than 100 sale horses were stalled in five adjacent barns fronting Central Avenue on the Fairgrounds last year. Although Horse Fair runs three days, HorsesForSale aisles are open only Saturday and Sunday. There's always a wide variety of types and breeds, ages and talents. Information on each horse is posted on its stall, and owners are there to answer buyers' questions and show their horses.

A pamphlet distributed at Horse Fair lists all the horses for sale with breed, age, type, color, etc., helping buyers organize their search for the horses that meet their needs. HorsesForSale entrants wear bridle/halter tags corresponding to their number and information on the sales list, making it easy to identify them as being "for sale."

The \$125 fee for entering a horse (late entries accepted at \$150 after February 1) includes a stall for one horse, first bedding, "For Sale" sign for the stall, and two admission badges to Horse Fair.

Some horsemen will use a stall in the HorsesForSale aisles to promote a boarding stable, training service or lesson program, providing horse business owners an affordable way to promote their business to the thousands of Horse Fair attendees. "We've probably sold 10-12 horses at HorsesForSale over the past five years," says Mary Brenner, Petersburg, IL. "Last year we sold the two most expensive horses we brought, which is unusual. A nice broke, pretty but quiet, four-year old trail horse sold that weekend for \$3,000 and a flashy tobiano two-year-old that had been ridden for only 60 days sold 10 days later for \$6,500 to a contact made at Horse Fair," Brenner explained. When asked what usually sells there, Brennan says their experience last year was not typical and advises bringing attractive horses with eye appeal that are quiet and priced between \$1,500 and \$3,000.

"It's the highlight of my year," says Cathy

Schoof of Wildwind Arabians, Colchester, IL. "It's the best exposure for the money and a great experience for horses," she says. "I'm happy with the traffic and happy with how I'm always treated."

Schoof has been bringing horses for the past six years and expects to bring two this year. "It frightens me to take a horse to auction because you never know where it will wind up," she said. "I put a lot of time into my youngsters, and it's important to me to know where these horses go. I like it that I can interview the prospective buyers at HorsesForSale."

To many fairgoers, the best part of Illinois Horse Fair each year (2007 marks its 19th annual staging) is its huge equestrian marketplace and the ease of shopping at more than 140 different commercial vendors selling a wide variety of equestrian merchandise. They also enjoy the demonstrations by more than 25 breed/discipline clubs, Parade of Stallions and Stallion Row.

And many come for the educational opportunities presented by veterinarians and horse practitioners – from elemental horse care to the latest in sports training, nutrition, breeding and similar aspects of husbandry and horsemanship.

For information on selling horses at Illinois Horse Fair, contact HorsesForSale Coordinator Myles Harston at (309) 208-5230; or email [myles@aquaranch.com](mailto:myles@aquaranch.com). For information on exhibiting (commercial booth space, breed/discipline demonstration package, Stallion Row), contact Joy A. Meierhans, Horse Fair Manager, at (630) 557-2575; or email [JM@TheMeierhans.com](mailto:JM@TheMeierhans.com).

For advance ticket purchase, download a ticket order form from [www.HorsemenCouncil.org](http://www.HorsemenCouncil.org), or call the Horsemen's Council office (ask for Bonnie or Kenneth) at (217) 585-1600, or email [Bchandler@cbha.net](mailto:Bchandler@cbha.net). The complete schedule of events is available on the website.

# Equine Health

## USDA-NAHSS Web Page Updated for Latest Disease Outbreaks

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS) is a network of many Federal and State government agencies integrated into a comprehensive and coordinated system of animal health monitoring and surveillance. The overall goal of the system is to collect, collate, and analyze animal health information and to promptly distribute this information. The program is intended to improve the protection of the national animal health and to increase the efficiency of existing animal health surveillance programs.

### NAHSS Website

The NAHSS website contains information on all the major livestock groups, including an Equine Health Monitoring & Surveillance section. Two new web pages have been recently added to this section which can be found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahss/equine/>.

### Equine Herpes Virus

The first new web page is on Equine Herpes Virus. An outbreak of neurologic Equine Herpes Virus type 1 (EHV-1) occurred in late 2006 and involved a group of 15 horses shipped from Germany that were subsequently shipped to eight states. There was a significant impact on the horse industry because of this outbreak, especially in Florida. The new website gives details and current information on this outbreak, as well as further information on the disease, and links to state websites with EHV-1 information.

### Equine Virus Arteritis

The second of the new pages is on Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA). An outbreak of EVA occurred in Quarter Horses in 2006, with the virus confirmed

on premises within six states (Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Alabama). This outbreak had a devastating impact on the Quarter Horse breeding industry. The new web page gives detailed information on this EVA outbreak, along with background information on the disease and on its management and control.

Along with the new pages on EVA and EHV-1, you can find information on Vesicular Stomatitis, Equine Infectious Anemia, Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus and more. The NAHSS Equine Health Monitoring & Surveillance website is an important and useful website to learn about current equine health and disease information.

*Source: American Horse Council Reprinted with permission*

## HCI & IEPB Annual Meetings

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois will hold its annual membership meeting during the Illinois Horse Fair at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Interested persons are invited to attend the annual meeting, Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Seminar Hall (Livestock Center).

The Illinois Equine Promotion Board will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, March 3rd, from 5:00 until 6:00 p.m., also in the Seminar Hall (Livestock Center)

The annual meetings are open meetings and an opportunity to meet with members of the HCI Board of Directors as well as the IEPB Board and learn what's been happening in the past 12 months and hear what's in store for the upcoming year.

## Join Us Today!

### Individual Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How many horses do you own? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ at home \_\_\_\_\_ boarding stable

**Individual Membership Dues** (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$39/yr**

### Organization Membership Application

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

# of Illinois Members in Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate category  
\_\_\_\_ Business/Professional \_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_ Charity

**Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr.**

Make check payable and mail to:



Horsemen's Council of Illinois  
P. O. Box 1605  
Springfield, IL 62705  
Phone: 217.585.1600  
[www.horsemenscouncil.org](http://www.horsemenscouncil.org)

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *The Crime of Beating a Dead Horse*

There is nothing like continuing to beat a dead horse, but of course, we all know that horses live forever.

That is certainly how it seems when it comes to explaining the necessity of horse slaughter in this country. To bring you up to speed on this scenario, last fall the House of Representatives passed a bill that would permanently ban horse slaughter in the United States. The bill did not pass the Senate prior to the new Senate taking office but the bill was re-introduced on Jan 17. Remember, there are currently only three horse slaughter facilities in the country, two in Texas and one in Illinois.

After a 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on Jan. 19, the two plants in Texas must shut down. Ruling on appeal of a lower court ruling, the 5th Circuit Court ruled unanimously that a 1949 Texas law banning the harvesting of horses for the sale of meat made horse slaughter illegal in the state of Texas. A lower court had previously ruled that federal law pre-empted the 1949 Texas law.

For 27 years, horses have been harvested in Texas. Why, all of a sudden, does the court system decide that it is illegal? Because today, everyday citizens, law makers and evidently judges as well, fail to understand our system of natural resources and the cycle of life.

The most troubling thing to me about the whole ruling lies in what one of the judges said when making the ruling. "The lone cowboy riding his horse on a Texas trail is a cinematic icon. Not once in memory did the cowboy eat his horse, but film is an imperfect mirror."

Now I want to share a couple of observations about this. Only one news source is printing the last line, "but film is an imperfect mirror." Most stop with, "Not once in memory did the cowboy eat his horse." I believe that goes a long way toward reflecting the bias that most all news sources displayed in reporting the story. But even more troubling is the fact that the content of movies should in no way, shape or form play a role in a judges ruling.

History tells us that most American Indian tribes, pre-1900, had a taste for roasted horsemeat. We know that Lewis and Clark would have never completed their journey as the Corps of Discovery without the consumption of horsemeat. Members of the Donner Party, stranded in the Sierra Nevada mountains in the winter of 1846-1847, ate their horses to survive, as did citizens of Vicksburg, Mississippi during the Union army's siege of the city during the Civil War. And it was horsemeat that American soldiers consumed for nourishment in the European trenches during World War I. I suppose for the court system to know any of that, Disney will need to make a movie where people eat horsemeat.

Only a society so disconnected from the purpose of life would begin to make laws against the consumption of natural resources at the same time as people are living with hunger on a daily basis. Last fall the USDA indicated the highest number of food insecure households in the history of our country but well-fed attorneys and judges could care less about that, because they have access to all the food they want. In fact, I guarantee you that the food wasted by these socially elite at their fancy dinner parties could feed a hungry family of five for a year.

It might seem like a strange example but I think it clearly illustrates how skewed our thinking is. Your dog, "man's

best friend" is the first one to meet you in the driveway every time you come home, tail wagging and happy. A whopping 84 percent of all Americans now consider their dog to be their kid, which I think is totally wrong, but it shows just how close we are as humans to worshipping animals. Yet, there are reports every year of pet owners who have died and go unnoticed for a couple days only to be found consumed by their own pet. Yes, a dog has better understanding of the proper use of natural resources than so many with higher IQs in our population today.

The sad fact is with the current path we are on of banning horse slaughter for any purpose, soon it will be easier to beat a dead horse than ever before. About 100,000 extra will be available each year. Then we will see what the real crime can be and it is certainly not converting an animal that is of no use in its current state to a useful, beneficial product that could help continue the cycle of life for pets, zoo animals and even humans around the world.

Editor's note: Trent Loos is a sixth generation United States farmer, host of the daily radio show, Loos Tales, and founder of Faces of Agriculture, a non-profit organization putting the human element back into the production of food. Get more information at [www.FacesOfAg.com](http://www.FacesOfAg.com), or e-mail Trent at [trent@loostales.com](mailto:trent@loostales.com).

### *New Rules*

#### *Govern How Horses Can be Shipped to Slaughter*

Effective December 7, 2006, the five-year phase out of double-decked "pot belly" trucks for transporting horses to slaughter or feedlots will be complete, and any shipper using these trucks will be subject to penalties of the law. These horses must be accompanied by certificates of ownership as well.

The double-decked pot-belly trucks resulted in overcrowding and too little head room that caused injuries and pain to many horses. Also, the steep ramps into and out of the "belly" resulted in numerous leg injuries.

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## *Grant Awarded for Double Branch Hole Interpretive Area in Shawnee National Forest*

The Illinois Equine Industry Research and Promotion Board is funded from horse-feed check-off dollars (a nickel for every 50-pound bag of horse feed). Twice yearly the Board awards grants to applicants in diverse areas of the equine industry, including horse health research, equine education, industry promotion, and safety.

This past fall, for the first time, a grant was awarded for a Shawnee National Forest related undertaking. Ben and Patti Laubscher (owners of Hayes Canyon Campground in Eddyville, IL) applied and were awarded a grant to develop an Interpretive Area near Double Branch Hole. The project area is located on their private property adjacent to Double Branch Hole Natural Area, along one of the trails. It overlooks the rock expanses and unique geology of this natural

watering or swimming 'hole' where two branches converge to form Hayes Creek.

The area will feature educational signage informing visitors of the rare plant life in the area, the geology making the unique formations, and trail riding stewardship. It will also include hitching rails, a mounting block, and picnic tables. It is estimated to be completed in late 2007.

The grant funds materials and specialist consultation. For example the wood for hitching rails, picnic tables, signs, etc; and consultation with botanist and trails design specialist. Specialist consultation will ensure that the project will *benefit* the environment when completed.

Not funded is labor, which is estimated to require 220 man-hours to complete.

Hopefully some willing volunteers will pitch-in. The grant also does not fund other expenses, such as fuel and use of equipment, which will be provided by the Laubschers. The Laubschers graciously allow public use of about 1.5 miles of well-maintained trails for trail riders and hikers to use. Their trails are an important connection between the Hayes/Bay Creek area and the Lusk Creek area, otherwise trail users would be forced to travel on the blacktop road through town. They have even installed an out-house with a flush toilet along the trail for public use! This interpretive area will provide trail users with a convenient and educational place to stop along the trail, safely confine their stock, and enjoy the beauty of the Shawnee.

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