



Horse Council Courier
Horsemen's Council of Illinois, Inc.
The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry
3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 308
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BLM closing Ewing Facility

The Bureau of Land Management was set to close its Ewing, IL facility the end of May, according to Terry Lewis, external affairs officer for BLM Eastern States.

"The 300-acre property was on a contract lease from a private property owner, and the lease ran out," Lewis explained.

"Although Ewing is closed and the stock moved to our Piney Woods, MS location near Jackson, BLM will continue to host 30 or more auctions a year across the region, including auctions in Illinois," Lewis said.

BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program manages mustangs and burros from open lands out West and brings in stock for auctions at various places across both eastern and western regions. The last Ewing auction was May 7-8.

A list of upcoming adoptions is available at http://www.blm.gov/es/st/en/prog/wild_horse_and_burro.html

Prospective adopters must have sturdy corrals that are 20' x 20' (or larger), at least 6 feet high for an adult horse and at least 5 feet high for burros and horses younger than 18 months, and have a shelter directly attached to the corral. Adopters must provide a stock-type, step up trailer (ramps or split two-horse type trailers are not

allowed). The BLM staff will halter and load animals onto the adopters' trailers.

Wild horses that have been gentled are sometimes used for western riding events, dressage, and trail riding. They are noted for their endurance and intelligence and make great additions to your farm or ranch. Burros are great companion animals and are sometimes used by farmers and ranchers to protect young stock and sheep from wild dogs and coyotes.

While the adoption process is simple and straightforward, anyone considering adopting a wild horse or burro should remember that the animals are wild and require gentling and training. 🐾

U of I updates approach to animal science teaching

With our state and the nation as a whole becoming more urban and less rural, people move farther and farther from their attachment to the land and to animal agriculture – our food sources.

Incoming freshmen at the University of

Illinois this fall will see courses designed to bring them back closer to the realities of the farm and the marketplace.

New majors will embark on a course of study that provides a core curriculum for the first two years followed by a specialization for juniors and seniors. All students will be encouraged to engage in experiential learning via academic teams, foreign study, internships and activities outside the classroom.

Beginning students will be offered a course in contemporary animal issues,

helping them understand fundamental societal issues affecting the care and use of farm animals, such as animal well-being, animal/environmental interactions and animal contributions to human welfare.

Janeen Salak-Johnson, associate professor of animal science, is quoted as saying "We need to teach our students the legitimacy of animal agriculture through moral arguments based on science, ethics and experience." 🐾



The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry Volume 2, Summer 2010

Horse Council Courier

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

Horsemen's Council Of Illinois awards two \$1,000 college scholarships

The 13th annual Ruby Holmquist Memorial Scholarship went to Lauren Wells of Bonfield, IL. Ashley Maul of Tolono, IL, won the 4th annual Dean Scoggins Memorial Scholarship. Both awards are to further the students' equine education.

Lauren Wells, daughter of Roger Wells and Kimberly Anderson, will graduate this



Lauren Wells with HCI President Frank Bowman

spring from Herscher High School and plans to enter Black Hawk College-East this fall. She intends to study Ag/Education and transfer to a four-year university to study equine science, with an emphasis on nutrition and reproduction.

Growing up with horses, Wells rose to top ranks in 4-H, FFA and the American Quarter Horse Youth Association. She currently works with Nikki Smith of Smith Horse Company in Kankakee.

"Working in FFA's National Horse Evaluation Career Development Event, I realized that by coaching, I was positively influencing lives and improving their (participants) judging abilities, just as my FFA advisor and judging coach did for me," Wells said. "My ultimate goal is to become an equine science professor."

Ashley Maul, daughter of William and Dr. Edith Fraley-Neal, grew up in Jacksonville, IL and graduated from Winchester High School, Winchester, IL and Illinois College

in Jacksonville, IL. She currently is a third-year veterinary student at the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine where she is president of the American



(L-R) Past President Paul Briney, Ashley Maul, Connie Scoggins and Frank Bowman

Association of Equine Practitioners Student Club, as well as president of the Veterinary Business Management Student Club. She decided veterinary medicine was a good fit for her while growing up on the family's horse farm (Thoroughbreds, Trakeners, Irish Sport Horses, Dutch Warmbloods) south of Jacksonville.

Ashley and husband Errol currently have four horses on their Tolono farm. Ashley competed through the upper levels in Eventing with her horses prior to attending veterinary school. She plans to reside in the Midwest after graduation, looking forward to enjoying horses in her work every day.

The Holmquist scholarship is established and administered by HCI in memory of Ruby Holmquist, dedicated horsewoman, loyal HCI director and inspiration to all who knew her. It is restricted to an Illinois resident for assisting in the pursuit of or advancement in a horse-related career.

The Scoggins scholarship was initiated in 2007 by HCI to honor the memory of the late Dr. R. Dean Scoggins, DVM, a dedicated horseman in addition to being a

skilled veterinary practitioner and faculty member at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. He spent a great deal of time promoting the strength and integrity of the horse industry through his educational efforts, teaching both on-campus and off-campus as an Illinois State Specialist with UI Extension. In addition, he promoted these ideals as a proactive HCI board member. This scholarship aims to help promote Dr. Scoggins' ideals through recognizing an outstanding Illinois resident veterinary student who has a demonstrated background and interest in the health and welfare of horses and in Illinois.

Applications for this year's scholarships are being accepted until December 1. Guidelines and application forms are available by writing to the Horsemen's Council of Illinois or on its web site www.HorsemensCouncil.org. HCI may be contacted at 3085 Stevenson Drive, Springfield, IL 62703. Phone (217) 585-1600. Fax (217) 585-1601 🐾

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President's Corner

The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

What's your passion?

There is a genuine passion for horses that brings us to the horse community. Each one of us is also very passionate about some specific aspect of the horse world. It's that passion that drives our participation and involvement with horses. What is it about horses that makes your heart sing? What keeps you motivated and excited about having horses in your world? What is your passion for the future?

Each of us also has a specific talent that we can offer the community. Can your professional skills, education, life experiences and knowledge assist in making the horse community in Illinois a better and stronger place? As a community we really need to look outside the box to business, industry and each other to provide leadership and the support needed to help our organizations move forward.

Voluntary associations, such as the Horsemen's Council of Illinois and our member organizations, are generally trade organizations, representatives of certain breeds and riding disciplines or are social clubs devoted to sports, hobbies or advocacy. The equine industry has an unusual number and variety of such organizations. The degree that these groups within our community are well managed and effective in achieving the goals of their members is the key to being able to further the stability, economic success and even the very future of this industry. We all need to do what we can to become more effective leaders, identify what it is we are best at and promote peer-to-peer educational

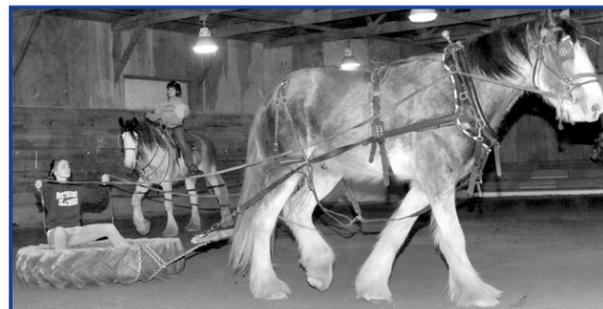
opportunities whenever and wherever possible. We also need to remind our volunteers, at every possible opportunity, that what they do makes a difference.

Advances in media and technology are having an increasingly significant effect on the nature of our life. Old world journals, such as this newsletter, are often overlooked in this new world. Not only is the internet a continual stream of current news and information but new ideas in areas such as social networking are vastly changing the way we communicate. Electronic book readers, satellite radios, flat-screen TVs, and cell-phone devices (the iPhone now has over 100,000 applications), are altering our social and commercial worlds. The equine industry is changing. We at HCI are involved in these advances and others, too, starting with a new Facebook page.

A realization of the community's common goals, the ones we all share, and the benefits of working together are the best way for HCI to provide value to you through our efforts. Assessing our strengths and weaknesses, clearly identifying the community's expectations, working to avoid misconceptions about horse ownership in the media and minds of the general public, providing a forum for discussion on the future of horses in America and keeping our focus on future milestones are all things we need to hear about from the community. We need to hear from you!

Get outside and enjoy your horses. When you get a chance, join HCI on Facebook for a discussion about your equine passion, and let us know how we're doing by you. 🐾

Frank Bowman



SIU received Clydesdales, now looking for wagon to help with training. Please see full story on page 4 (Photo by Russell Bailey)

Equestrian Helmet Laws: Are You In or Out?

By Yvonne C. Ocrant, JD, HCI Director

The dangerous nature of equestrian activities and the need for increased safety measures has become an increasingly hot topic over the past several years with accidents including rotational flips at Rolex, crashes at the Derby, and, most recently, Courtney King-Dye's fall while schooling dressage in Wellington, Florida. Reviewing these and other equestrian related accidents proves that helmets can, and do, minimize injuries. As a result, state and local equestrian helmet legislation has been proposed to require helmets in equestrian events, some defining the type of helmet, the equestrian event, and/or the age of the participant. While the increased protection helmets provide is arguably undisputable, the need for legislation mandating helmets in equine activities is a continuing debate. This article introduces the development helmet laws, outlines the current state of legislation and debate, and provides considerations for the entire equine industry on this hotly contested issue.

An Introduction to Helmets in Equine Activities

Equestrian helmet legislation began with the horseracing industry. In 1956, jockey LeRoy Nelson died from head injuries sustained at the Caliente Racetrack. The California Horse Racing Board made it mandatory for all riders to wear a helmet while exercising or racing horses on the track. The United States Pony Club (USPC) has always required helmets and has been credited with developing the first protective hat for non-racing equine activities. USPC even sent their helmets out for testing and requested the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), which had developed headgear standards for other sports, to develop standards for equestrian helmets. In 1990, the ASTM published the specification, which is now recognized as the safety standard for helmets used in the majority of equestrian sports. The Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) is a separate non-profit organization, which certifies protective equipment, including the shock-absorbing capacity of helmets, the effectiveness of the harness

strap to hold the helmet in place during a fall, and the helmet's ability to handle extreme temperatures. In 1983, the USPC adopted the ASTM/SEI standard for helmets. The USPC safety study showed a 26% decrease in the number of reported head injuries and a 62% decrease in the number of facial injuries when comparing figures from before the 1983 standard and those from 1983 to 1990.

The Opposition to Helmets and Helmet Laws

Challenges to wearing helmets include the appearance and tradition of those on the market. Manufacturer's attempts to develop helmets which resemble Western cowboy hats have failed due to their large appearance and size. Opponents challenge the fit of helmets complaining they are uncomfortable, hot, and bulky. They say that helmets only protect a small part of the body and therefore do not offer "complete" protection and that the most risk is only in competition and therefore they are not needed in training. Some also say that helmets are only needed for beginners. Opposition to mandatory helmet legislation includes conflict between the law and competition rules, resistance to the government controlling whether an individual wears a helmet or not stating it should be left to a personal decision (like the motorcycle helmet debate), and the enforceability of helmet laws in remote public areas such as state parks or if the law is expanded to private lands.

Support for Wearing Helmets is there, but Support for Legislation is not

Helmet manufacturers, government legislatures, medical associations, and most equine associations support helmet safety. The manufacturers publish safety statistics and advocate that all riders wear a helmet meeting the well-recognized standards and have worked hard to improve the fit and design to meet customer demands for safety and style. Government legislatures cite injury statistics to encourage helmet wearing as in the public interest to reduce medical costs on the general public. Medical associations support wearing helmets in all disciplines of horseback riding. Equine associations actively educate members about helmet safety and encourage members' use through campaigns and rules allowing helmets without competition

penalties.

However, equine participants are not so unanimously supportive of mandatory helmet legislation. Most individuals recognize the safety risks of being on or around horses, however, many of these same people feel stronger about the freedom of choice when it comes to wearing a helmet.

While the Debate Continues, Consider These Precautions

If you are an individual who rides your own horse in Illinois and there are no local laws, barn rules, or boarding or liability contracts that require you to wear a helmet, you have the right to choose to ride with or without one. If you are a professional or facility providing horses, provide helmets to these riders and only provide ASTM/SEI certified helmets or helmets that otherwise meet the required standards for the intended activity. Chemicals, time, extreme temperatures, and involvement in a fall can affect the integrity of the helmet and therefore it is recommended that helmets be replaced every five years or after any type of fall. Finally, this author recommends professionals and facilities utilize separate Hard Hat Agreement, in addition to your liability release, to be signed by any adult who voluntarily elects to engage in an equine activity without a helmet. This Agreement should state that there are increased risks of riding without protective head gear and the participant agrees to release the professional and/or facility for any injuries, including death, that may result from not wearing a helmet and/or from any injuries, including death, that may have been prevented if proper head gear had been worn.

This article is intended for informational and educational purposes only. It is provided with the understanding that the author is not rendering legal advice to The Courier readers. If you have questions or concerns regarding this article's subject matter, you may contact the author, a licensed equine law attorney, at youcrant@hinshawlaw.com. 🐾

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Continued from page 5

how important your equestrian lifestyle is to you. We need to confront some brutal facts about the future of the horse industry. We also need to start building industry wide alliances that educate, promote and advocate on behalf of the equine, recreation, pet, livestock and agricultural industries and develop a meaningful commitment to responsible animal care.

HCI has been involved in these issues, and many more, fighting for your rights as a horse owner for almost a quarter century now. We sincerely appreciate your continued support and look forward to your

AHP horse survey positive for industry

A total of 11,171 people who own, lease, or manage horses completed the American Horse Publications' Horse Industry Survey designed to gauge participation trends in the U.S. horse industry, according to Chris Brune, AHP publicist.

"This survey shows some good news," said Dr. C. Jill Stowe, assistant professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky.

"Even during current times with a struggling economy, a majority of respondents expect to be able to continue participating in the equine industry at the same level that they are now; some even expect to increase their levels of participation over the next few years," said Dr. Stowe. "Moreover, many horse handlers will make sacrifices in other areas of their lives to continue their involvement in the equine industry. But even though the majority of respondents will be able to continue their equine-related activities, this does not diminish the potential hardship faced by those individuals, organizations, and regions which expect to experience decreases in participation. Respondents are also clear that the welfare of the horse is of the utmost importance as individuals and policy makers make decisions regarding the future of the equine industry."

Stowe provided consultation and data analysis services for data collection and analysis to the AHP.

This was the largest survey of hands-on owners and managers of horses in the United States ever conducted, Brune said, and it was made possible by the sponsorship of Intervet/Schering Plough Animal Health and Pfizer Animal Health.

The survey also sought to gather information regarding the most important issues facing the equine industry and garner feedback from the participants about solutions to those problems.

The electronic survey showed a broad geographic distribution and involvement in the equine industry. This isn't surprising as members of the American Horse Publications who have magazines, newsletters, Web sites, Twitter and Facebook social media outreaches,

active participation in winning this war for the equine community. Any questions, please ask us!

Some additional resources:

www.AnimalAgAlliance.org

www.HumaneWatch.org

www.UnitedOrgsOfTheHorse.org

www.ActivistCash.com

www.HorsemensCouncil.org

and professional organizations promoted the survey from Oct. 15, 2009, through Jan. 31, 2010. This is the first time the members of AHP have cooperated to bring such a broad representation to a single survey.

There were five main sections of the survey: demographics, horse ownership, horsekeeping costs, issues facing the equine industry, and horse health care.

The top demographics of the survey participants showed that 92% are horse owners who own an average of five horses apiece. Managers took care of an average of 10.4 horses. Less than one-half of one percent of respondents leased horses.

A key part of this survey was to gauge the past, present, and future involvement of the respondents in the horse industry. For example, respondents who own horses said they own approximately the same number of horses today as they did in 2007, and they anticipate owning the same number of horses in 2011.

The groups participating in the survey were highest for those between the ages of 35-44 (30.8%) and second highest for participants between the ages of 45-54 (25.4%). A total of 88.8% of the respondents were female.

The survey was limited to men and women, 18 years of age and older, who currently own, manage, or lease at least one horse and live in the United States. This study was anonymous, meaning no one, not even members of the research team, are able to associate survey information with responses.

"This was an important project for the American Horse Publications, and showed that through cooperation we can accomplish quite a bit in our industry," she continued. "We have been through a rough period in our economy, and there are many stories out there of unwanted horses and the decline of the horse industry. But I think the real story is the wanted horses and their owners who are still strong despite the economic downturn.

Complete results of this survey are available at www.americanhorsepubs.org. For more information about the AHP Equine Industry Survey, contact Chris Brune at ahorsepubs@aol.com or 386-760-7743.



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) **\$42/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
3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite 308
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: 217.585.1600
www.horsemenscouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

State Legislative Update (as of May 15, 2010)

HB 4866 – Department of Ag – Fee Increases

Allows the Department of Ag to establish fees for certain services previously free of charge. The most impact to the horse community may be seen in Coggins Testing at the State Serology Labs. A fee to offset certain costs is what we are told may be required. We support the need for a strong and effective Department and suggest that we be willing to pay for the services we use or require. Anti-sweep language is included in the request so the money should stay within the Department's budget.

Passed both Houses. HCI supports this bill.

HB 5377 – Changes to the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

Seeks to make seemingly innocuous housekeeping changes to the underlying act. However, the bill redefines the "practice of veterinary medicine" and adds several definitions about what the practice of veterinary medicine includes. The proposed changes go well beyond minor housekeeping and may have the potential to affect how we care for our animals.

Passed both Houses. HCI remains opposed to this bill.

Our concerns remain: The proposed changes may have the potential to add cost to the care and husbandry of all animals during a time of economic downturn, possibly causing owners to avoid or postpone needed medical attention for their animals.

The CAM (Complimentary, Alternative and Manipulative) modalities claimed by the veterinarians under this proposal are not part of the curriculum at many schools of veterinary medicine and therefore may require significant post graduate study by current working veterinarians in order to verify compliance or to effectively supervise those specialty practitioners.

The amount of advice offered in internet chat rooms, books, lectures, webinars and other media originating outside of Illinois would need to be blocked or censored, may infringe on freedom of speech and would possibly make criminals out of animal owners simply seeking to do the right thing for their animals. There is no race to sunset for this act. It is not scheduled to sunset until 2014.

We firmly believe this bill has the potential to cost our membership more to effectively care for their horses.

HCI member Lisa Kemp starts equine marketing blog, wins PR award

Horse enthusiast and award-winning marketing expert Lisa Kemp, whose monthly column on marketing equine businesses began in 2006, now also offers an online 'blog' devoted to the subject: <http://nobizlikehorsebiz.com>



A frequent speaker, including presentations for HCI's Equestrian Lifestyle Expo, Kemp's efforts include step-by-step programming on many aspects of marketing, geared specifically to the unique needs and challenges of the horse business.

In the May issue of Patty Oxendine's 'From the Horses Mouth' magazine,

Kemp's column explains why blogs make sense as a communication tool for the equine business, and makes points for the proposition that, "A blog can be a dynamic communication tool, helping people find your horse business on the Internet," as well as noting how quickly a neglected web site can drop off the search engines' radar, making it nearly impossible for potential customers to find you.

She recently won a Silver Trumpet for "excellence in planning, creativity, and execution" in the Publicity Club of Chicago's annual Golden Trumpet Awards. Not only was it the only EQUINE entry and winner, but Kemp also went up against lots of heavy hitters, with companies such as Kraft and Sara Lee as well as fully-staffed PR agencies such as Edelman Chicago and Jasculca-Terman and Associates also being awarded Silver Trumpets in the same New Media category as her win.

She feels this kind of exposure is great for

SB2951 – Bicycle Safety

Creates protections for bicyclists, pedestrians, horseback riders and animal drawn vehicles from reckless actions by drivers of vehicles on roadways and the throwing of "missiles" at bicyclists. Passed both Houses, awaiting signature by the Governor. HCI supports this bill.

SB 2632 – Pack & Saddle Animal Access

Recognizes horses as users of public lands and their access to lands and trail systems where currently permitted. Requires a posting at the trail head when trails are closed for significant public safety concerns or required maintenance.

Passed Both Houses, awaiting signature by the Governor. HCI supports this bill.

SB 3604 – Livestock Advisory Board

Requires the Governor's appointees to the Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners to, among other things, be interested in the well-being of domestic animals and poultry. Requires the Illinois Department of Agriculture's rules pertaining to the well-being of domestic animals and poultry to be submitted to the Board for its approval.

Passed both Houses, awaiting signature by the Governor. HCI supports this bill.

Items still awaiting action:

HR 1022 – Urge Congress - Horse Processing

A resolution, sponsored by Rep. Jim Sacia (R - Pecatonica), urging the Illinois Congressional Delegation to oppose any federal prohibition on equine processing and oppose HR 503 and S 727.

HR1058 - Opposes Horse Processing

A resolution sponsored by Rep. John Fritchey (D- Chicago), urging the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support the proposed federal prohibition on equine processing.

Please call if you have any questions. Additional information on any of the bills we are following can be found at the HCI Legislative Action Center <http://capwiz.com/ilhorsemenscouncil/issues/bills/?type=ST>

the equine industry. "Every time horses are in the public eye, it becomes an opportunity for us to get the word out about how great they are and invite others to participate, strengthening our industry," says Kemp. "It's also great for horse business owners, since it shows we can compete on the same playing field as the big guys."

The Publicity Club of Chicago (PCC) was founded in 1941 and is the nation's largest independent public relations membership organization. The PCC Golden Trumpet Awards honor achievement in 22 different categories; entries include hundreds of programs submitted from across the entire Midwest.

As you might expect, in addition to following her *No Biz Like Horse Biz* blog, you may sign up for her email communications at www.KempEquine.com; follow Lisa on Twitter via @KempEquine, and find her on FaceBook at KempEquine.

USDA CEM testing update

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) program announced a plan to test 3,000 stallions for *Taylorella equigenitalis*, the bacterium that causes Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) beginning in February 2010.

As of mid-May, 19 of 59 Illinois stallions chosen for testing had been tested, none showing positives, according to Jim Barrett, USDA spokesperson.

Test results from the additional stallions will be used to increase national and international confidence that the overall prevalence of *T. equigenitalis* in the United States is very low, if it is present at all. APHIS is confident that the results of this survey will aid in its efforts to return to CEM-free status, and reduce or remove the

Chip, Dale are big additions to SIU equine program

By K.C. Jaehnig, *The Saluki Times*

CARBONDALE, Ill. – Picture a Clydesdale – or two – dressed up as Cupid. It could happen if the equine science students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale have anything to say about it.

"The students want to create a Chip 'n' Dale calendar as a fundraiser with the horses dressed up to reflect the holiday of the month," said equine science director Sheryl S. King, as she watched Chip and Dale, her new "gentle giants," graze. "One of the big challenges we now have is finding equipment that will fit them -- Clydesdales don't mature until they're 5 years old (Chip is 1, Dale is 2), so they have a lot of growth left in them. I'm discovering that a Clydesdale carriage and saddles are quite expensive -- that's one reason we're looking at the calendar."

Chip and Dale arrived on campus last fall, courtesy of Phil Farrell of Farrell Clydesdales, whose Decatur-based family has bred these huge horses for three generations and exports them all over the world.

"Phil has tried very hard to convince people that draft horses can do a lot more than pull carriages," King said. "When he found out about our program and what our students do, he thought we would provide the perfect showcase. Our charge is to make them as versatile as they possibly can be. A lot of draft horses are used in jumping competitions, some people ride them dressage (the equivalent of horse gymnastics). We're going to try for it all.

testing requirements for exported horses and semen for which horse owners are bearing the cost.

Specific sampling targets were set for each State in order to produce an overall national sampling total of 3,000 active breeding stallions. The numbers were based on National Animal Health Monitoring System estimates of breeding stallion populations in each State, and on the number of equine practitioners in each State that indicated a reproduction focus to their practice. Largest numbers chosen include 333 from Kentucky, 327 from Texas and 187 from California. Surrounding Midwestern numbers include Wisconsin 53, Iowa 50, Missouri 38 and Indiana 77.

CEM is a highly contagious sexually transmitted disease among horses that may cause vaginal discharge and infertility in mares, although stallions typically develop no signs of illness. Stallions and mares can become chronic carriers of CEM and be

We're even going to try them with cattle, though I'm not sure how they'll do as 'cowboy' horses."

This is where the students come in. Under the low-key tutelage of area "horse whisperer" and graduate student Mark W. Schwarm, 10 equine science majors have been engaged in what was known in a harsher era as "horse breaking" -- socializing the horses and teaching them to perform various tasks.

"We don't make the horses do anything; we just let our ideas become their ideas," Schwarm has said in describing his method. "I have learned that working from the horse's idea is much easier. These particular guys are very massive and very strong so we try to get them to be willing. If they learn how to be with you rather than wanting to leave all the time, they're more easy to work with."

Schwarm found the pair -- full brothers -- a little "touchier" than he expected when they first arrived. "They're timid -- they don't know how big they are," he said. "They've needed reassuring quite often. Chip's a little easier; he seems to have a happy-go-lucky attitude, where Dale is a little more serious and reserved, but he has his own mind about how to do things. Dale being the older had more experience so he needed a little more reassuring. He's a little bit more worried about whether things will be OK. But when he lets down, he gets soft and relaxed, and his eyes go soft and quiet."

While both horses had done a little halter work before coming to SIUC, neither had been ridden, so Schwarm and his students started by getting them used to the saddle. "Dale had a hard time with that," Schwarm

sources of infection for future outbreaks.

Enrollment of eligible stallions was voluntary. However it provides a great opportunity for horse owners to test their stallions with fewer costs incurred. All samples must be collected by accredited equine practitioners. APHIS pays for laboratory diagnostic testing costs and for shipment of samples to an approved CEM laboratory, but does not pay for sample collection costs. Any stallion found positive for *T. equigenitalis* as part of this voluntary testing effort will be quarantined, then treated and re-tested at APHIS' expense (including practitioner fees) until determined to be negative.

More information on the CEM outbreak that occurred here in the U.S. recently and detailed information about the sampling and testing plan is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>. 

recalled. "He would try to move out when we threw the saddle up. By the end of a session, all the students could saddle him, but the next time out, we had to start all over again. But it wasn't as hard as the time before, and each time he got a little better."

After the horses grew accustomed to the controlled environment of the Horse Center's arena, Schwarm moved everyone outside. "I told the students, 'If the horses need to go, just let them go -- of course, they couldn't stop them anyway -- but when a horse feels like he can go if he needs to, he's more likely to stay,'" Schwarm said.

Though Schwarm considers the pair still "green," Dale has moved beyond the saddle and is now willing -- when properly reassured -- to pull a tractor tire, a first step in preparing him for carriage work. King has her eye on using the pair as ambassadors for her program, showing up at public events, pulling the carriage she hopes someone will donate if they don't sell enough calendars to buy one themselves and giving folks rides.

Right now, Dale pulls the tractor tire in the Horse Center's arena, smoothing it out for the students who take riding classes there. But Schwarm thinks, for the horse's sake, he needs to take it to the next level, so he's hoping they don't have to wait for calendar sales to get there.

"Dale's ready to go to town -- he needs a job to do," Schwarm said as he watched the big horse move smoothly around the arena trailing the wheel behind him. "Dale needs a buggy."

If you'd like to help buy a buggy so Dale can "go to town," contact King by e-mail, sking@siu.edu, or phone, 618/453-1771. 

"Truth, Lies, and Videotape"

by Frank Bowman, President - HCI Board of Directors

Most of you are aware by now of the anti-agriculture agendas being advanced by the various animal rights organizations that seem to be sprouting up everywhere, and the effect those agendas are having on the horse industry. Couple those efforts with societal changes in the way most people perceive horses and this everlasting economic downturn we're in and there are very few of us who haven't been personally affected.

Along those lines, I had the opportunity to attend an extremely informational, cutting-edge event on your behalf in late April, the Animal Agriculture Alliance Stakeholders Summit in Arlington, VA entitled "Truth, Lies, and Videotape; Is Activism Jeopardizing our Food Security?"

While horses are not, strictly speaking, viewed as "food animals" any longer in the US, the relevance, quality and sheer volume of information presented about the animal rights movement during the two-day summit was simply outstanding. Many of the presentations from the summit are available elsewhere on the web or have been covered by other media already, but I'll try to share a few of the take-home points that I found particularly valuable and pertinent to the horse community with you here:

The most important message for me is that **conventional wisdom is flexible**. But in order to change the direction commonsense has been headed we have some very hard work to do.

Public opinion battles in the name of animal welfare are raging all across the internet, in state legislatures and in the headlines everywhere. Let's face it, conflict sells -- while common sense takes a back seat. Remember the TV show "60 Minutes"? These anti-animal groups know all too well that conflict sells and disguised as animal welfare organizations they are raking in hundreds of millions of dollars in bogus, truly disingenuous, fundraising efforts aimed at taking away your enjoyment of horses and putting you out of business.

Don't be confused -- animal rights are not the same as animal welfare!

We, as horse owners, need to do our very best to raise our industry's profile and lower that of the anti-animal groups. We need to work diligently to redefine the issues, rewrite some history, reframe the questions and work to diminish the

"moral authority" those groups currently enjoy. Groups such as HSUS and PeTA don't actually care for animals, but they do make a ton of money off the idea of caring. We, you and I, need to stand up and shout loudly that we are the real animal welfare advocates! We're the ones who care for our animals 24/7 and have made the financial and emotional investment in their well-being. The hypocrisy in their claims must be pointed out every chance we get!

As a community, we must recognize the need to work together to expose and educate the "bad actors" among us and offer up practical approaches to equine welfare. As an industry we need to develop a code of practices, basic industry standards that guide our judgment in equine care and husbandry issues, possibly even creating a livestock care alert line (phone-in hotline) and a peer support system for those truly seeking help.

Know Who the Enemy Is

Make no mistake; we are in the trenches of a protracted, multi-generational war for the hearts and minds of pet owners in America. To try and understand the enemies in this war we need to try to understand their motivation. Animal rights activists are not all from somewhere on the lunatic fringe. While hyper-emotionalism and self-loathing play a big role in motivating the most fervent antis, many supporters of the animal rights movement are merely acting logically on an accepted belief system.

Some important concepts founding the animal rights movement are:

- Speciesism -- a sort of modern racism, the belief that being human does not infer any additional moral value. All species are basically equal. A pig is a rat is a dog is a boy.
- Painience -- the ability for an animal, or machine, to feel pain adds moral value.
- The belief that the keeping of animals is akin to a form of human slavery.

HSUS = PeTA with Suits and Nicer Wristwatches

Most Americans -- 71 percent, according to a recent Opinion Research Corp. poll -- think the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is an umbrella group for pet shelters.

It's not. It's not even affiliated with any local humane societies.

Imagine that PeTA's attention-grabbing tactics only tend to add legitimacy to the more moderate appearing messages of HSUS but their agendas are exactly the same. They seek to abolish animal agriculture and then move on to hunting and fishing, creating a vegan utopia of sorts.

Recent campaigns by HSUS, the world's largest and best funded animal rights organization, seek to bring their anti-animal message to the faithful through a religious outreach program and building alliances with the charismatic pastors of mega-churches nationwide. Their message -- it's OK to live like a hypocrite, just send us \$19.95 per month so we can help the animals and you'll feel much better about yourself. Out of the \$228.00 you'll send in annually only around \$1.00 will actually go towards helping some local animal shelter -- somewhere, probably not in your community. While somewhere over \$5.00 of your money will go directly into Wayne Pacelle and his staff's pension plans. Who's really helping who?

The rest of your charitable money will be gobbled up by the HSUS machine in paying for extravagant salaries and expense accounts, private jets, media blitzes, several office buildings full of attorneys, and any balance will be plowed back into fundraising efforts and issue lobbying. You can see the group's money -- your money, really -- at work in statehouses, courtrooms and ballot boxes across the country. That's where the organization pushes for animal rights, not to be confused with animal welfare. HSUS is driven by the belief that animals deserve legal rights, including the right to not be eaten as food and the right to sue people, even horse owners, in court.

Please consider instead, sending your support dollars directly to your local animal shelter. Better yet volunteer some time working at the shelter of your choice -- they do the actual work on behalf of the animals and are not affiliated with groups such as HSUS. Don't believe it? Ask them!

So what else can we do?

We can start by talking with our friends and family members, asking them to quit donating to organizations that are trying to put you out of business. Visit with your state legislators and let them know just

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