

Governor Rauner Proclaims *Illinois Day of the Horse*

At the request of Horsemen’s Council of Illinois, on March 8, 2016 Governor Bruce Rauner issued a proclamation officially declaring December 13th as the **Illinois Day of the Horse**. In doing so, Governor Rauner helped to raise awareness throughout the state of the importance of equines to the economy, history and character of Illinois. The date of December 13 coincides with the date designated by Congress as the National Day of the Horse.



WHEREAS, the State of Illinois recognizes the role of equines in the economy, history, and character of Illinois, which can be traced back to when our forefathers used horses to settle the prairie and build our great state, transport people and goods, clear and till the land, harvest and thresh grains, herd cattle, power mills, pull barges, serve in the military, fight fires, and deliver mail; and

WHEREAS, the horses of today are vital in assisting in police crowd control, providing therapeutic aid to veterans and disabled persons, continuing to work our farms, and are used for pleasure riding and race at Arlington Park, Hawthorne, and Fairmont Park tracks; and

WHEREAS, there are equine properties of all sizes in Illinois, including breeding farms, boarding and training facilities, riding schools, small acreage farmettes, showgrounds, and equine-based therapy centers; and

WHEREAS, equine operations encompass thousands of acres, making for a significant part of our land kept in open space, pasture, and forestland; and

WHEREAS, horses are the source of Illinois jobs and income for thousands of residents, both directly and indirectly, including services such as veterinarians, trainers, farriers, chiropractors, groomers, stable hands, entertainers, carriage/steighay wagon drivers, jockeys, and sellers of goods such as lumber, hay, grain, grass seed, bedding, tack, trucks, horse trailers and more; and

WHEREAS, the Horsemen’s Council of Illinois helps promote and educate the public about the importance of horses in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, there are many significant benefits brought to Illinois agriculture, tourism, and quality of life through the equine industry;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim December 13, 2016, as **ILLINOIS DAY OF THE HORSE**, and urge our citizens to recognize the importance of horses to our security, economy, recreation and heritage, and to lend their enthusiastic support to Illinois’ equine industry.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Besse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capital in the City of Springfield,
 this EIGHTH day of MARCH , in
 the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
 SIXTEEN , and of the State of Illinois,
 one hundred and NINETY-EIGHTH .

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR

With this action, Illinois joins states including New Jersey, Maryland, Kentucky and Delaware, which have also issued Proclamations recognizing horses and the importance of the equine industry to the state and local economies.

“Equines were instrumental in building our great state of Illinois and they still figure mightily into its economic and social fabric. The horse industry, and its ancillary professions and services, generates billions of dollars to Illinois’ GDP and horses provide tens of thousands of our residents with recreation, service, labor and companionship”, says Sheryl King, President of the Horsemen’s Council of Illinois.

Companion legislative recognition in the form of a Senate Joint Resolution has been sponsored by Senator William R. Haine (56th Senate District) as Senate Joint Resolution 0046, filed March 8, 2016