MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL NAMES
2009 HORSEPERSON OF THE YEAR

Each year the Minnesota Horse Council (MHC) selects one person from submitted nominations to be awarded their highest honor, which is Horseperson of the Year. This year’s MHC Horseperson of the Year is Lloyd Anderson of Milaca, MN. The award was presented at the MHC Annual Meeting, January 16, 2010, at the Northland Inn.

Lloyd's lifelong dedication and contributions to the equine industry, horses and horse owners make him a model to emulate, and uniquely worthy of this esteemed honor. It is a fortunate life that has been touched by a person with the integrity and compassion of Lloyd Anderson. Experience, knowledge and way with horses make him an extraordinary horseman.

While it is without question that throughout the years, Lloyd has developed extraordinary insights into horses, someone once said that as good as Lloyd is with horses, he is even better with people. He is a horseman in the truest sense of the word and his willingness to help anyone at their level, with unending patience and positive encouragement, is perhaps his greatest gift.

Lloyd was born the child of a horseman and has been involved with horses most of his life. As a young child, he and his brother trained and showed a trick horse throughout central Minnesota. By the age of 12, he had begun training horses, and by the age of 15 he was teaching others how to ride. His wealth of knowledge came from spending time with other trainers and studying everything there was to study about horses. For over 60 years, Lloyd has been giving back to the equine industry at the most basic level, by helping to create better horses and in fact, creating better people.

Lloyd treats his students with patience, kindness, and understanding, whether they have two legs or four. He shows his students how to do things correctly instead of forcing them into learning new concepts, once again applying to both his two-legged and four-legged students. Although he has many ribbons, trophies and awards, his biggest trophy of all is the overwhelming number of people and horses he has treated in such a compassionate way. A County Probation Officer, who Lloyd had worked with back in the 1980s, recounted in a letter how Lloyd taught lessons not only about horses, but also about life and the integrity of what it means to have and take care of animals.

Good, Better, Best. Never let it rest until the good is better, and the better is best. This is a saying that many have heard Lloyd use over the years. He has been inducted into the Minnesota Quarter Horse Hall of Fame and recently awarded honorary membership in the FFA chapter for his many years of service to the organization. He serves as a mentor for local youth within the FFA program and has even provided employment and learning opportunities in horse judging. He was one of the founding members of the Rum River Saddle Club and the Rum River Horseback Square Dance Team. The Square Dance team competed at the Minnesota State Fair winning the competition 3 years in a row. As he approaches his 79th birthday, Lloyd can still be found showing a yearling in lunge line classes at local shows. He has offered horsemanship clinics for 29 years in Proctor, MN for youth and adults. As a strong supporter of the local 4-H program, he makes sure to get all the questions answered and make each child feel special by building their confidence so they sit taller and ride with a good feeling about themselves.
Laura Dunlavy

Laura is a senior at Willmar Senior High School with plans to attend South Dakota State University next fall. She’s been involved in 4-H for 12 years participating in horse bowl, horse judging and hip-"polo, as well as being on the Board of the Minnesota State Horse Association. She achieved first runner-up honors for the Minnesota 4-H Dan Patch leadership competition. She’s also trained and learned from half a dozen horses, including her own Appaloosa. Laura plans to major in education and minor in equine science to expand on her knowledge about how horses have the power to heal, strengthen, and teach and eventually she hopes to start a horse training and lesson business. Her recommendation letters describe her as an exceptional writer, a role model, very confident, dependable, committed, a self-motivated leader and someone who goes out of her way to help others.

Annie Favreau

Annie is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota. She was a member of the Hennepin County Hoofbeats 4-H club for 7 years and its president in 2008, and now as an alumni she’s been asked to be one of the 4-H Horse Project Leaders for her club which was an opportunity to give back to her club. Through 4-H, she found out about and became a member of WSCA and the Silver Buckle Saddle Club. She spent the first year of college at North Dakota State University and was a member of their rodeo team and the only freshman member of the Executive Board. She was selected to work for the NDSU Center for Writers as an undergraduate writing tutor. She then transferred to the University of Minnesota to major in Journalism. She hopes to become an equine journalist and editor of a horse-related magazine so she has the opportunity to educate other horse lovers. Her most meaningful horse-related experience was being crowned WSCA Ms. Games. She sees it as an opportunity to reach out to the community and promote and contribute to the organization. Her recommendation letters mention her ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and coherently, her many hours of volunteering for the WSCA club, her leadership abilities and her commitment. We can look forward to her articles!

Danielle Gunder

Danielle is a high school senior at Academy for Science and Agriculture, a charter school and FFA chapter that offers classes in equine science, vet science, and animal science. She was introduced to 4-H as a 12-year-old. At age 13, she adopted a very abused and abandoned 2-year old horse from the Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue and it became her horse-in training project for 4-H. She’s now the Youth Volunteer Coordinator at the rescue. At 14, she started her own business breeding, showing and selling Nigerian Dwarf Goats, as well as giving riding lessons, pet sitting, and managing her neighbor’s barn. One of Danielle’s recommendation letters was from a former scholarship winner, Farrier Nathan Sleck, who described her as self-motivated, reliable, hard working, conscientious, and extremely dedicated. Others noted her excellent organization skills and ability to prioritize, her sense of direction, willingness to help others, and the fact that she became an accomplished equestrian without the benefit of professional lessons. She plans to go to the University of Minnesota and aim for vet school.

Lauren Haverstock

Lauren is a freshman veterinary student at the University of Minnesota. In high school, she was a member of the Pony Club and took dressage and eventing lessons. She volunteered at the Minnesota Zoo, We Can Ride, and worked as a trail guide at Diamond T. She participated in a wild and problem horse training on the west coast. She realized that she was more interested in the care and medical aspects of horses than in training and showing. Now that she’s in vet school, she plans to pursue a Mixed Animal track specializing in equine surgery. She plans to stay in Minnesota because there aren’t enough large animal vets in rural areas. Lauren has also earned her black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Her recommendation letters emphasized her intelligence, self-motivation, organization, mastery of surgical techniques, leadership skills, and her ability to teach riding and work with difficult horses.

Philip Kieffer

Philip graduated from Colorado State University with a major in microbiology. While there, he played Varsity Polo all four years and was treasurer and president of the team. He learned time management, economics, and long range planning for 40 team members and 25 horses. He was also a volunteer at the Equine Orthopedic Research Center. Orthopedics grabbed his attention and he’s now a second year vet student at the University of Minnesota planning an emphasis on orthopedics and reproduction. He hopes to combine practice and research. Last summer he worked taking care of 60 polo ponies for three members of the Twin Cities Polo Club. One of the ponies somehow became impaled on a 6x6 fence post and he administered emergency treatment. Today, she’s well on her way to recovery. Last year, Philip even got to care for a baby giraffe from the Como Zoo! His recommendation letters mention that he always looks out for the horse first, that he’s open to new ideas, his dedication, and his natural ability around both horses and people.

Congratulations
Scholarship Winners!
2009 MHC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Winstead Kirkpatrick

Winstead wasn’t able to attend the annual meeting because he’s already left for his first year as a student at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in the Virgin Islands. Winstead started riding at Centre Pointe Stables. He was very active in 4-H and is now a licensed 4-H judge. As a freshman in college, he was hired as head trainer and farm manager at Merri Hill Arabians and later as assistant trainer at Centre Pointe. He’s been a test barn technician at Canterbury Park for 10 years. He was a board member of Tri State Horseman’s Association as well. When he was a sophomore in high school, he was given an 11-year old stakes racehorse. He learned to retrain the racehorse into a show horse in English Pleasure., Working Hunter under Saddle, and Dressage and won several state Hunter Jumper awards in 4-H. This was quite a challenge, and apparently not without broken bones! His recommendation letters state that he’s extremely responsible, has an excellent work ethic, and is a well-respected young trainer.

Jordan Kurtz

Jordan is a high school senior at Milaca High School who plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to major in agricultural education and equine science. She wants to teach at a high school that offers equine classes. She was involved in 4-H for 6 years, mostly with the Western Heritage project. She also joined FFA and the Minnesota High School Rodeo Association. She’d like to become an FFA Advisor and coach FFA horse judging teams. She also plans to get her WSCA, 4-H, APHA, and AQHA judging cards. Her recommendation letters note her leadership abilities, integrity, willingness to help others, dependability, and that she’s a gifted rider.

Kristi Takasaki

Kristi is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and has maintained a 4.0 GPA since high school. She entered the horse world at Brainerd High School and her teacher became her FFA Advisor. She progressed to lessons, grooming, training, and giving lessons. She was also a 4-H member and very involved in FFA. She’s been very successfully showing her Arabian gelding in Western Pleasure and Horsemanship, English Pleasure and Equitation, Native Costume, Showmanship, Halter, Gaming, and Trail classes. She earned her American FFA degree which is achieved by only 0.6% of the members. She’s been a volunteer for Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Riding and started her own business of drawing horses from photos. She has extensive shadowing, volunteering, and employment experiences. At River Falls, she belongs to the Horseman’s Association, Block and Bridle Club, and the pre-vet club. Her future plans include vet school, partly because she experienced the very serious illness of her own horse in 2007. Her recommendation letters state that she’s an engaged and enthusiastic student, has a work ethic second to none, and is very compassionate.

Ellie Voss

Ellie is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls majoring in Animal Sciences - Science Option - Equine Emphasis with a pre-vet focus. Her interest in vet school solidified when her leased horse fractured her cannon bone in 2007. Ellie cared for that horse every day for an entire year and designed an exercise regimen for the mare to bring her back to soundness and fitness. She was an inspiration to all who knew about the injury. Ellie passed the 4-H level 6 horse achievement test with the mare. She’s also been on the Windy Ridge drill team. She’s worked at Windy Ridge and currently at Stillwater Vet Clinic part time. She’s volunteered for the Minnesota Horse Expo and in many activities through 4-H. Her goal is to become an equine vet focusing on orthopedics and rehabilitation. Her recommendation letters state that she’s committed, conscientious, and skilled. The letter from former scholarship winner, veterinarian Dr. John Engstrom, said he’d welcome her as a colleague.

Michelle Wiberg

Michelle is a second year student at the University of Minnesota. She joined 4-H at the age of 10 and then leased a horse that she showed. At age 13, she entered a 4-H essay contest to win a yearling Arabian filly, and she won! The stipulation was that she complete at least one year of 4-H training. She took the filly through all six levels of the training program and showed her successfully. Winning the filly started her affiliation with the Minnesota Half-Arabian Horse Association. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls having taken their colts-in-training class and being a member, captain, and assistant coach of the IHSA team. She’s now a 4-H adult volunteer. She’s volunteered her time to teach 4-H camps and clinics. Through River Falls and AQHA, she and three other students had the opportunity to travel to Norway, Denmark, and Sweden to teach horsemanship clinics to Quarter Horse owners. Since being a vet student she’s been involved with the Equine Club and works part time at the Equine Center. She participated in the Gelding Project and an annual YMCA horse evaluation clinic. Her recommendation letters mention her inner strength and fortitude, delivery of great patient care, and dedication.

MINNESOTA HORSEMAN'S DIRECTORY

The goal of the Minnesota Horsemen's Directory is to compile a comprehensive listing of horse-related services in and near the state so that horse-people can find relevant information quickly.

The Directory includes free listings—businesses and organizations can submit a listing for free. The Directory will be advertisement-free.

www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com
MHC AWARDS $47,100 IN GRANTS

The Minnesota Horse Council uses the revenue from the Minnesota Horse Expo to offer "seed money grants" for new projects and capital improvements by Minnesota equine groups. At the Annual Meeting held January 16, 2010 in Brooklyn Park, MN, the Minnesota Horse Council announced that $47,100 in grants had been awarded to the following projects:

FAIRGROUNDS FACILITIES Subtotal $18,977

Polk County 4-H • McIntosh • $5,000
The County Fair was re-opening an entrance and the road would go through the current horse arena location. This grant will help fund relocating the outdoor horse show arena and expanding to an appropriate size.

Dakota County 4-H • Apple Valley • $4,122 match
This grounds is frequently used for horse shows but is lacking an adequate and safe warm-up arena. This grant will fund construction of a new warm-up arena at the fairgrounds.

Todd County 4-H • Browerville • $3,880
The county fairgrounds horse barn is suffering deterioration from years of frequent use. This grant will fund repairs to the stalls and improve the footing in the stalls. Also included is funding for lights for the outdoor show arena so that it can be safely used past sundown.

Traverse County 4-H • Wheaton • $3,500
In recent years, they have rebuilt and improved the outdoor show arena but it is still lacking a workable announcer's stand. This grant will build one, including a secure storage space. It also includes buying a timer and PA system for the arena.

Rock County 4-H • Luverne • $2,475
The fairgrounds horse barn has become too small for the growing 4-H horse exhibitors. The fair board has offered to build a new addition to the horse barn, but has no money for stalls in it. This grant will buy stall panels for the barn--portable stalls that can be removed in winter so the barn can be rented out for storage.

DISABLED RIDING Subtotal $8,500

Changing Gaits • Brook Park • $3,000 match
This group works with three county human services departments to bring therapeutic riding events to people at convenient locations. This grant will help buy a trailer, saddle, tack, helmets, and pay mileage for their disabled riding program to travel to various locations so clients don't have to come to them. Matching grant, we will match the funds they raise locally up to $3,000.

Freedom Farm • Waverly • $3,000 match
This therapeutic riding program is now including more disabled war veterans who are heavier adults and can't be safely lifted onto horses by volunteers. This grant will help purchase an electric lift to allow them and others to safely mount and dismount their horse.

Lee-Mar Ranch Center • Granite Falls • $2,500 match
For many years, under the ownership of Lee and Martha Mooney, this facility served as the center for horse activities in the area. After their death, the family sold it to a non-profit group, which will continue to use it in the same way, but various capital improvements and renovations are needed. This grant will help purchase materials for those improvements. Materials only, local volunteers will do most of the construction work.

EDUCATIONAL Subtotal $6,723

University of Minnesota • St. Paul • $6,723
Many horse owners in Minnesota are feeding their horses big round bales and there are various types of feeders for these bales. A preliminary study showed that feeders vary greatly, with some wasting twice as much hay as others. This grant funds a year-long evaluation study of different types of round bale feeders, to see which has the least wasted hay. It also provides for wide publication of the results in horse magazines, newsletters, and a brochure.

RESCUE OPERATIONS Subtotal $3,500

Animal Humane Society (Unwanted Horse Coalition) • Golden Valley • $3,500
The Unwanted Horse Coalition is an umbrella group for various humane and rescue organizations in the area. In the current economy, people are financially unable to keep their horses and are turning them over to humane facilities. Many of these groups are finding themselves temporarily overloaded with more horses than they have space. This grant will help purchase two sets of a portable shelter and portable panels for fencing a paddock. These will be loaned to member organizations as needed, to construct temporary shelter space for horses. Matching grant, we will match the funds they raise locally up to $3,500.

MISCELLANEOUS OTHER FACILITIES Subtotal $9,400

North Country Horsemen Saddle Club • Middle River • $5,000
This saddle club show grounds lacks an announcer's stand. This grant provides materials to build one, with a storage space underneath. Materials only, the club members will do the construction work.

Red River Valley Arena • Crookston • $3,500 match
This regional show facility was once heavily used for horse shows in northwestern Minnesota, but has sat empty and unused for several years. This grant will help reopen the facility by purchasing fence panels for the arena. Matching grant, we will match the funds they raise locally up to $3,500.

Bit & Spurs Saddle Club • Buffalo • $900
This saddle club has been steadily renovating and improving their show grounds for several years. One of the last remaining needs is a new PA system. Our grant will help purchase this. System only, installation & wiring will be done by club members.

TOTAL GRANTS $47,100

Over the past 18 years, the Minnesota Horse Council has awarded $757,556 in grants to equestrian projects in Minnesota. This is in addition to other charitable donations by the Horse Council, such as the Direct Funding awards, the Tony Gasser educational scholarships, and the Trails Funding program. The majority of the Horse Council budget goes back into the Minnesota horse industry in donations to various projects.
Rock County's Horse Program has long been a valuable resource for local 4-H families.

Located in the state's southwestern-most corner, Rock County has for decades taught youth how to ride and care for horses. Year after year, it has sent its best youth to the Minnesota State 4-H Horse Show, competing in both the riding and judging competitions. And, year after year, Rock County youth have developed skills that have built a life-long partnership of respect for the four-legged animals. Many former 4-H’ers have in turn become adult volunteers and organizers for not only other equine programs and clubs but also for the local 4-H project as well.

In the past six years, community members have contributed more than $35,000 towards the Rock County horse program. It began in 2004 when 4-H horse leaders applied for their first of two Minnesota Horse Council grants. The initial $6,800 in seed monies sparked a project to replace the 30-year-old riding arena and improve its footing through a properly-drained base. The arena's now 5-ft high railings and gates, and larger size have made it more safe for the youth and adults who use the arena for open horse shows, riding lessons, the 12-week 4-H riding program and the county fair.

The arena project, in turn, began talks for the first of two additions to the existing horse barn at the Rock County Fairgrounds. Now averaging 50 4-H riders for the past five years, community leaders recognized the commitment youth and adults alike put into the 4-H horse program. Once only housing 22 box stalls, the two lean-to additions have added 18 more stalls. While this has not eliminated the need for additional stalls in a nearby livestock barn, all 4-H’ers exhibiting in the horse program can continue to stall a horse for all three fair days.

This year's Minnesota Horse Council grant of about $2,400 completes the final project—the purchase of portable fences and gates for the second horse barn addition completed in 2009. While mainly used at the fair for stalls, the livestock panels also make a suitable round pen inside the riding arena. The round pen allows for individual instruction during the group riding program and its two summer clinics.

Thank you, Minnesota Horse Council members, for sponsoring a grant program that has helped one of the state's smallest counties keep and improve its 4-H equine program.

Spectators stand for the 2009 Rock County 4-H Game Show grand entry ceremonies. Horse Council grant monies helped fund the new arena constructed five years ago and this year's grant helped purchases stall fences and gates for the new horse barn addition pictured in the background.
Comprehensive Immigration Bill Introduced in House

On December 15, 2009, Representatives Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) and Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America’s Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 (CIR ASAP) (H.R.4321).

Background

The horse industry relies on many semi-skilled and entry-level foreign workers to satisfy the agricultural and non-agricultural employment needs of the horse industry. Horse breeders, ranchers, training facilities, horse shows, trainers and others depend on seasonal and long-term foreign workers to fill labor demands not filled by American workers. Additionally, many employers in the horse industry have been concerned that without comprehensive immigration reform that will allow them to legitimize their current workforce and meet their labor demands, the industry could be put in an untenable economic position.

The Bill

This is a large, comprehensive bill concerning every aspect of the immigration issue including border security, worker verification, visa reform and earned legalization for undocumented aliens.

The legislation is very complex and includes provisions that could be burdensome to the horse industry, such as a new worker verification system and changes to the H-2B temporary alien worker program.

Currently, the horse industry uses the H-2B temporary worker program to fill nonagricultural jobs. Unfortunately, this bill would not raise the current cap that limits H-2B visas to 66,000 a year. This cap is often met very quickly leaving many employers without an adequate workforce and is one of the major problems with the H-2B program.

The current H-2B program requires American business to go to great lengths to recruit American workers first and includes many protections for H-2B workers. This bill would mandate even stricter requirements for recruitment of American workers and strengthened protections for H-2B workers.

The bill would also require the establishment of a new worker verification system, but it is unclear what that system will be.

All of these provisions could create additional costs for the industry and make a temporary worker system that is already burdensome and costly unusable.

The Bill does include some provisions that are supported by the horse industry, most notably AgJOBS. AgJOBS would alleviate many of the labor issues facing the agricultural segments of the horse industry that use H-2A workers such as horse farms (visit this link for a full description of this bill).

Congress Extends Highway Bill and Recreational Trails Program

Every several years Congress passes a multi-year national surface transportation bill. This bill funds transportation projects and programs such as the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) which provides money for state and local trail projects. SAFETEA-LU the current highway bill was set to expire earlier this year. However, because Congress has yet to pass a new highway bill it has been forced to extend the current law. Most recently Congress extended the current law for two months; That extension is set to expire February 28, 2010.

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has released the Committee Print (draft language) of their version of the next surface transportation authorization bill. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which has traditionally generated the Senate version of the highway bill, has yet to introduce a bill. For this reason Congress will continue to extend the current highway bill until the Senate takes action on this issue.

Recreational Trails Program

The RTP provides funding directly to the states for recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. It was created in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and was last re-authorized in 2005 as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, this law is about to expire. The RTP will have to be re-authorized in the next national surface transportation program bill if it is to continue.

Since its inception the RTP has provided approximately $677 million for thousands of state and local trail projects across the country, including many that benefit equestrians. RTP projects consist of construction, maintenance and restoration of trails and trail related facilities as well as the acquisition of easements or property for trails. Although each state manages its own program, 30% of RTP funds must be spent on non-motorized projects like equestrian trails, 30% on motorized, and 40% percent on multiuse projects. The RTP is one of the few sources for federal funding of trail projects that are not on federal land. The program is a great resource for equestrians to fund projects in their state and local parks.

The AHC in conjunction with a broad coalition of recreational users has been working to ensure RTP is included in any national highway bill passed by Congress. The working draft of the Surface Transportation Authorization Act released by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure would re-authorize RTP. The draft bill does not specify a dollar amount for RTP at this time. The AHC is requesting that RTP funding be set at $690 million over the six year period of the bill. If you have any questions please contact the AHC.
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Horse Trail Pass Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Horse Trail Pass?
Legislation establishing a Horse Trail Pass was authorized in 2006 and was effective starting January 1, 2007. The horse trail pass is similar to other DNR passes, such as the cross-country ski pass. It creates a dedicated fund source enabling users to assist directly with the operation and maintenance of the Department of Natural Resources' horse facilities. MN Statutes 85.46 states "While riding, leading, or driving a horse on horse trails and associated day use areas on state trails, in state parks, in state recreation areas, and in state forests, a person 16 years of age or over shall carry in immediate possession a valid horse trail pass. The pass must be available for inspection by a peace officer, a conservation officer, or an employee designated under section 84.0835." The DNR's Division of Parks and Trails administers the program for the Department of Natural Resources.

What does the Horse Trail Pass cost?
The fee for an annual horse trail pass is $21, ($20 plus a $1 issuing fee) for an individual 16 years of age or over. Annual passes are valid for one year beginning January 1 and ending December 31. The fee for a daily horse trail pass is $5 ($4 plus a $1 issuing fee). The daily pass is valid only for the date shown.

Does the Pass go with the person or with the horse?
Each person needs to have their own signed pass and must carry it in their immediate possession. The pass is valid only for the individual whose name and signature are on that pass.

Examples include:
- When two people are riding the same horse, they would both need a horse pass.
- Only the driver of a horse and buggy would need a pass; any passengers would not be required to have a pass.
- Should a person be riding one horse and leading another horse (without a rider), the person needs only one pass.
- If a stable brings a horse onto a designated trail with different riders throughout the day, each rider needs their own horse pass.

Is a Pass required to ride other animals, such as a mule or donkey?
Yes. A horse is defined in rules, at 6100.0500 Subp. 5h. Horse. "Horse" includes a horse, mule, donkey, llama, alpaca, or other ungulate or ruminant that is used to transport people, equipment, or materials.

Where can a Pass be purchased?
Horse passes may be purchased from DNR authorized Electronic License Service (ELS) vendors, located across the state. (These are the same vendors who sell fishing and hunting licenses.) Call 1-888-MINNDNR to find the nearest agent. Ideally, the trail user would acquire a pass prior to arriving at the horse trail facility. In the event that he or she did not purchase a pass prior to arrival, a self-registration system will be available at most locations, similar to that used by the cross-country ski pass program. Using this self-registration envelope, the trail user fills out the form, selecting either a daily or annual horse pass option, encloses payment and drops the postage paid envelope into the mail or payment box, if one is provided. If the user selected an annual pass, it will be mailed to them. Trail users retain one copy of this form as a daily pass or temporary annual pass.

Are there any differences in how the Pass works at these facility types?
If a state park, trail or forest provides horse trails and facilities or horse use is permitted, then a horse trail pass is required to use those horse trails and facilities. (Not all state parks or all state trails provide horse facilities.) The following DNR rules further clarify horse use in state parks and state forests: 6100.1355 Subpart 2 Horses. Within a state park and in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest, no person shall ride, lead, or have a horse except on trails and areas designated for use by horses. Horses are prohibited from using forest campgrounds unless the area has been specifically designated for use by horses or a special use permit from a forest officer has been obtained. Horses are permitted on all other forest lands except where it is posted to prohibit the use of horses.

Are horses allowed on forest roads?
Generally, yes. There is no legislation or rule prohibiting horses or prohibiting horse riding on a state forest road. However, when possible, horse trail designations will separate horse trails from motorized routes to avoid conflicting use. Forest roads can be posted to prohibit horses.

How will the fees be used?
The statute says "...the fees are appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources for trail acquisition, trail and facility development, and maintenance, enforcement, and rehabilitation of horse trails or trails authorized for horse use, whether for riding, leading, or driving, on state trails and in state parks, state recreation areas, and state forests." Funds raised by the sale of this pass will be used to benefit DNR horse facilities, seeking to provide a consistent, quality experience all across Minnesota. During the first two years of the pass, approximately $239,000 has been generated and distributed to equestrian projects. An Equestrian Advisory Group made up of horse community representatives advises the Division on project priorities.

www.dnr.state.mn.us:80/horseback_riding/horsepass.html
The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) has published a handbook entitled *Best Practices: How Your Organization Can Help Unwanted Horses*. The handbook is part of the UHC’s continuing effort to get the horse community more involved in solving the problem of unwanted horses. If the horse community is to succeed in lessening the problem of unwanted horses, more organizations and more events, large and small, regardless of their breed or discipline, must institute activities and programs to deal with their horses after their active lives are over or when their owners are no longer able to care for them.

Many equine organizations, events and service providers have already instituted programs to help ensure that no horse becomes unwanted. The Best Practices Handbook lists many of these activities and other initiatives that those in the horse industry can undertake. The handbook includes sections on administration, continuing education, fundraising, support of equine care facilities, matchmaking, direct assistance, breeding control, and euthanasia.

The Best Practices Handbook outlines various examples of successful programs and activities already in place with other organizations. There are thousands of associations, events, activities, service providers, commercial suppliers, meetings, trail rides, etc. in the horse community. Regardless of whether you are involved with a large organization, a small show, a racetrack, or a veterinary clinic, there are ideas in this booklet that can be adopted and put into place. If each gets involved in some fashion, the industry can go a long way toward solving the problem of excess horses.

"The more educated our industry becomes in regard to unwanted horses and the more effort that we put into it, the more we can do to help our horses," said UHC Chairman, Dr. Tom Lenz. "We hope the Best Practices Handbook will give everyone some ideas to pursue. If each organization gets involved, even with a single activity, the industry can go a long way toward solving this problem."

The UHC is distributing its Best Practices Handbook to organizations and facilities around the country. The handbook is also available for download on the UHC’s website: www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

For more information about the UHC or the Best Practices Handbook please contact Ericka Caslin, UHC Director, at ecaslin@horsecouncil.org or by calling 202-296-4031.

**The Unwanted Horse Coalition**

The mission of the Unwanted Horse Coalition is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety and responsible care and disposition of these horses. The UHC grew out of the Unwanted Horse Summit, which was organized by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and held in conjunction with the American Horse Council's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2005. The summit was held to bring key stakeholders together to start a dialogue on the unwanted horse in America. Its purpose was to develop consensus on the most effective way to work together to address the issue. In June 2006, the UHC was folded into the AHC and now operates under its auspices.

**Immigration Bill - continued from page 6**

Additionally, the bill would allow undocumented aliens, their spouses and children to apply for temporary nonimmigrant status, after they complete a criminal and security background check and pay a $500 fine plus application fees. During this time they would be able to stay in the United States and work. These individuals would be eligible to apply for permanent residence six years from the date the bill is enacted.

Due to the complexity of this legislation the AHC is continuing to analyze the bill’s potential impact on the industry.

**Outlook**

As the last three Congresses have shown, immigration reform will be difficult to pass. The House is expected to wait for the Senate to take action on immigration this spring before it moves forward on this or any other immigration legislation. This bill is likely to be just one of many comprehensive immigration bills that will be introduced and debated in the coming months if and when Congress takes up this issue.

This bill has been referred to nine House committees, Judiciary, Homeland Security, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, Ways and Means, Education and Labor, Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration.

If you have any questions please contact the AHC.
Winter Regional Horse Owner Programs Offered

The University of Minnesota Horse Team is offering two regional horse owner education programs in Rochester and Cloquet. Each program offers research-based information presented by knowledgeable speakers chosen for that region by a committee of local horse experts and enthusiasts. Speakers for these programs include University faculty, local veterinarians, and area horse professionals. The programs are held on Saturdays and begin at 1:00 pm (doors open at 12:30 pm) and end at 4:30 pm. Each program will be divided into three, one-hour segments. Each hour three different presentations will be given and the participant can choose which one to attend. There will also be a half-hour question and answer session at the end of the day during which speakers will take questions regarding the topics presented or any other horse management related issues. The dates, locations, and topics, are as follows:

**Saturday, January 16**
Heintz Center, Rochester, MN

Topics include: Diseases, Optimizing Your Hay Supply, What the Judge Looks For: English and Western Pleasure, Preventing and Treating Colic, Top 10 Things You Should Know About Feeding Your Horse, Behavior, Vaccinations and Deworming, Management of Established Pastures, Making the Most of Your Equine Business. Registration deadline is: Wednesday January, 13. Register online at: https://www.regonline.com/RochesterHorse

**Saturday, March 27**
Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet MN

Topics include: Vaccinations and Deworming, Optimizing Your Hay Supply, Daddy I Want a Horse, Please! (Things you should consider before (and when) you purchase a horse), Preventing and Treating Colic, Top 10 Things You Should Know About Feeding Your Horse, Understanding Horse Herd Dynamics and Other Behaviors, First Aid Away From Home, Hoof Care Roundtable, Equine Liability and Legal Issues. Registration deadline is: Wednesday March, 24. Register online at: https://www.regonline.com/CloquetHorse

The cost to attend the programs is $20 per person. The fee includes a printed proceeding and refreshments. The proceeding contains factsheets and/or power point handouts from all program speakers. Due to the pre-printed materials and refreshments arrangements, registration prior to the program is required, and walk-ins will not be accommodated.

Online and mail-in registration form, maps, parking information, and program agendas are available at: www.extensions.umn.edu/horse. Contact 800-876-8636 with online registration questions. Contact Krishona at 612-625-6775 with additional questions. In case of cancellation due to inclement weather, an e-mail will be sent to all participants. Programs are recommended for ages 13 and up, but are open to everyone.
AAEP HONORS THE MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL GELDING PROJECT

At the 55th Annual Convention of the American Association of Equine Practitioners which was held December 5-9, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV, the Minnesota Gelding Project was recognized as an innovative approach to helping the Unwanted Horse. The Minnesota Gelding Project is being used by others as a template for other states and organizations to try and help the unwanted horse.

Secondly, Minnesota was given a "Tip of the Hat" during the first general session of the meeting (this is a meeting of 6000 equine veterinarians from North America and the world) for our efforts in helping the Unwanted Horse through the Gelding Project. "Tip of the Hat" is a rare honor--two were given out during this meeting and they go to people or organizations that are making ground breaking efforts to help horses.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name _____________________________
Farm/Business Name _______________________
Address ______________________________
City/State/Zip ___________________________
Phone _________________________________
Alt. Phone ______________________________
E-mail _________________________________
Website ________________________________
Brief description of your stable/business/involvement with horses: ________________________________________________________________

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

I’d like to receive the MN Horse Council newsletter, “For Horse’s Sake” by:
- E-mail (saves on postage and paper)
- United States Postal Service

Please complete this form and send with your check to:

Minnesota Horse Council
PO Box 223 • Plato, MN 55370
Minnesota Horse Council
PO Box 223
Plato, MN 55370

Receive a full color newsletter to your e-mail inbox.
Just contact the MHC office with your e-mail address.