



Goals and Objectives of the Minnesota Horse Council

- ♦ Promote and/or support equine educational activities
- ♦ Improve communication in all horse related activities with the general public
- ♦ Gather information of value to equine related activities
- ♦ Distribute gathered information as appropriate
- ♦ Provide expertise, consult and advise
- ♦ Establish, develop and enhance equine trails and other infrastructure and encourage their prudent use

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EHV-1 Outbreak: State Veterinarians Monitoring Closely

Reprinted from www.TheHorse.com

The number of horses affected by the neurologic equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) outbreak in the western United States and Canada continues to rise. Since health officials identified the virus as stemming from involvement with the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) Western National Championship competition, held April 28-May 8 in Ogden, Utah, the number of confirmed cases has reached the double digits.

Equine herpesvirus is highly contagious and can cause a variety of ailments in horses, including rhinopneumonitis (a respiratory disease mostly of young horses), abortion in broodmares, and myeloencephalopathy (evident in the neurologic form). The virus is not transmissible to humans. Clinical signs of the neurologic EHV-1 form include fever, ataxia (incoordination), weakness or paralysis of the hind limbs, and incontinence. The virus is generally passed from horse to horse via aerosol transmission (when affected animals sneeze/cough) and contact with nasal secretions.

State and provincial veterinarians are keeping close tabs on the number of confirmed and suspected EHV-1 cases. Since there is no centralized data reporting system, case counts are based on reports from individual states (although the Veterinary Infection Control Society has been collecting information regarding suspected and confirmed cases).

Utah State Veterinarian, Bruce L. King, DVM, said, "At this point we have had no confirmed cases of EHV-1 in Utah since the NCHA show that was held in Ogden. We do have some suspect horses that were at the show that laboratory confirmation is pending."

California now has 10 confirmed cases of EHV-1, according to a news release from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. A total of 54 horses from California competed at the NCHA championships.

Canada veterinarians also are on the lookout for cases. "Our office has been notified of one case of (neurologic) EHV-1 in the province of Alberta," said Chief Provincial Veterinarian Gerald Hauer, DVM. "The horse has been attended by a veterinarian, is isolated, and is recovering."

Idaho agriculture released a statement indicating that two horses were euthanized that exhibited clinical signs consistent with neurologic EHV-1 and "several others" are under veterinary care, but there have been no confirmed cases.

Washington saw its first EHV-1-positive case discharged from Washington State University's (WSU) Veterinary Teaching Hospital on May 13. Today Debra C. Sellon, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, a professor of equine medicine at WSU, reported that since the discharge all PCR diagnostic tests run on hospital patients have been negative, and the university hospital remains under quarantine.

On May 18, a second case of EHV-1 was confirmed. The horse presented with neurologic signs and was taken to Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital (PVH) in Snohomish. Attending veterinarian Wendy Mollat, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, said in a press release issued by the hospital that upon presentation to PVH, "the horse was immediately admitted to our designated equine isolation facility and has not been allowed direct or indirect contact with our general equine population. The horse is clinically stable and will remain hospitalized until confirmed to be no longer shedding the virus."

Oregon confirmed its first case of EHV-1 today when one horse that attended the NCHA competition produced a positive test. A press release issued by the state Department of Agriculture indicated there are no travel restrictions on non-exposed horses at this time.

EHV-1 Outbreak--continued on page 8

Neurologic EHV-1: The Top Five Things You Need to Know

Reprinted from www.TheHorse.com

The neurologic equine herpesvirus (EHV-1) outbreak in the western United States has captured the attention of horse owners across the country and raised a few questions about just what this virus is and what it might do in this current outbreak. TheHorse.com enlisted the help of Paul Lunn, BVMS, MS, PhD, head of the Department of Clinical Sciences at Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, to explain the top five things horse owners should know about EHV-1.

1. Understand the Modes of Transmission

Understanding how EHV-1 is transmitted between horses is key to understanding how to slow or stop disease outbreaks.

"The most significant way the EHV-1 virus spreads is horse-to-horse contact, so right now the most important thing we can do is to stop this virus moving around," Lunn said. "If we can stop this virus from moving from horse to horse, we can bring this outbreak to an end. Keeping horses at home and keeping them from meeting other horses they're not already in contact with is the most critical strategy."

He also noted that EHV-1 can survive on "surfaces, equipment, feeding tools, grooming supplies, trailers, or gates. For these reasons, we need to be aware that we can become the way the virus moves from horse to horse."

Careful consideration when handling barn supplies, tack, and other stable supplies around exposed and nonexposed horses can reduce the risk of transmission.

Lunn said that EHV-1 can be transferred via aerosol transmission over short distances, but he added that unlike equine influenza--which can travel for several hundred yards through the air--a turnout arrangement that separates exposed and unexposed horses by a distance of a hundred yards or more would likely be sufficient to squelch transmission.

2. Know the Incubation Period

"The incubation period from when a horse first gets exposed to this virus (to when he starts showing signs of illness) can be quite lengthy," Lunn said. "The horse can be febrile (temperature of 101.5 F or more) within a day of getting infected, but when the infection goes on to cause neurologic disease, that usually doesn't develop for at least seven or eight days, and sometimes up to 14 days after it first gets infected."

He explained that at-risk farms (farms housing horses that have traveled and might have been exposed at a show or an event, or farms that have had confirmed cases) should be quarantined for, at minimum, two weeks to account for the incubation period (cases that aren't apparent yet). However, if there is evidence that a farm actually has EHV-1 infected horses, this needs to be longer "Quarantine for those farms really needs to last at least three weeks and probably in many instances four weeks, for farms at which cases actually occur," he noted. (This time begins after the last fever is detected on that farm)

Lunn said that if an EHV-1 positive horse or one suspected of having the virus has been turned out with other horses, don't mix those horses with nonexposed horses on the farm. Keep the horses in the same turnout groups to minimize exposure.

3. EHV Isn't an Uncommon Virus

"Equine herpesvirus-1 is a very common virus to find in horses," Lunn said. "The great majority of horses are exposed early in life and become lifelong latently infected (showing no signs of illness)."

The virus generally manifests as a respiratory infection and occasionally causes abortions in pregnant mares. The neurologic form of the virus, however, is an unusual outcome from the infection, he explained.

"What is most unusual right now is not that the virus is spreading, but that a very high number of horses are developing the neurologic disease."

On the positive side, Lunn explained that when the current outbreak ends, the horses that were exposed and infected during the outbreak are unlikely to represent a threat in the future--the veterinary community has not seen these horses cause further outbreaks down the road.

4. Know the Early Signs

"The first thing we typically see with this disease is a fever," Lunn said. "So if you see a fever with no obvious explanation, that should raise your anxiety level."

"And if you think there's a chance your horse might have been directly or indirectly exposed and they have a fever, that would be an opportunity to be in touch with your veterinarian and discuss getting a nasal swab taken for PCR (polymerase chain reaction) diagnostic testing."

Early detection of a fever could lead to an early diagnosis that will allow treatment to commence promptly. As with most equine ailments, early treatment generally leads to a more favorable prognosis.

5. EHV-1 neurologic disease is not a Death Sentence

"There are things you can do, get your vet involved, and be able to hopefully weather the storm," Lunn said. "If you do have a horse that is EHV-1 positive, or worse yet, starts developing some signs of neurologic disease, there are definitely things you can do to give a good chance of improving the outcome of this disease. There are a variety of treatment options your veterinarian may use, but these include anti-inflammatory drugs and supportive care (i.e., the use of a sling, around the clock nursing, etc.) that can be given to help nurse that horse through the disease."

"One of the most important things a veterinarian will do is monitor whether the horse can urinate-- often the paralysis can affect this and there is a real risk of bladder rupture--and keeping the bladder drained in this disease can be a life-saving procedure." Lunn emphasized.

Neurologic EHV-1--continued on page 10



MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL HISTORY

The Beginnings

The Minnesota Horse Council (MHC) was founded in 1935 as the Minnesota Saddle Horse Owners & Breeders' Association (MSHO&BA). Its original purpose was to represent the interests of horse owners at the Minnesota State Fair. Although generally inactive for many years, the organization continued to file annual reports and maintained its membership in the State Agricultural Society, but began showing interest in other horse-related areas.

In 1966, a meeting was held by various Minnesota equestrians who unanimously recommended that the Council represent all horse interests and horse people in Minnesota. The general purposes were to be:

- ♦ promotion of recreation areas for horse trails
- ♦ promotion of legislation favorable to horse people at local and state levels
- ♦ education and dissemination of information to horse people

Within a few years, the MSHO&BA successfully lobbied for the opening of several trails in state parks and forests. Through the financial contributions by many horse enthusiasts, a feasibility study for the eventual acquisition and development of the Minnesota River Valley Trail System was made which resulted in a dedication in October 1972--38 years after the state of Minnesota ordered the entire Minnesota River Valley to be surveyed as a potential multi-use park area.

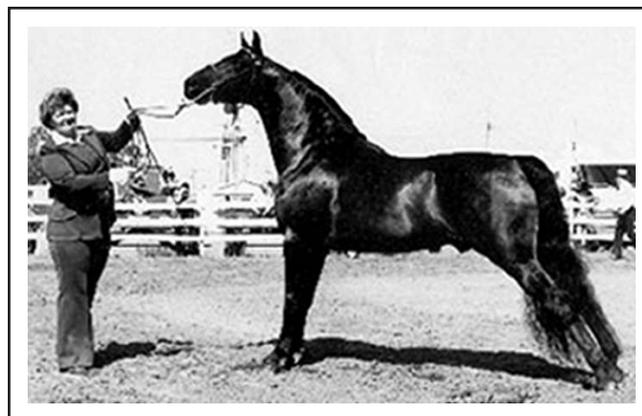
In 1973, the name of the organization was changed to the Minnesota Horse Council to parallel that of its national counterpart, the American Horse Council (AHC), and to reaffirm its industry-wide interests. The MHC joined the AHC for the first time in 1977.

The MHC has had a history of working for horseback riding trails in Minnesota. In early 1989, a new committee was formed, the MHC Trailblazers, to better address state trail issues.

Legislative Work

During the 1970s, the Council prepared and drafted a model village ordinance to guide horse owners, horse-oriented associations and municipalities in drafting regulations pertaining to the keeping of horses in residential areas. The various sections provided controls whereby municipalities could prevent the keeping and use of horses from becoming public or private nuisances and still protect the horse owner from abuse by others; further, it guided the horse owner in the maintenance of horses in a healthful manner.

Some years ago the Minnesota legislature enacted laws to "protect the family farms" from investment by the wealthy as tax shelters. In 1983-84, the legislature ultimately included all horse operations under those provisions--an action which would have severely curtailed the horse industry in this state. In 1985 the MHC, with the help of an administrative law firm and substantial financial assistance from various Minnesota horse organiza-



tions and individuals, lobbied successfully for deletion of "horses" from those laws, thus saving many thousands of dollars in state income taxes for Minnesota horsemen.

A temporary organization, the Minnesota Racing Association (MRA), was formed in 1981 to promote pari-mutuel horse racing in this state. Members of the MHC took an active part in the MRA and participated in its legislative activity. In 1982, Minnesota citizens voted for pari-mutuel horse racing and, in 1985, Minnesotans witnessed their first pari-mutuel Thoroughbred race at Canterbury Downs in Shakopee. In December 1986, the MHC testified before the Minnesota Racing Commission in support of Quarter Horse and Standardbred horse racing in Minnesota.

In 1986 the MHC, in cooperation with the UofM/CENSHARE, completed drafting of guidelines for a stable/carriage operation in a metropolitan setting to be used by any city in the drafting of related ordinances. The MHC hopes to some day finish drafting the second half of those guidelines (carriage driver testing standards) and similar guidelines for riding stables in the future.

Recognizing the Best

In 1970 the MSHO&BA established the Minnesota Horsemen's Hall of Fame to recognize an outstanding individual in the state's horse industry. Today the MHC gives out its Horseperson of the Year Award and recognizes noteworthy horsemen posthumously with the Pioneer Award.

Minnesota Horse Expo

In April 1982 the MHC produced its first annual Minnesota Horse Expo in downtown Minneapolis. With the help of numerous volunteers--members and non-members alike--that event has become a major equine attraction for thousands of spectators and exhibitors. Each year the Minnesota Horse Expo works to improve this event in order to bring added monies to its coffers so that additional activities may be funded. The Expo attendance has now grown to approximately 45,000 each year. The total Expo monies raised for the MHC since 1982 total over \$3 million--all to the ultimate benefit of the Minnesota horse industry.

Minnesota Horse Council History--continued on page 7

Dr. Stacy Tarr's Tips for Restraining Horses During Veterinary Exams

By Christine Hamilton in The American Quarter Horse Journal

Dr. Stacy Tarr loves his job. He's a large animal (mostly equine) veterinarian in Fort Collins, Colorado. But it can be tricky. Holding a 1,000-pound animal for a veterinary procedure on a farm call isn't always easy and can make Dr. Tarr not like his job so much. With several years of ambulatory practice under his belt, he has a few words of advice on restraining horses.

Take Your Time

Dr. Tarr believes restraining a horse successfully starts with good, basic horsemanship and patience. "When a lot of people talk about restraining a horse, their method is often just about making the horse mad," he says. "Often, if you just give the horse a little time, you can get what you need done."

He finds that if a horse is getting upset in a procedure, a time out for everyone often helps. Dr. Tarr sets a tone of patience and calm from the moment he walks up to a horse. "You don't just walk up and stare in a horse's face and walk right into his face," he says. "You let him have his space, ease up on him and let him tell you what he thinks of you. 'I catch a lot of horses that are hard to catch because I do that. I don't know how else to say it but I kind of live in their world a little. Let them make (getting caught) their idea.'"

Don't Go It Alone

Dr. Tarr always takes one of his veterinary technicians on farm calls. It would be ideal if every farm had a small set of stocks to help hold horses, but that's not the case. "Someone experienced always rides with me in the truck," Dr. Tarr says, "someone who can hold the horse for me, knows what to do and won't get in the way." Even in an emergency, it's best to do what you can and wait for help rather than to get hurt trying to treat a horse alone.

Watch Where You Stand

There are a few good rules of thumb for a handler to follow when holding a horse.

First, stand at the horse's shoulder, out of the way in case the horse paws or lunges forward.

Second, stand on the same side as the person working on the horse. "If I'm doing something on the hind end, the handler needs to be on the same side as I am," Dr. Tarr says. "That way, if the horse tries to jump or kick, the handler can pull the horse's head toward him, and that pulls the hind end away from me." From that position, the handler can watch what the veterinarian is doing and keep an eye on the horse's head and expression, all at the same time.

Dr. Tarr is also careful of where he stands in relation to the horse's legs as he works on a horse. He always stays to the side, not directly in front of or behind the horse, so the knee or the hock won't hit him if the horse picks up his leg.

If you're working with the hind legs, stand at the horse's hip, facing toward the horse's back end. "That way, if you get cow-kicked in the leg, it's more likely to buckle your knee," Dr. Tarr says. "But if you are facing toward the front and get kicked, you take it right on the kneecap or shin."

Don't Get in a Fight

"If a horse acts like it's really going to be a problem, I simply drug it rather than get into a fight," Dr. Tarr says. He makes the decision to drug a horse before anyone, horse or human, gets upset. "There are drugs out there that work great, are short-acting and safe," he continues. "I tend to drug a horse lightly and then add to it if I need to. If you drug them too much, you can't take it away."

"We block painful areas and try to make it easy on a horse," he adds. "I tend to take a lot of 'guff' and work through it. If I'm hurting them or making them uncomfortable, I can understand that."

Getting Stronger With the Horse

"I can get kicked at, and it won't bother me," Dr. Tarr says. "But when a horse paws at me, I get his attention, because in most cases that's aggression. That's usually not fear, it's 'I'm coming after you.'" That's one of the reasons he likes to drug a horse immediately if it looks like it's going to be a problem. "When they're drugged, they're not as likely to rear or paw," he says.

Although Dr. Tarr will use a twitch, that's not his first choice. "When a horse paws, everyone wants to go to a twitch," Dr. Tarr says. "But when you twitch a horse, for a couple minutes it keeps him still, and then it starts to wear off and make the horse mad. 'If you use a twitch, you've got to get done in a hurry.'"

"Remember that prevention is as key as is early diagnosis and treatment," advises Dr. Thomas Lenz. From diseases and disorders to soreness and injuries.

"If you stand in front of the horse with the lead rope holding that long-handled twitch, the horse can't come over the top of you and can't reach you to paw you," he explains.

For safety reasons, Dr. Tarr does not like the small, clamp-style twitch, with a clip that attaches to the halter: It's designed for you to use alone (which he doesn't recommend) and requires you to stand within the horse's reach.

"The only thing you never do is ear a horse," Dr. Tarr says empathetically. "It has no advantages. If a twitch won't hold a horse, earing one won't. All earing does is make a horse mad and ear-shy."

As a last resort, he has had to knock a horse out to get a procedure done, but that's rare. Ninety-nine percent of the time, patience, the right medications (to sedate or block) and working quickly will get the job done.

Reprinted with permission.



When giving oral medications, put your fingers on the halter's noseband and your thumb down in the corner of the horse's mouth, then turn their head toward you with your body against the shoulder and your elbow at the neck.

Horses Are Livestock Or Are They?

Confusion over cross-statutory application of new law defining horses as livestock

By Allison Eklund, MA, JD, Eklund Law, PC

In 2010, the Minnesota Legislature passed a bill, supported by the Minnesota Horse Council, creating a new statute defining horses as livestock and raising them as an agricultural activity. The statute was codified in the agricultural code at Minn. Stat. § 17.459. The statute reads:

Subdivision 1. Classification as livestock. Horses and other equines raised for the purposes of riding, driving, farm or ranch work, competition, racing, recreation, sale, or as breeding stock are livestock. Horses and their products are livestock and farm products for purposes of financial transactions and collateral.

Subd. 2. Agricultural pursuit. Raising horses and other equines is agricultural production and an agricultural pursuit.

Subd. 3. Nonapplicability for property tax laws. This section does not apply to the treatment of land used for raising horses under chapter 273.

The purpose of the new law was to help horse and equine property owners gain access to various benefits afforded to agricultural land and businesses. But because Minnesota Statutes are organized by subject matter into chapters, a general policy statement such as "horses are livestock" enacted in one chapter can have unintended consequences in other chapters.

The most obvious potential conflict was explained by the Minnesota Department of Revenue (MDOR) before the law was enacted. MDOR suggested adding Subdivision 3's nonapplicability for property tax laws because property tax assessors are governed by a different chapter setting standards for property tax classification. Minn. Stat. § 273.13 Subd. 23 sets forth the requirements for agricultural classification for property, which must be at least 10 acres in size and used for agricultural purposes. Agricultural purposes is defined as raising agricultural products for sale, and those products are listed in Minn. Stat. § 273.13 Subd. 23(i). Livestock raised for sale constitute an agricultural product, as does pasture used for grazing commercially boarded horses. But MDOR worried that the new law, Minn. Stat. § 17.459, would result in residential or hobby-farmers claiming that their equine use of land is agricultural for property tax purposes despite a lack of genuine agricultural production on the property, so Subdivision 3 was added to the statute as enacted.

Paradoxically, the disclaimer in Subdivision 3 may be having an opposite effect: some tax assessors have reportedly suggested that the disclaimer now means that, in the property tax code, horses are not livestock. That is not the case. Horses always were and will continue to be livestock for purposes of property tax classification. MDOR has issued statewide guidelines for tax assessors explaining the proper method for classifying equestrian property, and it is settled law that raising horses for sale is an agricultural activity.

Another potential misinterpretation of Minn. Stat. § 17.459 lies in apparently conflicting language in Chapter 346, which sets



care standards for "pet and companion animals," including equines in Minn. Stat. § 346.38, and Chapter 343, which criminalizes animal neglect and cruelty. The apparent conflict is between Section 17.459's definition of horses as livestock and raising them as an "agricultural use," and Section 346.43's exclusion of farm animals raised for food or "other agricultural use" from care standards, including care of equines in Section 346.38. However, because equines are afforded specific protections and the statute has not been repealed, the definition of horses as livestock should not have any effect on future prosecution for violations of care standards for horses. Furthermore, the animal cruelty statutes in Chapter 343 apply to all animals regardless whether they are farm animals or not, so long as they are "owned, possessed by, cared for, or controlled by a person for the present or future enjoyment of that person or another as a pet or companion..." In other words, horses are encompassed within both definitions as livestock and also as companion animals. Some horses even qualify as "service animals," which are animals trained to assist a person with a disability and afforded special protections under Chapter 343. Just because horses are livestock and encompassed within the business of agriculture does not mean we value them any less as companions or that they are now excluded from care standards and anti-cruelty laws.

On the bright side of the passage of Minn. Stat. § 17.459, some equine property owners report greater success persuading zoning authorities that raising or boarding horses is an agricultural use of land permitted under local zoning laws. And the statute also may help horse farms qualify for the "family farm exception" to workers' compensation liability and insurance requirements.

In an effort to educate local government about the unique role and protections afforded to horses as both agricultural and companion animals, the Minnesota Horse Council issues policy positions and will communicate with property tax assessors, law enforcement personnel, and county attorneys to help assure that horses' unique status as partners with people is not confused or misinterpreted to their detriment.

Determining The Value of Rained On Hay

By Dan Undersander, PhD, Univ. of WI and Krishona Martinson, PhD, Univ of MN

The summer of 2010 was a challenging hay making season because of frequent rainfall. As we approach another haying season, rainfall is not far from our minds.

Rain occurring while cut hay is laying in the field causes both yield and quality losses that reduce the value of the crop as an animal feed and a marketable commodity. Weather-induced losses are caused by: 1) prolonged plant respiration reducing water-soluble carbohydrates and overall energy content; 2) leaching of watersoluble carbohydrates, protein, and certain minerals from the hay; 3) leaf shattering and loss, removing the highly digestible and high protein portion of the forage; 4) microbial activity metabolizing soluble carbohydrates and reducing energy content; and 5) color bleaching.

How much does rainfall reduce dry matter yield?

Several researchers have studied the effects of rainfall on cut alfalfa. Wisconsin researchers measured dry matter losses of 22% when alfalfa was exposed to 1 inch of rain after 1 day of drying (curing), mostly from loss of water-soluble carbohydrates. Similar hay dried without rain damage lost only 6.3% of the initial yield. Losses appear to be greatest after partial drying of the forage has occurred. In this same study, alfalfa exposed to 1.6 inches of rain over several days suffered a 44% loss in dry matter. Michigan researchers conducted several different studies to examine the effects of rainfall on field cured alfalfa. The first study reported maximum dry matter losses of 34%. In a second study, rainfall intensity was kept constant at about 0.7 inches but spread over periods of 1 to 7 hours. Dry matter losses ranged from 4 to 13%, with highest losses occurring when the rain was spread over a longer duration. Overall, dry matter losses were much lower in these experiments even though rainfall amounts were about 2 inches.

Other species have been studied as well. Yields losses of birds-foot trefoil appear to be less than alfalfa, while red clover shows even less dry matter loss due to rain, and grasses suffer the least amount of dry matter losses. Dry matter losses are most crucial to the person responsible for baling the hay. Dry matter losses usually represent a significant decrease in income since less hay is available for baling, feeding, and selling.

How does rainfall reduce dry matter yield?

Three primary factors are involved in dry matter losses--leaching, respiration, and leaf loss.

Leaching is the movement of cell solubles out of the plant. Components of the plant that are very water soluble are leached out of the forage and lost when rain occurs. Unfortunately, most of these compounds are those highly digested by the animal. They include such components as readily available carbohydrates and soluble nitrogen, minerals, and lipids. About one-half of the dry matter leached by rain are water-soluble carbohydrates.



Unlike other livestock, losses of soluble carbohydrate can be beneficial for some horses. Laminitis is a painful and debilitating disease of the horse hoof. Laminitis typically occurs during periods of increased or rapid intake of water soluble and non-structural carbohydrates. In order to manage laminitic horses and reduce amounts of carbohydrates in harvested forage, horse owners have resorted to soaking hay. A number of research trials have confirmed removal of carbohydrates from hay by soaking in either 30 minutes of warm or 60 minutes in cold tap water. Soaking hay is a cumbersome, messy, and time consuming process. Purchasing rained-on hay with naturally low levels of carbohydrates is a possible alternative.

Respiration (breakdown of soluble carbohydrates by plant enzymes) occurs at nearly 2% dry matter per hour in fresh forage, and declines almost in proportion to the decrease in moisture content until the plant reaches approximately 60% moisture. Every time the forage is wetted by rain, respiration is either prolonged or begins again in cases where the cured forage was below 60% moisture. In either case, additional dry matter is lost.

There is some disagreement in the research literature regarding the amount of leaf loss that occurs in cut alfalfa as a direct result of rainfall. Leaf loss is important since more nutrients are located in the laves vs. the stems. In Wisconsin studies, leaf loss ranged from 8 to greater than 20% as a percent of the initial forage dry matter when rainfall amounts were from 1 to 2.5 inches. In Michigan studies, direct leaf loss was much lower (0.5 to 4.2%). Experience and common sense tell us that rain damaged alfalfa is more predisposed to leaf shatter after it dries, and rainfall often means additional raking and more lost leaves.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Equestrians Helping Equestrians

April 27, 2011 brought devastating tornadoes to Alabama and neighboring states. The destruction is extremely wide spread and has left so many areas a wasteland. Families have lost their loved ones, their homes, and their basic way of life and are faced with the daunting task of starting over completely from scratch. They have lost many beloved pets, horses, and farm animals and have no way of caring for the ones that remain. As members of the equestrian community, we must do what we can to help those that are in so much pain and need.



The Birmingham Dressage & Combined Training Association is teaming up with Rhonda Johnson-Bowles from LandOLakes Purina Feeds, The Alabama Horse Council, and Cahaba Pony Club to help provide much needed relief for the equine and pet victims of these cruel tornadoes.

BDCTA will be accepting donations of basic horse and pet supplies, such as buckets, water troughs, fencing materials, veterinary supplies, fly spray, halters and leads, shavings, dog runs, dog and cat crates, feed bowls.....anything horse or pet care related.

Monetary donations will also be accepted and will be used to purchase needed supplies. 100% of donations will be distributed to those in need. More information can be found on their website, www.BDCTA.com or contact them at BirminghamDCTA@gmail.com.

Monetary donations can be sent to
BDCTA/Tornado Relief
c/o Natalie Nixon, Treasurer BDCTA
1222 Woodlands Way
Helena, AL 35080
Please make checks to BDCTA and include "Tornado Relief" in the notes section

In kind/goods donations can be sent to

BDCTA/Tornado Relief
c/o Fran Summerlin Histed
Summerworth Down
550 Lakeview St.
Steele, AL 35987
256-538-3732

Birmingham Dressage and Combined Training Association is a not for profit 501(c)3 organization which sponsors activities designed to further the art and sport of Dressage and Combined Training in the Birmingham, AL area, as well as educational and outreach activities for the Alabama equine community at large. BDCTA is an affiliate member of USA Eventing and a Group Member of the US Dressage Federation.

Minnesota Horse Council History--continued from page 3

Scholarships

Thanks to a large bequest by former director Tony Gasser, the MHC was able to award its first \$200 annual educational scholarship from the Tony Gasser Memorial/MHC Scholarship Fund in December 1985 to a selected student interested in pursuing an education in the equine field. Since then, the number of scholarships and amounts awarded have risen each year.

Promoting Horse Activities & Education

From 1975 to 1985 the MHC sponsored or co-sponsored up to three annual endurance and competitive rides in Minnesota for the benefit of the MHC, charitable organizations or equine research.

In March 1986 the MHC co-sponsored (with the MN Horse Expo and a tack shop) a one-half hour (equestrian-related) radio event on Twin Cities radio station WMIN (1030 AM). This program interviewed people involved in the horse industry and ran public service announcements about equestrian events throughout the state.

Affiliations

Seventy years after incorporation, the Council remains a member of the State Agricultural Society, entitled to three delegate votes at each meeting. The Council's primary interests are the MN State Fair Horse Show and other equestrian usage of the State Fair Coliseum.

On March 14, 1988, and October 25, 1988, the MHC arranged meetings with officials of the Minnesota State Fair to discuss ways of improving its show facilities and relationships with horsemen. These were very successful and were continued for many years.

The MHC participates as a member of the University of Minnesota Veterinary College's Advisory Committee and the U of M Veterinary Teaching Hospital Committee ("PARTNERS"). The MHC is also a member of the Minnesota Forum for Animal Agriculture, formed in 1985 to promote and improve communications among the various agricultural groups in Minnesota and to provide legislative support on related concerns.

From 1985 through 1987, thanks to the sole effort and expense of former director Verne Greenlee, the MHC was represented at annual meetings on a national scale between other state horse councils and the American Horse Council to discuss and suggest answers to related problems. The MHC has continued to maintain this contact.

A lovely horse is always
an experience . . .
It is an emotional experience of the
kind that is spoiled by words.
~ Beryl Markham, West With the Night

EHV-1 Outbreak--continued from page 1

New Mexico Livestock Board officials issued a press release indicating that there are two suspected EHV-1 cases in that state, however both horses are currently under quarantine and veterinary treatment. Additionally, all New Mexico horses that attended the NCHA show are under voluntary quarantine at their regular barns and are being monitored for signs of disease.

Currently Unaffected States on High Alert

Fortunately, authorities in some Western states have not received reports of any EHV-1 positive horses. Nonetheless, veterinarians and horse owners remain on high alert and are taking precautionary steps to prevent the spread of any possible disease.

"At this time there are no EHV-1 positive or suspect horses in Wyoming that we are aware of," said State Veterinarian Jim Logan, DVM. "We do know that there were some horses that attended the Ogden event and returned to Wyoming. All of these animals have been accounted for, are isolated, and under movement restriction and observation by veterinarians. None have shown any clinical signs to date."

The **Texas** Animal Health Commission (TAHC) issued a statement May 17 indicating that there are no EHV-1 positive horses in the state currently, and the commission "has no plans to change entry requirements for equine animals or to cancel any equine events at the present time."

Both **North and South Dakota** state veterinarians--Susan J. Keller, DVM, and Dustin Oedekoven, DVM, respectively--said that EHV-1 has not been confirmed in their states. Oedekoven added that none of the horses that attended the Ogden show from South Dakota were showing any clinical signs of the disease.

Likewise, State Veterinarian Phil LaRussa, DVM, said **Nevada** is free of EHV-1 at present.

Shifting Transportation Requirements

The Colorado Department of Agriculture issued a press release May 17, introducing new travel requirements for any horses entering the state.

Horse owners must obtain a permit to enter the state in addition to presenting the standard health certificate (issued within 30 days prior to entry) and a proof of a current negative Coggins test.

"Horse owners who wish to bring their horse into Colorado must first call their veterinarian," the department press release stated. "That veterinarian can then contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office at 303/239-4161 and request a permit number. That number would then be included on the health certificate."

"We are considering all of our options for protecting Colorado's horse industry," State Veterinarian Keith Roehr, DVM, said in the press release. "At this point, we do not believe it's necessary to stop horses from entering the state but we need to be able to know where those horses are coming from and where they are going; trace-back is a vital part of disease control."

Yesterday the NCHA released a statement on its website indicating that while the organization was not requiring show producers to cancel or reschedule shows, it urged these individuals to make horse health the No. 1 priority: "While the NCHA is at present not mandating cancellation of all shows nationwide, we do strongly urge all show producer(s) to consider the possible horse health risks of conducting an event until the extent of the virus can be determined and contained."

Additionally, the American Paint Horse Association released a list of shows canceled due to the EHV-1 outbreak on the organization's website.

For more information see:

www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/ehv_2010_sitrep_051911.pdf

www.aaep.org/EHV_resourcesowner.htm

Message from the Expo President



Again they came through rain, wind and snow to the 2011 Minnesota Horse Expo. With the Expo being a week later than normal, we thought we would be out of that kind of weather--WRONG!

All in all, we feel that most everyone had a good Expo including the vendors, general public and stall renters. We had great clinicians and all seminars were well attended as well as all the demonstrations and horses.

I want to thank the general public who braved the weather and all of the directors and staff who worked over a year to put this Expo together. Also to be thanked are the volunteers and the staff of the Minnesota State Fair.

All in all, again we think everyone had a great Expo and hope you will return for the 2012 Minnesota Horse Expo to be held next April 27, 28, and 29.

Minnesota Horse

Expo 2012
APRIL 27, 28, & 29

MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES - April 12, 2011

Meeting Location: Nutrena Conference Room - Leatherdale Center, U of MN St Paul

Board Members Present: Darrell Mead, Missie Schwartz, Mark Ward, Jan Schatzlein, Tim Bonham, Tracy Turner, Jennifer Willey, Glen Eaton, Sue McDonough, Tom Tweeten, Trina Joyce, Marian Robinson, Charlyn Cadwell, Dawn Moore, Carol Dobbelaire

Absent: Judy Jensen, Dave Fleischhaker

Members/Visitors: Julie Wilson, Allison Eklund

I. Meeting called to order: 6:32 P.M. by Tracy Turner

II. Introduction of Board Members/Visitors

Tracy Turner introduced the aforementioned guests and had the directors of the MHC introduce themselves to guests.

III. Call for Additions/Changes to Agenda

Darrell Mead added Trails to New Business. Jennifer Willey added an Expo announcement to New Business. Tom Tweeten added Research to New Business.

IV. Treasurer's Report for April was distributed by Tim Bonham. Total assets: \$805,431.73 with net available funds of \$416,335.60. Jan Schatzlein motioned to accept the March treasurer's report as presented. Mark Ward seconded, motion carries.

V. Approval of Minutes - Glen Eaton motioned to approve the March minutes as presented. Tim Bonham seconded, motion carries.

VI. Secretary's Report -Dawn Moore- card is being circulated for fellow director Dave Fleischhaker who is currently ill. Dawn Moore discussed the current conflict of interest policy and asked the board to keep this in mind during voting. Dawn Moore also requested that board members are going through the proper channels to ask the administrative assistant to use billable time.

VII. OLD BUSINESS**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Expo - Glen Eaton reported: Two weeks from this weekend the 29th Annual Expo will be in session. The State Fairgrounds will be busy with horse people from all over the Midwest. The dates are April 29, 30 and May 1. Promotion is in high gear at this time and some will even take place at the event. The Horse Barn is full and as are the Vendor booths except for some outside and the Sheep Barn. The Program has gone to print and looks like it is better than 2010. The schedule of events is done and is on the website. The Speaker areas are all full including a new one in the Cattle Barn. The planning of the 2011 Minnesota Horse Expo is complete and we are looking for great weather and a large crowd.

At this time I want to recommend the following for the 2012 Minnesota Horse ExpoBoard to be held April 27, 28 and 29: Glen Eaton, Missie Schwartz, Brenda Miller, Del Bauernfeind, Laura Lyseng, Darrell Mead, Jennifer Buskey, Tracy Turner, Janet Schatzlein, Charlene Cadwell, Angela McNally. Glen Eaton also advised that Linda Dahl will no longer be on the Expo board. Linda Dahl will continue to bid the print work for the Expo. The Tuesday prior to Expo will be the day the items from the storage locker will be moved to the Fairgrounds.

B. Direct Funding - Mark Ward reported: The committee has received two applications, which remain undecided until sometime after tonight's meeting: Anoka County 4-H Horse Committee, \$500 to cover the expense of a new loud speaker system to be used for a variety of 4-H Horse Project events. MN 4-H Horse Association Memorial Library, \$267.90 to help cover the cost of a new media storage cabinet.

The applicants will be contacted regarding our decisions within a few days after tonight's meeting. Regarding the other three applications listed in March, we had these results:

Approved - Midwest Western Dressage, \$500 to apply to arena rental for a clinic at the Leatherdale Center, May 7-8.

Not Approved - Victory Riders, \$500 to apply to the cost of developing a website.

Not approved - Agape Riding Center, \$500 to cover cost of various standard tack items to be used in their program.

Those three applicants have all been contacted with our results, including a request for both the Victory Riders and the Agape Riding Center to submit new applications that will better meet our criteria.

An update to the Direct Funding committee's rules and procedures is now in its second draft. The first draft was submitted to the committee three weeks ago for their review and approval. Some new ideas were brought up and will be added to a second draft which will be submitted for their review and after their approval will be brought before the board for final approval.

C. Website - Mark Ward reported: the website has been updated with any information the directors provide. Mark Ward requested the directors please advise him of any additions they would like to see on the MHC website.

D. Horsemen's Directory - Mark Ward reported there is increasing participation in the directory. The question was raised of having some way to note Certified Stables within the list boarding facilities. Mark Ward will examine the possibility of making this more apparent.

H. Coalition of the State Horse Councils - Glen Eaton reported: The State Horse Councils Coalition will meet in Washington, DC with the American Horse Council meeting June 19th through the 22nd. Tracy Tuner and Glen Eaton will be attending.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Racino - Tracy Turner introduced guest Carin Opperman who presented the latest information on the Racino effort. Currently the legislation would allow Minnesota's two racetracks to add video lottery terminals to their current operations. This bill would provide for benefits of non-racing entities from a fund that would be developed specifically for non-racing breeds. As written, the legislation would provide between \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to be dispersed in grants every year. Discussion followed. Tracy Turner advised the MHC has written three letters to the current legislation in support of the Racino efforts. Jennifer Willey will promote the Racino effort on the MHC Facebook page.

B. Expo Announcement - Jennifer Willey has printed an information card for the Council, Horsemen's Directory and Expo for the directors to take to hand out as they see fit. Jennifer Willey presented a book that will contain the thank you cards the MHC receives throughout the year. Also presented were a schedule for the MHC booth volunteers and a request for only the directors volunteering for that time slot to be present in the booth. Jennifer Willey also advised the committee chairs whom do not currently have printed materials for their committee.

C. Trails - Darrell Mead advised he has attended two meetings regarding the plan of a trail system within the city of Duluth. The horse people of Duluth were very appreciative for the support of the MHC. Darrell Mead advised there have been no further developments with Renville County.

D. Research - Tom Tweeten presented a letter that has been drafted on behalf of the MHC in support of the U of MN research project on Seasonal Pasture Myopathy (this letter was also sent electronically to all MHC directors). Mark Ward motioned to have the MHC president sign the letter as drafted, Trina Joyce seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed. Tracy Turner will edit, sign and send the letter on behalf of the MHC.

Announcements:

April 15th is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

X. Tracy Turner adjourned the meeting at 8:27PM.

NEXT MEETING ♦ May 10, 2011 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
University of MN ♦ Leatherdale Equine Center

Neurologic EHV-1--continued from page 2

"We see many cases where the effects of the disease can be quite mild--just some stumbling or ataxia (incoordination)," he added. "Those horses can usually completely recover by a few months after the infection and go on to lead normal lives."

Of course, not all cases are mild, and horses that are more severely affected generally don't share the same fortune as mildly affected ones. "Horses that are more severely infected and maybe end up on the ground or unable to rise have a much worse prognosis."

Other Information

Owners might be wondering if a herpesvirus vaccination would be advisable during this outbreak. The answer, however, is not just a simple yes or no.

"It's controversial," Lunn explained. "We know that at the moment, we have no evidence that EHV-1 vaccines can stop the development of the neurologic disease. No vaccine has a claim right now for protection against neurological disease. We also know that some of the more potent EHV-1 vaccines can have a very significant effect on reducing the shedding of the virus from the nose in a well-vaccinated and recently boosted horse."

A decrease in shedding EHV-1 will lead to a decrease in the number of horses exposed to the virus.

"So for these reasons, my inclination is to say if I had a horse that was previously vaccinated and it hadn't had a booster within the last three months, I would give it a booster in order to decrease the movement and shedding of the virus on the farm," he concluded, adding that this decision needs to be balanced against the need to "muster and handle" horses in order to give that vaccine. He added that not all experts agree that vaccination is entirely benign.

Another consideration is the well-known fact in the veterinary community that viruses hold the ability to mutate, but it's too early in the course of the outbreak to determine if the current strain of EHV-1 is a mutated strain.

"At the moment, all that has been done is PCR molecular identification of the fact that the virus is present," Lunn said. "I think a number of institutions--including CSU and the University of Kentucky --are trying to culture the virus right now, and in time we'll be able to study its genetic code."

"Very likely, when this is all said and done, we will discover that this virus does possess the mutation that was characterized in the past decade, which we call the neuropathogenic mutation (i.e., strains of EHV-1 with a single mutation in the gene that encodes the enzyme called DNA polymerase). It's very likely that this virus will carry this mutation. Now this virus might have other mutations and other changes in it that might eventually help explain why we've seen this disastrous outbreak, but at the moment that is speculative."

Take-Home Message

Until the outbreak has settled, it is advisable to keep horses at their home base to reduce the risk of exposure to nonexposed horses. Additionally, understanding the virus and how it works is key to preventing further outbreaks.

2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

View www.mnhorsecouncil.org and www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.org for additional events

MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MEETINGS

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

February 8	June 8	October 11
March 8	July 12	November 8
April 12	August - No meeting	December 13
May 10	September 13	
January 15, 2011 - Annual Meeting - Northland Inn		

MINNESOTA HORSE EXPO BOARD MEETINGS

Byerly's Community Room ♦ 6:30 pm
3777 Park Center Drive ♦ St. Louis Park, MN

January 25	May 31	September 27
February 22	June 28	October 25
March 29	July 26	November 29
April 19	August - No meeting	December 27

For Horse's Sake

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Please e-mail or send potential articles to:

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2011 Newsletter Deadlines

January/February	1/21/11	July/August	6/10/11
March	2/11/11	September	8/12/11
April	3/11/11	October	9/16/11
May	4/15/11	November	10/14/11
June	5/13/11	December	11/11/11

MINNESOTA HORSEMEN'S DIRECTORY

The Minnesota Horsemen's Directory is a free resource provided by the Minnesota Horse Council to help you find horse-related information and services in and near Minnesota.

- ♦ Find a farrier, trail riding stable, boarding, lessons, tack stores, and much more! Use the Events Calendar to find shows, clinics and other horse-related activities. Use the new Jobs category to find a job or skilled job seeker.
- ♦ Find what you're looking for by choosing a category, or search the directory. Once you are in a category, browse the results alphabetically or by a sub-category or region.
- ♦ Help make this site comprehensive and accurate. Submit a free listing of your Minnesota horse-related business or organization. Once listed, you can edit your listing as often as you wish.
- ♦ Whether you are looking to hire or looking for an equine-related job in or near Minnesota, submit a Help Wanted or Seeking a Job ad here.

www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

www.mnhorsecouncil.org

- 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:

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 PO Box 223 ♦ Plato, MN 55370



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 Thomas Tweeten ♦ 952-226-4190 ♦ thomastweeten@mnhorsecouncil.org

Minnesota Horsemen's Directory

Mark Ward ♦ 651-436-6557 ♦ markward@mnhorsecouncil.org

Nominations

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Pioneer Award

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Scholarships

Trina Joyce ♦ 612-729-7798 ♦ trinajoyce@mnhorsecouncil.org

Show Facilities

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State Horse Council

Glen Eaton ♦ 952-922-8666 ♦ gleneaton@mnhorsecouncil.org

Temporary Emergency Equine Feed Assistance (TEEFA)

Carol Dobbelaire ♦ 763-684-0709 ♦ caroldobbelaire@mnhorsecouncil.org

Trail Blazers

Darrell Mead ♦ 763-420-3697 ♦ darrellmead@mnhorsecouncil.org

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Tracy Turner ♦ 651-351-7206 ♦ tracyturner@mnhorsecouncil.org

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In This Issue

EHV-1 Outbreak: State Veterinarians Monitoring Closely.....	1
Neurologic EHV-1: The Top Five Things You Need to Know.....	2
Minnesota Horse Council History.....	3
Dr. Stacy Tarr's Tips for Restraining Horses During Veterinary Exams.....	4
Horses Are Livestock...Or Are They?.....	5
Determining the Value of Rained on Hay.....	6
Neighbors Helping Neighbors - Equestrians Helping Equestrians.....	7
Message from the Expo President.....	8
MHC Board Meeting Minutes.....	9
Guidelines Help Former Racehorses Go From Track to new Careers.....	10
2011 Meeting Schedule.....	10
Minnesota Horsemen's Directory.....	11
MHC Membership Application.....	11
MHC Committee Chairs.....	11



Minnesota Horse Council

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