



**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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**Sights at the 2011 Minnesota Horse Expo**



## Racino Legislation Introduced in Minnesota

Minnesota state Senator Dave Senjem (R-Rochester) and Representative Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) introduced legislation that would permit the operation of video lottery terminals at Minnesota's two state-regulated racetracks. Both said the proposal, if passed, would lead to more jobs and economic growth in the state.



"Based on the results that racinos have shown in other states around the country, there is no question that racinos will be a powerful job creator for the state of Minnesota," said Senjem in a statement. "The success of similar legislation in states such as Pennsylvania shows that racinos will provide thousands of jobs within a state's agricultural, hospitality and construction industries."

The proposed legislation would allow the Minnesota State Lottery to operate video lottery terminals (VLTs) at Canterbury Park in Shakopee and Running Aces Harness Park in Columbus. According to the bill's authors, the legislation creates the Minnesota Future Fund, which "will provide dollars needed for both new and existing businesses to grow jobs and expand the state's economy."

After operating expenses, the remaining revenue from the VLTs would go to the Minnesota Future Fund and to benefit the development of Minnesota's horse industry, according to a release from Senjem and Gunther.

"The University of Minnesota once estimated that the impact of Minnesota's horse industry was nearly a billion dollars, but Minnesota's breeding and equine development investments have slipped since other states have offered a more robust purse structure for horse racing," Gunther said.

"Racinos will create jobs for grain and hay growers, veterinarians, blacksmiths, breeders, trainers, and many more individuals in rural Minnesota. These are exactly the types of jobs we need to focus on creating throughout the entire state," Gunther continued.

State Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin), chief author of similar legislation in 2010, said he supports the new measure.

"Racino legislation is an excellent example of legislation that both sides of the aisle should be able to agree on," Sparks said in a statement. "Racinos are a proven way to create thousands of jobs statewide and make lasting investments in economic development. That's why more than 75% of Minnesotans expect us to join together and pass this bill."

From [www.bloodhorse.com](http://www.bloodhorse.com).

## Breyer® and ELCR Award \$10,000 Grant To Help Create Minnesota Horse Park

The Sibley Equine Conservancy was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Breyer Animal Creations®, Pequannock, NJ and the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) Sun., May 1st, in an awards presentation held during the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event. The grant is part of a three year program run by Breyer and the ELCR designed to identify and award grants to local equine organizations around the United States to help them preserve land for equestrian use. Sibley Equine Conservancy will use the grant as a deposit on a 220 acre tract of land in Pequot Lakes, MN to create the Minnesota Horse Park, a multi-use equestrian facility.

The land in question is located in Central Minnesota and was long used by equestrians thanks to a gentleman's agreement with its owner. As often happens, the land was put up for sale, with no guarantee that equestrians could continue to enjoy it. The Sibley Equine Conservancy, headed by Brenda Myers, saw the need to preserve the land, and developed a plan, working with county, state and federal agencies, to create the Minnesota Horse Park, to protect this land for continued equestrian use.

"The loss of land for equine use is an increasingly serious problem for the equestrian community," noted Deb Balliet, Executive Director of the ELCR. "We were pleased to work with Breyer to develop this program to raise awareness of the problem and to encourage local groups to take action to address it."

"As an avid trail rider, I have seen land disappear around me at an astonishing rate," affirmed Stephanie Macejko, Breyer's Vice President of Marketing. "When ELCR suggested that we join forces to raise awareness, Breyer was delighted to answer the call! For the last three years, horse lovers across the U.S. have purchased specially made Breyer models, which have helped us to underwrite this important program. Thanks to them, \$30,000 has been donated to preserve land for equestrian use, a significant achievement!"

Sibley Equine Conservancy, based in Pequot Lakes, MN, was selected from 22 applicants from around the country by the ELCR/Breyer Grant Committee. Accepting the grant check on behalf of the group was Brenda Myers of the Sibley Equine Conservancy. Myers is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Horse Park Committee. They received their award and check on May 1st at the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event in Lexington, KY. Making the presentation was Kentucky's First Lady Jane Beshear, ELCR board member Libbie Johnson, ELCR Executive Director Deb Balliet and Breyer's Kathleen Fallon.

### About Breyer Animal Creations:

Breyer Animal Creations is the manufacturer of the world's most realistic and authentic model horses for play and collecting. Breyer has made portrait models of the world's best loved horses from literature and film, as well as the greatest champions from racing to the Olympics. From Secretariat to Zenyatta and from Black Beauty to Misty of Chincoteague, the Breyer name is as much a part of the equestrian world as saddles and bridles.

### About the Equine Land Conservation Resource:

The Equine Land Conservation Resource, based at the Kentucky Horse Park, is the only national organization that advances the conservation of land for horse related activities. The ELCR functions as a clearinghouse of information for people and grass roots organizations to help them get organized and learn to secure land trusts and rights of way. Also, the ELCR promotes the vital connection between horse landowners and land conservation. For more information, visit [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org) or call 859-455-8383.

## May 2011 Legislative Update

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

Pending legislation may have lasting impacts on equine business and property interests. Visit the Legislature's "bill search and status" web site to stay informed, and contact your elected legislators to have your voice heard: [www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.aspx](http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.aspx)

### Racino--SF 1046/HF 1352

A bill to allow video gaming machines at racetracks has been introduced every legislative session for years without success, but the State's current budget crisis has more people wondering if such an expansion of legalized gaming might soon become law. Indian gaming interests have opposed the measure, which may increase competition between Indian casinos and other legalized gaming. The horse industry has largely supported the "Racino" bill in hopes that increased racetrack revenue will rejuvenate the sport of horseracing and enable grants of an estimated \$3-4 million annually to various non-racing equine interests.

### Green Acres: restoration to pre-2008 provisions--SF 101/HF 148

Minnesota's Agricultural Property Tax Law, Minn. Stat. § 273.111, popularly known as Green Acres, is a property tax relief program for farmers. It provides for valuation and taxation of agricultural property based on its agricultural value rather than its higher fair market value. But under changes to the law from 2008-2010, increasing numbers of property owners had their Green Acres enrollment terminated, and even Green Acres land values have skyrocketed in recent years. A bill now pending would restore Green Acres requirements to pre-2008 standards and also restore enrollment for many properties terminated from the program. Also proposed is a measure to require a study of the best valuation method to determine the taxable value of agricultural land.

### Horses are Livestock, but not for property tax classification: REPEAL--SF 396/HF 539

A new statute, Minn. Stat. § 17.459, was passed in 2010 stating that horses are livestock and raising them is an agricultural pursuit. A provision was included, however, that excludes applicability of the statute from Minn. Stat. Chapter 273 to property tax classification. The Minnesota Department of Revenue and county assessors advising legislators had recommended the caveat. They agreed that the statute could help horse property owners in various situations when government officials may confuse horses with pets by refusing to grant benefits associated with agriculture but worried that it could incite hobby farmers to try and have their properties re-classified from residential to agricultural. But the caveat backfired; some assessors now are using the non-applicability to property tax classification to say that horses are NOT livestock and raising them is NOT an agricultural activity under Minn. Stat. § 273.13. This is legally incorrect; horses have always been considered livestock under the property tax code. A bill has been introduced this session to repeal the caveat to avoid further confusion over the issue.

### Sustainable Forest Incentive Act REPEAL, Green Acres and Rural Preserve amendments-SF 27 / HF 42 (Omnibus Tax Bill)

The Omnibus Tax Bill now pending includes the repeal of the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act. Property owners denied enrollment in Green Acres after June 30, 2011 would have the right to appeal to their local board of appeals and equalization, and the Rural Preserve program (Minn. Stat. § 273.114) would no longer include a conservation plan and covenant agreement for eligibility.

## MINNESOTA COMMISSIONER VISITS EXPO

Minnesota Agricultural Commissioner Dave Frederickson visited the Minnesota Horse Expo on Friday April 29th. Commissioner Frederickson spent 2 hours visiting various booths and exhibitors. At each, he discussed the role of horses in Minnesota Agriculture. He was very positive about horses and he showed that he understood the importance of the horse industry to Minnesota agriculture. He expressed the opinion that it is only fair that horses are treated like all other livestock.

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## NEW PROGRAM FOR HORSE OWNERS

Equine Pasture Management Program ♦ University of Minnesota

Well-managed pastures can go a long way in meeting the nutrient requirements of most horses, resulting in less money spent on feed and horse health. Proper pasture management also promotes overall horse health by minimizing the risk of colic, laminitis and ingestion of toxic plants, and reduces environmental concerns such as erosion and runoff.

Beginning in the spring of 2011, the University of Minnesota will offer a fee-based pasture management program aimed at optimizing the use of Minnesota horse pastures. This pilot program is limited to 40 farms and will take place May through October 2011 and will focus on horse farms in central and eastern MN and western WI.

### *What will participation in the program include?*

- ♦ Two farm visits from a U of M specialist
- ♦ Satellite image of farm
- ♦ Soil analysis
- ♦ Soil fertility recommendations
- ♦ Forage quality analysis and specie identification

### *What will participation in the program include?*

- ♦ Poisonous plant identification and weed control recommendations
- ♦ Pasture productivity estimations
- ♦ Overall facilities assessment
- ♦ Manure management recommendations
- ♦ Phone and e-mail support
- ♦ Supporting fact sheets and supplemental information
- ♦ Customized pasture and grazing management plan
- ♦ The cost is \$650 per farm
- ♦ Cost should be recovered in 2 years with increased pasture quality and yield

For additional information, or to enroll in the program, please contact Jennifer Earing, PhD at [jeearing@umn.edu](mailto:jeearing@umn.edu) 612-624-7455 Register online at [www.regonline.com/EquinePasture](http://www.regonline.com/EquinePasture)

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## Food Allergy in Horses

By Bryan Walldridge, DVM, Kentucky Equine Research

Food allergy in horses is rare and extremely difficult to diagnose. There are several caveats that horse owners and veterinarians must keep in mind when interpreting results of allergy testing. It is not unusual for normal horses to react to at least some of the allergens on the allergy panel. In other words, normal horses can have positive reactions to allergens that they are actually not allergic to.

The panel of allergens used on the test may not contain the allergens that the horse is most allergic to, which means that whatever the horse is allergic to may not be tested against. It is very important to consult a board-certified veterinary dermatologist to interpret the allergy test, to determine if hyposensitization, in the form of allergy shots, is necessary, and to formulate which allergens should be included in hyposensitization. Allergy panels should be tailored for specific geographic areas, as veterinary panels are usually based on the most common human allergens in the region. Therefore, horses should be tested by veterinary dermatologists who practice in the area where the horses live to ensure that horses are tested for the most commonly encountered allergens.

Studies have shown that the most reliable diagnostic method for equine allergy is the intradermal allergy test (IDAT). This test involves injection of allergens such as mold and pollen into the horse's skin. The dermatologist looks for skin reactions (wheals or hives) and measures them for several hours after injection. The largest wheals indicate which allergens should be used in hyposensitization injections. Usually this test is performed on the side of the horse's neck, and the hair is clipped in an area about the same size as a regular sheet of paper. Horses to be tested should not be treated with corticosteroids or antihistamines for several weeks prior to allow for more reliable results.

Allergy testing using serum has not been shown to be as reliable as IDAT. This is unfortunate because these blood tests are very convenient. The most significant problem with serum allergy testing is that the antibodies (IgE) that are most important for allergic reactions are more abundant in the skin than in the blood. IgE antibodies in the skin are found on mast cells that burst and cause the redness, pain, swelling, and itching that occurs when the antibody encounters its allergen. These are the reactions that are evaluated during an IDAT, and the test is based on this principle.

Food allergies in horses are confounded by allergy tests that often show hypersensitivity to something the horse commonly eats. Clinical signs of food allergy include hives, itchiness, and possible self-trauma due to scratching. The only dependable method to test for food allergy is to completely remove the suspected food allergen from the horse's diet for 4-8 weeks and to observe for a decrease in itching or hives.

If a specific food allergen cannot be pinpointed, a practical way to begin a food-allergy trial is to remove concentrates (grain or pellets) and all supplements from the horse's diet. Ideally, if the horse responds well, then the suspected allergenic feed is fed again to see if clinical signs return. However, few owners are willing to challenge the horse, especially if it has improved with dietary change. Allergic horses are usually also sensitive to insect bites and inhaled allergens such as mold spores and pollen. Insect control and avoidance are essential.

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## Introducing Horses to Spring Pasture

By Krishona Martinson, PhD, U of M

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It is tempting to turn horses out into spring pastures at the first sight of green grass, especially after a long winter. However, spring grazing should be introduced slowly and delayed until grasses reach 6 to 8" in height to optimize both the health of the horse and pasture. When horse pastures reach 6 to 8", begin grazing 15 minutes the first day, increasing the grazing time each day by 15 minutes until 4 to 5 hours of consecutive grazing is reached. After that, unrestricted or continuous grazing can resume. Why is this recommendation so important?

### **Change feedstuffs gradually.**

Even though hay and pasture are both forms of forages, there are significant differences. Dried hay is approximately 15% moisture compared to fresh pasture that is 85% moisture. A gradual change from one feedstuff to another provides enough time for the microbial populations to adjust, reduce the chance of colic and laminitis.

### **Pasture Health.**

Pasture grasses need sufficient growth before grazing is allowed. Photosynthesis (the process of converting solar energy to chemical energy) occurs mainly within the leaves of plants. If leaves are grazed too early (prior to 6" tall) or too often, plants can lose vigor, competitiveness, and root structure due to the lack of photosynthetic ability. This will lead to eventual die back of desired forages and these areas being replaced by undesirable plant species or weeds. Grazing should cease when forages have been grazed down to 3 to 4 inches. At this time, move horses to another paddock or a dry lot. Grazing can resume when grasses re-grow to 6 to 8". On average, 2 to 3 acres of well-managed pasture can provide the forage needs for one horse from spring to fall.

Following these recommendations will help ensure both horse and pasture health.

## Stall Rest: How to Stay Sane

By Erin Malone, DVM, University of Minnesota

Your vet has prescribed stall rest. You know it is needed; however, you can only envision the worst: a restless unhappy horse, a destroyed stall, dangerous hand walking, angry looks from the barn manager, and lost sleep. Is the cure worse than the disease? For some horses, it definitely seems that way.

### Stall rest is a necessary evil

Horses are not great at self-protection. They aren't even good at self-protection. The tendon may be healing nicely during the summer months when everyone is too hot to do more than mosey to the next patch of grass. But when a nice cool autumn afternoon arrives, off they go; galloping, cart wheeling, bucking and kicking. Unfortunately the tendon isn't ready for more than a gentle walk and you are back to the beginning. Optimum healing requires controlled exercise to minimize re-injury. To get your horse back to work, you are often facing a combination of stall rest and hand walking. The following suggestions may help you both survive.

### Natural lighting and fresh air makes us all feel better

Stalls come in many shapes and sizes. In general, stall rest means limited movement or no trotting. It will be important to know the exact limitations required for your horse. If he is wearing a cast, movement is discouraged. For most conditions, walking would be acceptable and the stall rest is designed to keep them at a quieter pace. Consider outdoor stalls or pens the size of stalls. Can you add windows to an indoor stall? Can your horse have a stall near a low traffic door instead of the back corner of the barn? Near the wash stalls or farrier area so there is always something to watch? Keep in mind your horse's needs. Some need more activity while others prefer some down time. If traffic means all the horses pass by on their way outside while leaving your horse behind, that might be more damaging to your horses morale than helpful.

### Misery loves company

Visitors are allowed. Can another horse stay inside as well? If need be, the companion horse can be a different one each day. No other horses? How about a pet? Horses can do well with a friend, like chickens and goats to share the stall. People work as pets too. Can the other people in the barn stop by and say hi as often as possible? Is there a girl scout troop that wants to get their horsemanship badge by practicing grooming your horse? Or a 4-H group that can practice taking vital signs using the "patient"?

### Fly feeding frenzy

Bugs like barns. Without a nice breeze or a companion's tail, they can be more bothersome than usual. Add boredom to that and they can quickly drive your patient crazy. Fans, fly sheets and repellants can help minimize the annoyance.

### Boredom busters

Many horses learn new skills by entertaining themselves. You might want to pick the skills versus having your horse learn to untie your shoelaces. Think like a zoo; while your horse may not find fish frozen in ice cubes a delicious snacks, is there a way to make him work for his treat? Toys to pick on can be another way to relieve frustrations. Stuffed animals, playground balls and traffic cones can work, along with official horse toys. Music and unbreakable mirrors can also be soothing to some horses.

### Better living through chemistry

There are drugs available to help calm anxious horses. Some of the anti-anxiety drugs have the opposite effects in a subpopulation of horses, so check with your veterinarian on all medications. Reserpine is a human drug that is often used for horse sedation; the main side effect is diarrhea but it isn't common. There are other products that are reported to help (B vitamins, magnesium sulfate, herbal combinations) and may be worth evaluating. Check with your veterinarian first, particularly if your horse is on other medications as they can interact and almost all are dangerous if overdosed.

### Stall rest not stall restricted

If your horse doesn't have a fracture or isn't wearing a cast, ask about hand walking. Horses can often be hand walked or hand grazed. If he is acting up or is too dangerous, consider having someone else walk him or walk with a buddy. Have a friend walk a calm horse with you to show him how it is done. If he is doing well, others may be able to take him out additional times. Is there a mom that would be happy to stand with him during a kid's lesson or maybe he can even stand in the middle of the arena with the instructor? As you get further into rehabilitation, you may even be able to pony him or ride him at a walk. Riding your calm, stable older horse while leading your resting horse means all three of you can go on a trail ride.

### Watch the diet

Don't forget to adjust the diet based upon the change in activity. Your horse probably doesn't need many calories to maintain his weight while on stall rest. If he needs to gain weight, try to limit carbohydrates. They add energy and will likely increase the restlessness. Try to use fat calories. These allow horses to gain weight more readily and tend to have a calming effect. Furthermore, eating is a good activity. Use lower energy grass hay as the primary staple of the diet and try to ensure he has some in front of him at all times. Hay nets can help make it a little more effort and can slow down the process. Don't forget to use a ration balancer to ensure he is getting the vitamins and minerals he needs for proper healing.

### Worth waiting for

Keep him on a schedule as much as possible and keep his routine as close to normal as possible. Did you usually groom him in the crossties prior to a ride? No need to change that part, he can still be groomed there. Regular activities help the time pass faster.

### Kill two birds with one stone

Is there ground training you have been wanting to do but haven't had time? How about getting him used to driving reins or other obstacles? Maybe now is the time to teach him to ground tie? These are good challenges for his mind, and will result in a new skill(s).

Ready to limbo? While stall rest can help injured tissues heal, it can stress other tissues. Muscles and joints get stiff, especially in older horses with arthritis. Massage can help keep the joints limber and it feels good.

*Stall Rest--continued on page 8*



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## AHC National Issues Forum to Focus on New Tenor in Congress

The American Horse Council has announced that the theme for this year's National Issues Forum is "Congress on a Diet: What It Means for the Horse Industry."

This year's National Issues Forum will be held June 21 in Washington, DC during the AHC's annual meeting. The annual meeting will run from June 19-22 at the Washington Court Hotel and also include an update on the national equine health initiative, the Congressional Reception and the annual Congressional Ride-In. This year's meeting will also see the return of the AHC's Breed Roundtable, a popular event that brings together leaders of horse associations to discuss common issues of importance to the industry.

The AHC's various committees, including the Unwanted Horse Coalition, will also meet to discuss issues affecting the equine community.

"The highlight of this year's forum will be presentations from Members of Congress, staff and federal regulatory agencies on the new fiscal realities in Washington. They will discuss how Congress' efforts to deal with the country's deficits may result in cut-backs to federal programs and spending that could affect the horse industry," said AHC president Jay Hickey. "There is a new paradigm in Washington that will affect all American industries, including the horse industry."

As part of this year's annual meeting, the American Horse Council is hosting a Breed Roundtable. This event was an important part of previous AHC annual meetings and allowed leaders of horse organizations involved in various disciplines to visit with each other and discuss issues of common concern. The AHC Board of Trustees believes it is important to reinstitute the Breed Roundtable this year because of the important issues facing the horse industry.

Welfare issues, disease outbreaks, unwanted horses, and public relations are all concerns. The number of people purchasing horses and participating in the industry is down. As the country emerges from the economic downturn, many horse associations are wrestling not only with how to bring back people who have left the industry but also how to attract new owners, new participants, and new members. The Breed Roundtable will provide an opportunity for industry executives to discuss these issues across breeds and disciplines and learn from each other.

There will also be an update on the national equine health initiative. "This initiative resulted from the USDA-AHC hosted workshop at last year's National Issues Forum, which provided an opportunity for the horse industry, key federal and state

*AHC National Issues Forum--continued on page 8*

## The 2011 Horse Owners and Breeders Tax Handbook is Now Available!

The American Horse Council is pleased to announce that the new, up-to-date 2011 Horse Owners and Breeders Tax Handbook is hot off the presses! No one involved with the horse industry should be without the Horse Owners and Breeders Tax Handbook.

Topics covered in the Handbook include:

- ◆ Business versus hobby-including summaries of important court decisions
- ◆ Passive loss rules
- ◆ Forms of doing business
- ◆ Record keeping and accounting rules
- ◆ Sales, Exchanges and Involuntary conversions
- ◆ Depreciation
- ◆ Much more!

This two-volume edition has everything you need to know pertaining to tax laws for your equine business. Volume One explains the Internal Revenue Code as it relates to a horse business, and Volume Two includes court cases involving horse owners and breeders that have had dealings with the IRS, both favorable and unfavorable. "The Horse Owners and Breeders Tax Handbook is an essential element of a federal tax library for practitioners serving the horse industry," explains Paul Husband of Husband Law in Universal City, CA. The cost for the two-volume printed edition of the Tax Handbook is \$95 plus shipping and handling.

For the first time ever, the Handbook will be available as a CD. No more toting the two volumes around with you while you're traveling. This CD will fit in your carry-on and won't take up much room on your shelves. The cost for the CD edition of the Tax Handbook is \$75 plus shipping and handling.

Looking for a specific topic? Find it easily! The CD has a search function to lead you directly to the subject you're looking for. Not only is the CD now available, but it is being offered as a special package deal with the books for only \$135 plus shipping and handling!

Written by Thomas A. "Tad" Davis of Davis & Harman in Washington DC, this is the most current and informative source on equine tax laws on the market. Mr. Davis is the guru of equine tax law. He has represented private clients for years in this area and has worked as the tax counsel for the American Horse Council for 40 years!

You won't want to be without this Handbook and CD. "The Tax Handbook is a concise and go to resource for those involved with equine tax related issues," said Douglas P. Romaine of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC in Lexington, KY. Call the AHC to get your copies today! You can reach the AHC online at [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org) or by calling 202-296-4031.

## Following the Horse's Motion at the Walk

by Nancy Wesolek-Sterrett, Head of Dressage Department, Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre

Following the horse's motion is a prerequisite to using your aids correctly to influence your horse. Strong yet relaxed muscles are a prerequisite to following the motion. Your lower back and abdomen need the support of firm core muscles so that your hips can follow the movement of your horse's hips with an upward tipping or swinging motion. You need a balance between hamstring strength and hip flexor stretch to achieve the long, relaxed thigh muscles that allow your hips to tip. Simultaneously, all of your lower body joints must stay relaxed and flexible. Any tension in knees or ankles will also lock your hips, leaving you bouncing in the saddle.

Achieving the complementary strength and stretch from hips to toes that allows you to follow the swing of your horse's hips requires many hours in the saddle. Start by developing a feel for a 'neutral' hip position at the halt. Your spine should be straight, your back flat. If your lower back is arched, your hips are tipped forward. If your lower back is rounded, your hips are tipped backwards. Your ear, shoulder, hip and heel should align perpendicularly to the ground.

As he moves forward in a four-beat walk, try to feel the forward and backward swing of your horse's hips. As his hind foot leaves the ground, your hip on that side will feel a slight 'up and forward' lift. As the hind foot hits the ground to swing forward again, your hip on that side will feel a slight 'down and back' drop. Relax your hips and allow them to swing with the horse's hips.

Try to maintain a long, relaxed thigh. If you grip with your thighs, it will be hard to feel and find the swing of the horse's back as his hips move 'up and forward' or 'down and back.' Close your eyes and focus on this feel as your seat bones move with the horse's hip swings.

As your hips follow these forward swings left and right, try not to 'sit left' and 'sit right'. These seat pressures will shorten the horse's stride and slow the walk. Without any muscular tension, allow the left hip to swing forward followed by a right hip swing forward to encourage a forward, marching walk. Most people can eventually feel and follow the horse's motion at the walk. The walk does not have a moment of suspension so the rider never bounces and, therefore, does not feel the need to grip with the thigh to hold her position.

Once you find and can follow this swinging motion at walk without any interference that slows your horse down, try to push him more forward by moving your hips faster or 'bigger'. This exercise helps you discover which muscles control your ability to swing your hips, something that will become even more important when you try to follow the horse's motion at the trot.

When you can successfully use your hips to push your horse into a more forward walk, (you might have to help the 'forward' with leg as well as seat) try pushing him right into the trot by exaggerating your hip motion even more. Do not stop swinging your hips as the horse moves into the trot. At first, you may only get the swing at the trot for a moment or two before you start to grip and lose the feeling of it. Go back to the walk and try the exercise again.

The point of this exercise is to gain a feel for how to move your hips at the trot by using the same swing as in the walk, with a few adjustments. The horse's hip swing at the trot is essentially the same as it is at the walk (with the exception of the moment of suspension). So, if you can exaggerate your hip motion at the walk until the horse feels like trotting—then hold that feeling without gripping—you will be able to follow the horse's motion at the trot as well as at the walk.

The 'frog position' helps you get your seat in the middle of the saddle with equal weight on both seat bones. It also helps you to feel how to keep your pelvis tucked under (that is, taking the hollow out of your back). It demonstrates how it feels when the rider opens and closes her hip and knee joints without gripping with the thigh. Start at the halt with your feet out of the stirrups. Draw your knees upward while keeping your back straight. You should feel equal weight in both seat bones. If your horse swings his head to the left or right to adjust his balance, your weight is probably uneven.

Now ask someone to lead your horse forward at a walk. As the horse moves forward, raise your knees again. If your horse slows its walk, the weight in your seat bones is probably burdening without moving. Continue to focus on relaxing and following the swing of the horse's hips as they move forward while you try to keep your knees up.

The 'dog position' is an exercise that can help riders who tend to grip with their thighs or who may not be able to feel what a 'neutral' position feels like. It can also help riders feel their horse's rhythm and the motion of the joints. With your feet out of the stirrups, alternately lift one leg away from the saddle, then the other, then both legs. Do this at the halt and, again, with someone leading your horse forward at the walk.

When you can follow the swing of the horse's back in a relaxed, 'neutral' position without interfering with the horse's rhythm or forward motion, you become capable of using your seat as an aid to communicate subtleties of direction and speed to the horse. You are on your way to truly influencing your horse with perfect clarity.

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### GREAT Minnesota Horse Expo!

Our thanks to the volunteers who worked through rain and yes, the occasional snowflake. To the speakers, clinicians, technicians, State Fair employees, booth vendors, security, PRCA rodeo staff/stock contractors, and sponsors - wow! Fantastic execution of the three day event! We appreciate those that attended who've come every year and those new to the MN Horse Expo. And to the magnificent horses (and their loving owners) who represented so well in the arena, the barn and in the crowded streets of Expo. Thank you!

*AHC National Issues Forum--continued from page 6*

authorities, and others to discuss a coordinated approach to the handling of serious infectious equine diseases that threaten the health of our horses and the commercial health of the industry," said Hickey.

These outbreaks affect the interstate and international movement of horses, which is critical to the horse industry. When barriers to movement are raised by states and foreign countries concerned about the spread of infectious diseases, this affects sales, breeding, racing, competitions and recreation.

The annual Congressional Ride-In will occur on Wednesday, June 22. The Ride-In allows members of the horse community to meet with their elected representatives and their federal officials to discuss important issues affecting them. All members of the horse community are encouraged to participate, even if you don't attend the AHC convention. "The Ride-In puts a face on the \$102 billion horse industry and the millions of Americans who are part of it," said Hickey. "The most effective way to affect Congress is through the voters, the horse people from back home who can tell Congress first hand about the horse industry in their respective states and districts and the issues that impact them."

The AHC will conduct a free briefing for Ride-In participants. Anyone wishing to participate in the Ride-In should contact AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass at [bpendergrass@horsecouncil.org](mailto:bpendergrass@horsecouncil.org) or 202-296-4031.

More information on these Forums and the entire AHC annual meeting, including registration and hotel information can be found on the AHC's website, <http://horsecouncil.org/events.php> or by contacting the AHC.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Minnesota Horse Council would like to welcome the following new members:

Lori Elwood ♦ Fort Ripley, MN

Robin Gravdahl ♦ Pillager, MN

Bob & Ginger Johnson ♦ Sauk Rapids, MN

Kathy Mathiasen ♦ Clearwater, MN

Robert McDuffee ♦ Aldrich, MN

Cheri J. Morgan ♦ Brainerd, MN

Lorry & Kevin Parrish ♦ Motley, MN

Shannon Polinder ♦ Hillman, MN

Bob & Holly Welch ♦ Fort Ripley, MN

*Stall Rest--continued from page 5*

Have your vet show you some stretching exercises to maintain joint range of motion and mobility. You do need to ensure that all exercises are safe concerning your horse's injury. With some regular work, he may be more limber when you finish the recovery than when he started. While you are at it, ask for extra bedding. The extra cushion can really help when standing around all day and make laying down much more comfortable.

Consider a rehabilitation farm. One way to make sure your horse isn't the only one on stall rest is to board at a rehabilitation facility. These barns are used to the restrictions, and there is usually a lot of company inside. Sometimes the new environment helps make the transition easier. Plus, the staff will be better able to withstand the sad looks from the horse and can better follow the veterinarian's instructions.

Still frustrated? Talk to your veterinarian. There may be a middle ground that is safer for your horse than strict stall rest or total turnout. Don't forget to monitor his health. Changes in activity make a horse more prone to colics and stall rest can make them more prone to stomach ulcers. Be sure to monitor his manure, appetite and attitude closely and consider a stomach protectant. Watch the barn ventilation as well; make sure the bedding is cleaned frequently and good airflow exists to minimize the risk of respiratory irritants. Don't forget to take care of yourself; ask a friend to assist you or hire a competent person to give you a break from the caretaker role!

Transitioning out. When the stall rest is over, try to minimize any risk of reinjury on turnout. Your horse has lost some condition, is likely to be overexcited and may need to reassert his role in the herd. Consider not feeding the horses until they are outside, this will give them something else to think about. Turn out with one or two buddies vs. the whole herd or perhaps sedate the horse at first (acepromazine can work well to help mellow out the return the first few days). Turn out during the heat of the day when everyone moves a little slower and supervise turnout. Finally, make sure to start with just a few hours. You can pull the horse back in if it is too exciting and don't turn out into a lush pasture due to the risk of laminitis. Start small; the arena or small paddock may be better than the back 40 acres. Avoid round pens or paddocks with rounded corners as they tend to encourage running in circles which is hard on a healthy body, much less one that is out of shape. Corners tend to make a horse stop.

Rebuild slowly. Don't forget he has lost muscle tone and can't do as much as he used to right away. Keep up your stretching exercises and avoid repetition until he has his strength back. Unless you are working with a specialized rehabilitation program (i.e. aquatreadmill) or found a way to keep his muscles toned during the layup, plan on at least 3 months of gradual return to work, longer if he was stall rested for more than 3 weeks. Rechecking radiographs and ultrasound are often useful to ensure you are moving as fast as possible without causing reinjury.

With patience, time and attention to details, you will give your best friend the best chance of coming back as good as new!

*Reprinted from the January, February, and March issues of the U of M Horse Newsletter.*

**MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES - March 8, 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, Judy Jensen, Dave Fleishhaker, Carol Dobbelaire

**Absent:** Dawn Moore

**Members/Visitors:** Jean Fredlund, Allison Ecklund, Tim Wampfler, Rick Dobbelaire

**I. Meeting called to order:** 6:31 PM 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**

Trina Joyce added Dakota County VoTech to New Business. Jennifer Willey added an Expo announcement to New Business. Marian Robinson added Certified Rescues to New Business.

**IV. Tracy Turner appointed committee chairs to the MHC committees.** Corrections were made to the committee list for 2011. The administrative assistant will update the list and send electronically to the directors.

**V. Treasurer's Report** for March was distributed by Tim Bonham. Total assets: \$808,677.15 with net available funds of \$416,335.60. Glen Eaton motioned to accept the February treasurer's report as presented. Mark Ward seconded, motion carries.

**VI. Approval of Minutes** - Glen Eaton requested a typo on page three that referenced a deposit being made for the annual meeting date in 2011 be altered to read 2012. Tim Bonham moved to accept the February minutes as corrected. Glen Eaton seconded, motion passed.

**VII. Secretary's Report** - Dawn Moore absent, no report.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS****COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Expo** - Glen Eaton reported: With the 2011 Minnesota Horse Expo just seven weeks away everything is in ship shape. Ads are coming in for the program and requests for vendor space and horse stalls have increased and it looks like we will sell out of vendor booths and stalls. Promotion is in high gear with promotion in Equine journals and newspapers. Posters will be in tack stores and anywhere we can put them. Speakers are mostly booked with Richard Shrake, Pat Parelli, Tommy Garland, Lainie DeBoer, Gary Lane and many more local and some national speakers to be booked. The Expo trailer will be pulled from the storage locker on Tuesday before Expo with setup starting at 8:00 Wednesday morning. Some help will be needed to get the trailer from the storage locker. Wristbands are being used this year in place of tickets. EVERYONE on Expo grounds will have to be wearing a wristband. The next Expo meeting is March 29th at Byerly's conference room in St. Louis Park.

**B. Direct Funding** - Mark Ward reported: The committee has received three applications:

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

Victory Riders, \$500 to apply to the cost of developing a web site.

Agape Riding Center, \$500 to cover cost of various standard tack items to be used in their program.

I will be contacting the applicants within a few days after tonight's meeting and after our committee's decision has been made. I also am working on an update to the Direct Funding committee's rules and procedures, and after committee review and approval, I will bring the new plan before the board for its approval.

**C. Communications** - Missie Schwartz reported the committee would like to remind the directors the deadline for submissions is this Friday. A suggestion was made to welcome new members by a notice in the newsletter that mentions them. Discussion followed. The directors decided the inclusion would be nice and Missie Schwartz and Andrea Dubay will work on this project. Missie Schwartz requested any thank you cards received be forwarded on to her as she would like to create a scrapbook for people to see at the Expo.

**D. Disaster** - Marian Robinson advised she has sent an email to horse owners/interested persons regarding the upcoming flood season and preparedness issues. Marian Robinson has been in contact with a representative from the AHS regarding the corral panels they are storing as they may be needed to contain animal affected by flooding. A Grand Rapids radio station (KAXE) has requested a live interview for their show "All Things Equine." The interview will focus on the flooding crisis and air on March 22 at 8:40AM. The Salvation Army will begin providing meals and hydration in the city of Stillwater March 8-25. They may begin serving other cities as the sandbagging efforts begin.

**E. Legislative** - Tracy Turner reported the bill to make horses be treated like all other livestock is through the House and is in the Senate. The next stop would be the tax committee or the Ag Omnibus bill. Carol Dobbelaire moved the MHC draft a letter to the MN State legislature encouraging them to include the same language as is being drafted for police dogs. Note: Legislation being considered would allow police dogs who are injured on duty to be eligible for restitution. Tim Bonham seconded. Motion carries. Tracy Turner will draft the letter.

**F. Budget Review (Expo)** - Darrell Mead will have a meeting with the committee prior to, and report on this at, the April meeting of the MHC.

**G. Certified Stables** - Sue McDonough advised the Certified Stable Program continues to grow. There are 73 Certified Stables. There is one request in 2011 for becoming certified. Re-inspections will be set up for 2011. Re-inspections will be scheduled so that interested individuals can see the process used to accomplish this. Sue McDonough is working with Andrea and Tim to bring Certified Stable list current with paid membership fees. Reminders have been mailed and phone calls will follow by committee members. Discussion followed on trying to increase the number of Certified Stables.

**H. Coalition of the State Horse Councils** - Glen Eaton reported: The conference call that was called by Jay Hickey on Tuesday, February 15 took place. Much was discussed in a 45-minute meeting mostly on finances. Everything is coming together and we will be meeting in Washington in June.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Racino** - Tracy Turner advised an announcement regarding the Racino was due to be presented today. This announcement has been delayed. One percent of revenue per year would be dedicated back to the non-racing Equine community of the state of MN. The MHC is being considered as a possible organization to distribute these funds. Discussion followed. Tim Bonham moved to reaffirm the MHC's support of the Racino bill and redistribution of funds to Equine endeavors throughout the state of MN. Carol Dobbelaire seconded, discussion followed. Motion carries. Note: Sue McDonough and Marian Robinson abstained from voting on this issue.

**B. Two-Five-Ten Year Plans for MHC** - Tracy Turner asked committees to create a two, five and ten year plan for their respective committees.

**C. Dakota County VoTech** - Trina Joyce advised the agriculture program has been dismantled.

*MHC March Minutes--continued on page 10*

## Guidelines Help Former Racehorses Go From Track to New Careers



The American Association of Equine Practitioners has developed guidelines to help veterinarians and adoption groups successfully transition retired racehorses to new homes and new careers. "Transitioning the Retired Racehorse: Guidelines for Equine Practitioners, Adoption Organizations and Horse Owners" provides an overview of the common physical challenges affecting some former racehorses and helps establish expectations for a horse's future capabilities.

Developed by the Transitioning Subcommittee of the AAEP Racing Committee, the guidelines grew from a need expressed by rescue and retirement organizations at the 2010 Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit. In addition to criteria for physical assessments, the guidelines include estimated cost-of-care data from CANTER, a non-profit organization that provides retiring Thoroughbred racehorses with opportunities for new careers.

"The AAEP is pleased to assist and is proud of the many veterinarians and adoption groups who are committed to helping racehorses enjoy new careers," said William A. Moyer, DVM, 2011 AAEP president. "The guide is intended to be a resource to enhance decision making in the best interest of the horse."

The guidelines are available on the AAEP website at <http://www.aaep.org/images/files/TransitioningGuidelines2011.pdf>. Members of the AAEP's Transitioning Subcommittee are Reynolds Cowles, DVM, chair; Jay Addison, DVM; Foster Northrop, DVM; Mary Scollay, DVM; John Stick, DVM; and Carol Swandby, VMD.

### MHC March Minutes--continued from page 9

**D. Certified Rescues** - Sue McDonough motioned to remove the two certified rescues from our website. Marian Robinson seconded, discussion followed. Carol Dobbelaire called the question and requested a vote via paper ballot. Board moved to call the question and proceed with a paper ballot. The results of the voting were a 10 to 6 vote to leave the rescues listed as previous. A disclaimer was added to the Certified Rescue List to let those reading know the MHC does not endorse any rescue on that list.

**E. Expo Announcement** - Jennifer Willey has promotional boards for several of the committees for the trade shows. She asked that any committee chair wanting their information updated to get those changes to her as soon as possible. Tracy Turner asked that Jennifer Willey be the lead person to run the MHC booth at the 2011 MN Horse Expo. Jennifer Willey accepted this appointment.

#### Announcements:

March 11th is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

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

**NEXT MEETING**- April 12, 2011 ♦ 6:30 PM  
University of MN ♦ Leatherdale Equine Center

## 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

View [www.mnhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mnhorsecouncil.org) and  
[www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.org](http://www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.org) for additional events

### MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MEETINGS

Leatherdale Equine 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

Editors: Linda Dahl and Missie Schwartz

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*For Horse's Sake* is the official newsletter of the Minnesota Horse Council (MHC). Statements appearing in *For Horse's Sake* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the MHC. To reprint any material published in *For Horse's Sake*, please notify MHC of your intentions. Full credit needs to be given to the author. Articles of relevance to the equine industry are earnestly solicited. The Minnesota Horse Council is a non-profit member-supported volunteer organization representing all equine disciplines and breeds in Minnesota's equine livestock industry.

Please e-mail or send potential articles to:

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39257 Taray Road ♦ Pine River, MN 56474  
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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](http://www.minnesotahorsemensdirectory.com)



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

## 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

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### **Minnesota Horse Council**

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Plato, MN 55370

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