

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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Minnesota Horse Council Offers Scholarships, Grants, Funding & Awards

The Minnesota Horse Council announces several funding programs available this year. These are made possible by the success of the Minnesota Horse Expo.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The 25th annual MHC/Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarships are offered for both high school seniors and undergrads, and for grad students (considered separately), to be used toward education that would further the applicant's career in and contributions to the horse industry in Minnesota. Applications are due by November 1st. At least ten \$2000 scholarships will be presented at the MHC annual meeting next January. For more info, contact Trina Joyce at 612-729-7798 or TrinaJoyce@earthlink.net for questions.

GRANTS

A maximum of \$7,000 is given to Minnesota charitable/non-profit equine-related organizations as 'seed money' to inspire new projects or capital improvements, or for expansions of existing projects or services. Applications are due by October 1st. Grants are presented at the MHC annual meeting next January. Funds will be paid out as your project progresses. Contact Tim Bonham at 612-721-1007 or T-Bonham@scc.net for info.

DIRECT FUNDING

The Minnesota Horse Council offers direct funding assistance (up to \$500) to any non-profit horse related organization that develops or organizes any public clinic, program activity, or publication that advances the goals of the Minnesota Horse Council. Applications accepted at any time during the year, responses generally within 30 days. Contact: Mark Ward at 651-436-6557, or MarkWard@windyridgeranch.com.

HORSEPERSON OF THE YEAR

Each year, MHC honors someone as the "Minnesota Horseperson of the Year," and places his or her photo in the Horseman's Hall of Fame at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. The Council is seeking nominations of people for this award. This person should be an outstanding person in the horse industry -- someone who stands above the rest for long-term contributions to many areas of equine activity. Nominations are accepted all year, but must be received by November 1st to be considered this year. The person selected will be announced at the MHC annual meeting next January. Contact: Dawn Moore, dmoore834@comcast.net, 952-949-6659 with any questions.

PIONEER AWARD

This award is given to a deceased person who was a Minnesota horse pioneer--someone who led others to horses. Nominations are due by March 1st each year. Contact: Dawn Moore, dmoore834@comcast.net, 952-949-6659.

Further info about any of these programs, including application info, is available from:

- the Minnesota Horse Council web page at www.MnHorseCouncil.org
- by writing to Minnesota Horse Council, P.O. Box 223, Plato, MN 55370-0223



MEET THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION HORSE TEAM

HORSE TEAM MEMBERS

Mission

Provides unbiased, research based information to Minnesota horse owners, focusing on horse care, facilities, health, forages and manure management that will increase the knowledge of horse owners and improve the quality of care for horses and their habitat in Minnesota.

Tom Bartholomay
University of Minnesota
Extension Evaluation Specialist

Ron Del Vecchio, PhD
Dept of Animal Science & Head
of UM Crookston Ag Dept

Betsy Gilkerson
Hennepin County Extension
Educator

Marcia Hathaway, PhD
Professor
Dept of Animal Science

Alicia M. Johnson
Director of Vet Outreach
Programs

Scott Madill, DVM
College of Veterinary Medicine
Veterinary Population Medicine

Erin Malone, DVM
College of Veterinary Medicine

Krishona Martinson, PhD
Horse Team Chairperson
Regional Extension Educator

ADawn Melbye
UM-Crookston

Roger Moon, PhD
U of MN Entomology

Brenda Postels
Local Extension Educator

Stephanie Valberg, DVM
Director of U of M Equine
Center

Christie Ward, DVM
Coord-Undergrad Equine Minor
College of Veterinary Medicine

Kelly Vallandingham
Community Liaison – UMEC

Horse Team member roles include:

- ◆ Attend and actively participate in tri-annual horse team meetings
- ◆ Provide vision for the horse program
- ◆ Author research-based fact sheets and e-newsletter articles
- ◆ Present researched-based information at regional and local horse owner programs
- ◆ Conduct research on issues important to Minnesota horse owners
- ◆ Help identify funding sources (grants and sponsorships) for horse owner programs
- ◆ Help identify new delivery methods for extension programs
- ◆ Help identify problems (needs assessments) and provide solutions for positive behavioral changes
- ◆ Help evaluate Horse Extension programs and products



For Speaking & Program Needs:

Krishona Martinson
Statewide Equine Specialist, St. Paul
1364 Eckles Ave., 205 Haecker Hall
St. Paul, MN 55108
612-625-6776
krishona@umn.edu

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Role:

Assist in the evaluation of needs assessments and maintain communication with the MN horse community. The equine discussion group also assists the Horse Team with planning the vision and direction of the Horse Program, including identifying new partners and funding opportunities.

Julie Christie (Rep from RCTC
sits on the Committee)
Rochester Community & Tech.
College

Tracy Turner, DVM (President
of MAEP Sits on Committee)
President MN Assn. of Equine
Practitioners
Anoka Equine Veterinary
Services

Sue Kelly, Cargill

Jon Koeberl, Big Gain Inc.

Thomas N. Tweeten, PhD
Tweeten Edgewood Stables and
Minnesota Horse Council



Equine Advisory Committee member roles include:

- ◆ Attend and actively participate in tri-annual horse team meetings
- ◆ Provide a source of objective, external feedback and well-constructed, positive solutions to current and futures problems and issues
- ◆ Serve as outside reviewers for proposals and publications
- ◆ Act as a vital sounding board for ideas and decisions
- ◆ Become advocates for the mission of the U of M Horse Program and Team

ADVISORY COMMITTEE EMERITUS

Pam Adams, DVM
Misty Valley Equine

Harlan Anderson, DVM
Idle Acres

Ryan Carpenter
Hay Producer

Abby Duncanson
Barn and Breeding Manager
Indigo Acres

Ron Genrick
Feed Mill Express & Assurance Feeds

Roy Johnson
Cargill Animal Nutrition

Kim Otterson

Missie Schwartz
MN Horse Council
Tucker Road Stables

Don Wick
Horse Sense Radio

Emeritis Equine Advisory Committee member roles include:

- ◆ Be advocates for the mission of the U of M Horse Program and Team
- ◆ Serve as outside reviewers for proposals and publications
- ◆ Act as a vital sounding board for ideas and decisions
- ◆ Attend and participate in tri-annual horse team meetings (no longer voting members)

To have your horse related questions answered:
Farm Information Line
800-232-9077

Finding the Right Instructor

by Faith Meredith, Director
Meredith Manor International Equestrian Centre

Finding the right instructor is essential if a rider wants positive, satisfying, and safe equestrian experiences. The "best" riding instructor may be a very different person for different riders. It is an adult student's responsibility to choose an instructor that suits her current level of ability and her goals.

Choosing a riding instructor is as personal a decision as choosing your doctor. The first step is clearly defining your objective:

- ◆ Are you just beginning to ride and want to learn solid, basic skills you can use for any riding discipline?
- ◆ Are you returning to riding after a period of years and want an assessment of your current riding skills?
- ◆ Are you riding already but want to change riding disciplines?
- ◆ Are you riding already but want to improve your skills or work on specific problems?

Being clear about your riding goals right from the start will not only help you evaluate the suitability of different riding instructors but will also help any instructor understand your expectations. If your goal is to excel in a particular equestrian sport, you will want an instructor with a successful background in that sport, one who knows how to develop and challenge her students so that they can be competitive in the show ring. If your goal is to ride confidently and safely while enjoying nature from the back of a horse as you head out on trails, you would probably seek out a very different type of instructor.

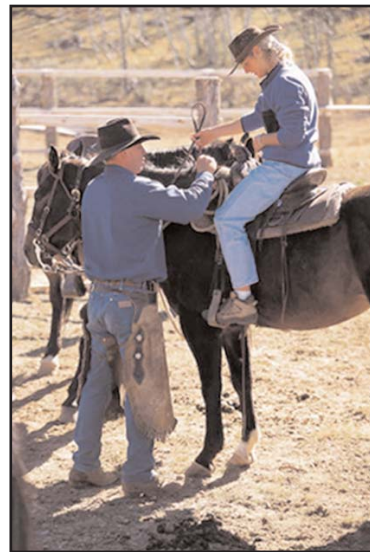
The second step is making a short list of the instructors available to you. For most people, geography and economics are important considerations in choosing an instructor. They want an instructor who is reasonably close by and also within their budget. Beyond these basics, however, you need ways to judge an instructor's competence or suitability. Unfortunately, there are no foolproof benchmarks. For example, someone who is a successful competitor may not necessarily have good teaching and communication skills. Similarly, a university degree or recognition by an accrediting organization may offer assurance that the instructor has solid teacher training but does not necessarily tell potential clients anything about their actual riding ability. Ideally, you want to find someone who has both sets of skills.

So the third step involves visiting each of the facilities on your short list and watching a lesson so you can make an informed choice. Take a notebook along so you can jot down information about the program's nuts and bolts such as available lesson packages, lesson times, the number of students in a class, cancellation policies, whether riders are expected to tack up their own horses, etc. Observe the barn routine and riding classes thoughtfully and write down your observations for later review. As you watch, ask these questions:

- ◆ Is the barn safety conscious? All equipment should be clean and in good repair. Hard hats should be required, even in Western barns. Ask if anyone at the barn is trained in first aid and if the barn has an established plan for handling medical emergencies.

- ◆ Are there lesson horses suitable for all levels of riders: beginners through advanced? Riding a variety of horses helps students develop their skills. As students' skills increase, horses with more advanced training should be available to help them progress.

- ◆ Are there classes available for all levels and ages of riders? If you are an adult beginner will you ride with other adults? If available adult classes include riders of varying abilities, will you be satisfied if others in the class are more or less advanced than you are?



- ◆ Are things running on schedule? Are horses ready, equipment set up, and the instructor prepared? Both instructors and students should respect one another's time commitments for a smooth relationship.

- ◆ Is the instructor professionally dressed? A sloppy appearance may indicate a poor attitude or lack of care in preparing for lessons.

- ◆ Does the instructor act in a friendly yet businesslike manner toward students? How do the other students act towards the instructor and one another? A professional instructor should consciously work to develop a sociable and welcoming atmosphere at their facility.

- ◆ Does the instructor adequately assess students' ability levels in assigning horses and selecting exercises for the class to work on? Students who are over mounted can quickly become fearful. Those who are under mounted may become bored.

- ◆ Does the instructor work from a lesson plan? Does she have an objective for each lesson and each student in the class? Or does the class mill around for 15 or 20 minutes before everyone decides what they are going to work on that day. A good lesson plan includes short-term as well as long-term goals and the instructor should make the progression of goals clear to students.

- ◆ Does the instructor's overall teaching style suit your personality and learning style? Some students feel they progress better under an assertive, even intimidating instructor who continually challenges them. Others are more comfortable with an instructor who has a more laid back approach to teaching progressive skills.

Finding the Right Instructor--continued on page 10

AAEP Statement Regarding GAO Report on Horse Welfare



American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) President William Moyer, DVM, today issued the following statement in response to the recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report examining horse welfare since the end of domestic slaughter in 2007:

“The AAEP appreciates Congress requesting the GAO analyze the effect of the closing of processing plants on the nation’s horse population. This attention from the federal government further emphasizes the seriousness of this issue to America’s horses.

“As doctors of veterinary medicine, we agree with the GAO’s conclusions regarding the unintended consequences of the domestic slaughter ban. The reported increase in horse neglect and abandonment, combined with the lack of placement options for horses that can no longer be cared for by their owners, has been and continues to be a significant equine welfare challenge facing the equine industry.

“Regarding the GAO’s recommendations, the lack of federal funding for the USDA’s transport oversight program cripples the agency’s ability to properly protect horses that are shipped to processing facilities. Eliminating the funding for inspecting this population of horses has, as outlined by the GAO report, decreased the welfare of these horses. Our association supports the return of funding to the USDA. The AAEP feels it is equally important that the USDA quickly issues its final rule on transport regulations so the agency’s oversight will extend to more of the transportation chain for horses shipped to slaughter.

“If Congress pursues the option of banning the processing of U.S. horses without the appropriate funding and infrastructure in place to appropriately care for these animals, this action may only amplify the negative welfare implications for this highly vulnerable population of horses.

“The AAEP believes that horse processing is not the ideal solution for addressing the large number of unwanted horses in the U.S. However, if a horse owner is unable or unwilling to provide humane care and no one is able to assume the responsibility, euthanasia in a manner designated as humane by the American Veterinary Medical Association is an acceptable alternative to a life of suffering, inadequate care or abandonment.

“The equine industry must maintain its focus on reducing the rising unwanted horse population in the U.S. Responsible horse ownership is a critical piece of this challenge. Current and potential horse owners should consider buying rather than breeding, and when possible, adopting rather than buying. While the GAO report confirmed several concerns the AAEP has expressed about the current state of horse welfare, we hope this information will spur increased attention to equine welfare, responsible ownership and reduction of the unwanted horse population.”

Hot Horse Myth Busters

By Jenifer Nadeau, PhD, University of Connecticut
Published in August issue of U of M Horse Newsletter

Horse owners sometimes struggle with ways to cool or water a hot horse. Below are four common myths surrounding this issue.

“Never let a horse drink more than one or two swallows of water at a time.”

This comes from the belief that allowing a hot horse to consume unrestricted amounts of water may lead to problems such as colic due to hyperdistension of the stomach. However, a horse’s stomach can hold between 2 and 4 gallons of fluid without being distended, so one or two sips of water at a time is overly restrictive when the hot horse is rapidly losing water and trying to keep itself cool. The horse should therefore be allowed to have a few swallows of cool, clean, fresh water every few minutes.



“Never pour ice-cold water on a hot horse.”

The second myth has been the source of controversy over the years because people believed that ice cold water placed on a hot horse’s body will “shock” the horse’s thermoregulatory system into shutting down blood flow to the skin. This belief has been found to be incorrect based on extensive research conducted during 1995 at the Universities of Illinois and Guelph, and at the 1996 Olympic Summer Games in Atlanta. Researchers proved conclusively that horses working under hot and humid conditions were better able to maintain, or even reduce, core body temperature and that after intense exercise, heart rate during rest periods declined when ice water baths were used. Horses were also observed trotting more freely after the baths. Application of cold water to the overheated horses helped to dissipate heat by providing more water to evaporate from the skin, and by direct conduction of the horse’s body heat into the water that runs off the horse, carrying excess heat with it.

“Never let a hot horse cool out without a blanket or sheet.”

Many people cool out the horse by placing a sheet or blanket on the horse while walking it. Blocking the evaporation of water from the skin by using a blanket or sheet is not recommended in hot and humid conditions.

“Never let a hot horse cool out in a drafty area.”

This comes from the belief that a draft will make the horse susceptible to a “chill.” However, restricting access to moving air during hot and humid conditions makes little sense. Fans work to increase evaporation and dissipate heat by the cooling process known as convection. Misting fans take advantage of the additional cooling property of blowing water onto the horse when the sweat is changing phase from liquid to gas.



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Benefits For Horse Industry in Tax Bills

Several tax bills were passed in the last Congress that extended tax benefits for the horse industry for additional years. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, better known as the stimulus act, the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act, and the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, passed during the lame-duck session, all included important tax benefits.

Individual Tax Rates

The legislation passed in December, 2010 fixed individual income tax rates at current levels for two more years, through 2012. The marginal rates stay at 10% to 35% depending on one's income bracket. The rate structure is indexed for inflation. Had the bill not been passed and the current rates allowed to increase, tax rates would have risen about 4% for each bracket.

The tax rate on capital gains remains at 15% through 2012, rather than rising to 20%.

The tax rate on dividends remains at 15% through 2012, rather than being taxed at the same rate as a taxpayer's ordinary income, which could be as high as 35%.

Payroll taxes for all workers and the self-employed are reduced 2% from 6.2% to 4.2%, and 12.4% to 10.4%, respectively, for 2011 on wages up to \$106,800. This will put extra buying power in the pocket of every U.S. worker.

Estate Tax Rate and Exemption

Effective January 1, 2011, the top estate tax rate is 35% with an exemption of \$5 million for individuals and \$10 million for married couples through 2012. This means that only estates valued at over \$5 million (\$10 million for married couples) will be subject to the tax.

Expensing Allowance Continues

Anyone who purchases a horse or other property for his horse business and places it in service in 2010 and 2011 can deduct up to \$500,000 of the cost. This applies to horses, farm equipment and other depreciable property used in a business. If purchases exceed \$2 million, the deduction decreases one dollar for each dollar over \$2 million. This provision remains in effect through 2011.

Bonus Depreciation Increased to 100%

Finally, bonus depreciation is doubled from 50% to 100% for eligible assets, allowing horse owners and other horse businesses to write off the entire cost of "new" capital assets when purchased and placed in service. To be eligible for bonus

AHC's 2011 Van Ness Award Presented to Idaho Horse Industry's Edith Stanger

Each year the American Horse Council awards the Van Ness Award to a person that embodies the dedication and service of the late Mrs. Marjorie Van Ness, one of the founders of the New Jersey Horse Council.



The American Horse Council is pleased to announce that it has awarded its 2011 Van Ness Award to Edith Stanger of Idaho Falls, ID.

In presenting the award, AHC president Jay Hickey noted that, "Mrs. Stanger has given her time continuously to the promotion of all aspects of the horse industry. She was instrumental in founding the Idaho State Horse Council in 1975, where she continues to contribute to this day - almost forty years later! Mrs. Stanger recognized the need for a united voice for all horse interests, and was instrumental in joining the AHC as one of the earliest State Horse Council members."

Together with husband Dick, Edith Stanger created the Double Arrow Ranch, the largest registered herd of Appaloosa horses in the world. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Appaloosa Horse Club, as President of the Intermountain Appaloosa Club, and as Secretary of the Snake River Valley Horse Show.

"Edith has also worked for the entire industry," said Hickey. "She helped get legislation promoted to aid the racing industry; to get the brand inspection check-off fee dedicated to the Idaho Horse Board which awards grants to horse activities that meet the strict criteria of use for research, promotion, or education; and recently got a bill through the Idaho legislature allowing simulcast lease holders to move off-site."

"Thank all of you who are supporters of the Council, and thank you for this great honor you have bestowed upon me," Mrs. Stanger said in accepting the award. "And thank you to the past, present and future generations that love the horse, are truly concerned for its welfare, and are active in its treatment," she added.

The horse community in Idaho has benefited greatly from the loyalty and dedication of Mrs. Edith Stanger. She has won many awards for her service to the horse industry, has been elected to the National Appaloosa Horse Club's Hall of Fame, the Idaho Horse Council's Hall of Fame, the Idaho Horsemen's Hall of Fame, and has been deemed a living legend in her community. "She can now add the Van Ness Award to that long list of accomplishments," said Hickey.

Benefits For Horse Industry in Tax Bills--continued on page 6

MINNESOTA BOY WINS GOLD AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD SUMMER GAMES

By Patrick Fisher, Staff Writer

Reprinted with Permission ♦ Pulished in the July 14, 2011 issue of The New Prague Times

Matthew Schoenbauer, son of Leroy and Pam Schoenbauer of rural New Prague, broke an eight-year drought for Team USA as he recently won a gold medal in English Equitation in the equestrian events at the Special Olympics 2011 World Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

Also age 14, Matthew is the youngest athlete to ever compete in the equestrian Olympics. The World Summer Games were held from Friday, June 24, to Monday, July 4.

"He kind of floored us," said Pam about Matthew.

Matthew's win was especially surprising considering that he had a total of eight hours of practice time in English Equitation. Matthew was provided a horse, whose name is "Grazia" meaning "Thank You" in Greek. The horse is a six-time world winner and the number one horse in Greece. His mom said that in his first phase of the competition he came in fifth out of eight participants.

"We thought that was tremendously good," said Pam.

Due to a mix up, the Schoenbauer family thought fifth was where Matthew finished. When he and the other athletes were brought in for the awarding of medals, the officials asked Matthew to step up to the first position.

"Everybody just broke down," said Pam. Everyone broke into tears as Tim Shriver, a representative of the U.S. and Minnesota, awarded Matthew the gold medal. "The happiness when you see your child do his very best and get awarded is awesome."

Matthew was in a bit of shock and then had tears in his eyes and was able to say, "I won a medal."

Even those around them became misty eyed. Pam remembered that with all the emotion people were feeling at that time, that it didn't matter whether a person was from Australia or Russia, "Every parent is the same. At that moment we knew we were all one people."

Pam noted the three judges had praise for Matthew. "The judge from Ireland said he was a natural. One judge said his riding was impeccable and the judge from Germany said he had never seen anything so awesome," she said.



Matthew Schoenbauer, 14-year-old son of MHC Members LeRoy and Pam Schoenbauer of New Prague, recently won a gold medal in English Equitation at the Special Olympics 2011 World Summer Games in Athens, Greece. (Photos courtesy of Schoenbauer family)



The entire Schoenbauer family went to Greece as a family vacation and what was likely a once in a lifetime event. The country is in turmoil and there were crowds in subways and busses.

"But the beauty and the serenity of the Equestrian Center in the mountains surpassed all the negatives," said Pam, adding the beauty of the ancient history also provided a memorable moment.

Matthew has grown up around horses. His coach has said Matthew's great knowledge of horses and his drive to learn makes him a great equestrian athlete. He has been competing in various events with Special Olympics Minnesota since 2005.

Also in equestrian events, Matthew earned another medal as he came in second in working trails and received a ribbon for fifth in dressage.

Matthew was one of eight athletes and two coaches from Minnesota selected to participate in the 2011 World Summer Games. Nearly 300 athletes from all 50 states and the District of Columbia participated together as Team USA. The team competed in athletics, aquatics, bocce, bowling, canoeing, cycling, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, sailing, tennis, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball.

This was the 13th Special Olympics World Summer Games, uniting 7,000 Special Olympics athletes from 180 nations to compete in Olympic style sports.

Benefits For Horse Industry in Tax Bills--continued from page 6

depreciation the original use of the property must commence with the taxpayer. Any prior use makes the property ineligible. This provision is retroactive and will benefit any business involved in the horse industry that purchases and places eligible depreciable property in service after September 8, 2010 and through 2011.

Contribution of Property for Conservation Purposes

Owners of horse farms and ranches are interested in the tax benefits available to those who contribute property for conservation

purposes. Conservation easements are one way that owners can keep their property available for farming, rather than selling it for commercial purposes, while getting a tax benefit. Under legislation passed a number of years ago, a landowner with 50% or more of his/her income from agriculture could get a deduction for the contribution of a conservation easement up to his/her full income, with any unused amount carried forward for 15 years. This provision had expired and the deduction was limited to 30% of income.

The last tax bill reinstated the conservation easement through 2012.

AAEP Continues to Accept Nominations for 2011 Good Works Campaign

Nominate an equine veterinarian for selfless service to improve the health and welfare of horses

The American Association of Equine Practitioners encourages horse owners and equine industry groups to nominate a veterinarian performing extraordinary acts of service for the Good Works for Horses Campaign.



The Good Works for Horses Campaign recognizes AAEP-member practitioners who volunteer veterinary services, resources and time beyond the scope of their practice to improve the health and welfare of horses. The AAEP defines "good works" as selfless acts of giving back to the horse, for the sake of the horse and people they serve. Types of service may include providing low-cost services or vaccines at equine rescue facilities, volunteering services at therapeutic riding centers, educating members of the horse-owning public about proper equine health care, hosting community health care clinics or participating in equine-related youth programs.

Monthly honorees are featured on the AAEP's website, in the bi-monthly newsletter Spur of the Moment and monthly newsletter, Equine Veterinary Education. Featured practitioners selected through September will remain eligible for the Good Works for Horses Award, to be presented at the 57th Annual Convention, Nov. 18-22, in San Antonio, Texas. Congratulations to the following monthly honorees:

Drs. Mary Beth Hamorski and Christina Wilson of Califon Animal in Lebanon, NJ – January

Dr. Kevin May of El Cajon Valley Veterinary Hospital in El Cajon, CA – February

Dr. Grant Miller of Sonoma Marin Veterinary Service in Sonoma County, CA – March

Dr. John A. Stick of Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI – April

Dr. Mark Anderson of Prescott Valley Veterinary Hospital in Prescott, AZ – May

Nominations will be accepted from horse owners, equine industry professionals, veterinarians and other interested individuals. Candidates must be AAEP-member practitioners. The deadline for horse owners and organizations to nominate a veterinarian for July's recognition is July 31. The nomination form is available at www.aep.org/goodworks.htm.

The Good Works Campaign is sponsored in part by AAEP Educational Partner, Pfizer Animal Health. Pfizer Animal Health strives to improve horse health by helping to build strong relationships between veterinarians and horse owners and providing a range of products backed by the highest standards of scientific research.



Midwest Western Dressage
9174 Endicott Ave NW
Maple Lake, MN 55358

Dear Minnesota Horse Council:

Thank you for approving our request for direct funding.

Thanks to you, our first large clinic and Western Dressage Extravaganza was a success!

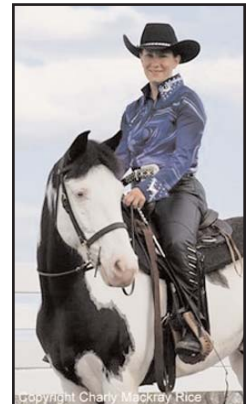
We had 10 riders and horses participate in this clinic by Randy Byers. It was amazing to see the progress made by each and every rider in such a short time!

On Saturday evening, Randy was joined by Barb Anderson-Whiteis of Caille Farms and some of her talented young students. They performed musical freestyles and then the Midwest Western Dressage team took the floor to answer questions about Western Dressage and how equestrians everywhere can get involved.

Midwest Western Dressage members will be riding at Equifest and we are looking forward to another Western Dressage Extravaganza at the U of M on October 22-23.

Thank you for your support.

Jen Johnson
320-963-6779 cell 612-245-8901
jen@midwestwesterndressage.com



www.HappilyEverAfterPhoto.com

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

Conformation: Form to Function

By ADawn Melbye, UMC
U of M Horse Newsletter, August 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

Without acceptable conformation, there is limited function. Horses are commonly expected to perform in ways that are not natural for their form. A horse that is correct in form and for its intended use may be more comfortable to ride than a horse with poor conformation. Poor conformation in a horse may result in a greater risk of injury, difficulty in training, and greater lameness issues. Owners need to evaluate and utilize horses that possess acceptable conformation for the intended use of the horse. These evaluations will result in performance at optimum levels.

Many rules of conformation are based on geometry and physics. These are "general" rules that allow us to review a horse's athletic ability. For each athletic ability, there are unique attributes that are specific to the type of performance desired. This explains why hunters, halter horses, and reiners are all designed differently. Each performance horse is built to excel in his discipline with unique traits, such as the type and degree of muscling in a halter horse.

Many times the first thing that attracts your eye to a horse is their head and neck. A head and neck that are well proportioned not only gives a pleasing aesthetic appearance, but provides for a balance point that allows for effective communication via the bridle and rider. A general rule is that a horse's neck length should be one and a half lengths of their head. Head length is measured from the front of the muzzle to the top of the poll. That measurement times 1.5 should equal the distance from the poll to the middle of the shoulder (see figure). Having these attributes provides a balanced head and neck combination. A horse with too large of a head will travel very heavy on the front end and have a tendency to be clumsy. A horse with too small of a head will lack counterbalance and may lose some its suppleness and



action in its front end. When evaluating the details of the horse's head, look for bright, bold, wide set eyes, ears that set slightly below the poll, a lower jaw that is clearly defined and well separated underneath the jaw, nostrils should be large, and a clean throatlatch lacking heavy fat and muscling.

When reviewing the neck, look for a proportional neck and body. The geometry equation for a balanced neck and body is the length of neck equals one third of the horse's total body length, and should be equal to the length of the horse's front leg. The union of the head and neck is determined by two bones called atlas and axis. These first two cervical vertebrae allow the horse to shift his balance while traveling, thus the importance of this connection. The head should be attached on the neck at an angle so that the horse can flex at the poll and travel in a balanced manner. The neck should attach to the horse's body fairly high with a distinct chest area below. The base of the neck should be level with the point of the horse's shoulder. This allows the horse to be more flexible, balanced and collect more naturally.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

The Importance of Water

By Marcia Hathaway, PhD, U of M
U of M Horse Newsletter, July 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

Horses require a clean, fresh supply of water at all times. If a horse does not get enough water to drink, the results can range from impaction colic to dehydration to death. A 1,000 pound horse, at rest in a cool climate, eating lush pasture needs a minimum of 3 and up to 10 gallons of water to drink each day. If supplemental water isn't provided to horses, the incidence of colic is increased dramatically.

Young horses, pregnant or nursing mares need even more water. Horses can sweat large amounts (2 to 4 gallons of sweat each hour) in order to control their body temperature. A horse that is sweating, whether just from the heat of the summer sun or from working hard, will need more water. With high ambient temperatures, humidity and/or exercise, voluntary water consumption can increase 2 to 4 fold. An exercising 1,000 pound horse in the summer heat could easily need to drink 12 to 16 gallons of water if it is eating fresh forages and much more if it is being fed dry

hay. Some water will be supplied by fresh forage, but not with dried hay.

Even though there has been a loss of water and the horse is actually dehydrated, the horse may not necessarily be thirsty. This is the basis for the phrase: "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink"! You should, however, encourage your horse to drink in order to prevent further dehydration.

Horses will drink more when the water offered is clean and between 45° - 64° F. The water vessel (i.e. tank) should also be clean and kept out of directed sunlight. Ideally, dehydration should be avoided completely by allowing a horse that is working opportunities to drink every couple of hours. Although it is a common belief that a hot horse should have water withheld until it is cool, there is no scientific basis to support that belief.

MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES - June 14, 2011

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

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

Absent: Judy Jensen, Jennifer Willey, Sue McDonough, Trina Joyce, Dave Fleischhaker

Members/Visitors: Allison Eklund, Rick Dobbelaire

I. Meeting called to order: 6:34 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

Brenda Myers from the Sibley Equine Conservatory was unable to attend. Topic will be added to the July agenda.

IV. Treasurer's Report for June was distributed by Tim Bonham. Jan Schatzlein motioned to accept the May treasurer's report as presented. Carol Dobbelaire seconded, motion carries.

V. Approval of Minutes: Glen Eaton motioned to approve the May minutes as presented. Mark Ward seconded, motion carries.

VI. Secretary's Report: Dawn Moore requested Tom Tweeten review the facilities listed on the Horsemen's Directory. It was brought to her attention the facilities listed on the directory are not all accurately represented.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Development of a MHC Foundation: Tracy Turner led a discussion on the development of an MHC foundation. There has been an inquiry into the MHC from an individual with a desire to donate. Allison Eklund will delve into the issue and present her issues at the July meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Expo: Glen Eaton reported: The 2011 Minnesota bottom line is not available at this time. We just got the final bill from the State Fair and it has to be looked over by several people before payment. At the July meeting we should have a bottom line report. With the weather the way it was we were only down about 1,000 from 2010. The Telephone Company serving the Expo has been changed from Integra to Qwest saving us about \$1,800 per year. The 2012 Minnesota Horse Expo is in its early stages but much is taking place even though the 2011 is not completed. New Vendor booth layouts in the Cattle and Sheep Barn are being changed. We have not received any update changes for the Horse Barn. The 2012 Minnesota Horse Expo dates are April 27, 28 and 29.

B. Direct Funding: Mark Ward reported: The committee vote for recent applications was in favor of:

1. The MN 4-H Horse Association Library, \$267.90 for a video storage case. (3 votes yes, 1 no, 1 abstain)
2. Anoka 4-H Horse Committee, \$500 for a speaker system to be used at 4-H Horse Project events. (4 votes yes, 1 abstain)

Both applications have received a follow-up acceptance letter, which includes directions on how to submit invoices for materials purchased in order to obtain the funds. We have just received a copy of a direct funding request that was first sent on March 4th to Christie Ward (by accident) and is from the Whips and Wheels Carriage and Driving Society, requesting \$500 to cover expenses of bringing clinicians to the 2011 Prairie Home Carriage Festival held on May 7 and 8, 2011 at the Dakota County Fairgrounds in Farmington, MN. The committee has just received a copy of the application from me via email and will be considering that application after this June MHC Board of Directors meeting.

We will be getting a proposal asking for \$500 from Pipestone County 4-H, for the Western Heritage Program clinic with a professional roper. It will pay expenses for facilities and cattle usage. More information will be emailed to me. Their first email attempt did not come through. I spoke with Melissa Melby today to tell her to resend the application. We will consider it upon receipt.

C. Inventory/Storage: Glen Eaton's bill for the storage facility has been received and paid. The shelving will be set up and the storage locker rearranged at a date to be determined.

D. Communications: Missie Schwartz reported there were many compliments on the latest newsletter. There was an omission of a disclaimer on the emailed newsletter. Missie Schwartz asked for a generic email address to be created for the emailed newsletter to originate from. Mark Ward will assist with the creation of such an email address. Tracy Turner will find an author for a follow up article on the current status of the EHV-1 situation.

E. Certified Stables: Sue McDonough sent the following report electronically. The Certified Stable Program would like to welcome: Maple Hill Stable in Buffalo, MN. Chris and Melissa gave us a tour of the very unique facility that was built with recycled materials. It was a very informative and enjoyable tour. Capall Equestrian Center in New Germany, MN. "Capall is Irish for horse" It was a pleasure to see Heidi and Dave's beautiful facility. Andrea and her son showed me around and I met her beautiful Saddlebred, Hackney and the Miniature! Thanks Andrea! The Certified Stable Program continues to grow. We have had three requests in 2011 for becoming certified. Re-inspections will be scheduled. Interested individuals will be invited to witness the process used to accomplish this. The CS committee has had four meetings thus far this year. Phone calls have been made by committee members reminding stables to pay their annual fee resulting in payment by numerous stables. The CS committee will continue to make reminder calls to facilities. CS procedures have been updated. The committee will meet to do future updates and discuss any issues necessary.

F. Aisle of Breeds: Glen Eaton reported. In the middle of June we will be working on the Aisle of Breeds getting horses assigned to stalls. Many requests for stalls are already in. Not many changes will be made with the Aisle of Breeds.

G. CSHS: Glen Eaton reported. Tracy and I will be going to the American Horse Council meetings starting June 19 and going through June 23. I will be attending mostly Coalition meetings as well as others. Tracy and I have been asked to attend and take part in the UHC meeting on Monday. Buster Black (Chairperson of the Coalition) has several speakers lined up for the Coalition meetings and one is the Farm Bureau. All of these should be good meetings. Carol Dobbelaire motioned to allow Glen Eaton to utilize a portion of his budget to send a floral arrangement to Kathy Luedke who is resigning from her position. Tim Bonham seconded, motion passed. It was brought to the board's attention the fall meeting will be held in Madison, WI.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. By Laws: Marian Robinson discussed the need of having the updated bylaws available in hard copy to all the directors. Marian Robinson also led discussion on the procedure of director elections as well as the conflict of interest policy. Marian Robinson to draft an amendment to the MHC bylaws regarding the election of directors to be presented at the July meeting.

B. Disaster: Marian Robinson advised there is flash flooding occurring in SW MN. Marian Robinson will keep the MHC board advised on the situation.

C. Letter Received: Tracy Turner read aloud a letter received from a member of the MHC who had a negative experience at the MHC Expo booth. Tracy Turner has issued an apologetic response and thanked the member for renewing their membership in spite of the issue.

D. Tracy Turner advised we are part of the omnibus tax bill instead of the Agriculture Bill.

E. Trail Ride: Tom Tweeten advised the MHC board of a trail ride and celebration to be held June 18th at the Lake Elmo Regional Park. Information on this ride will be posted on the Horsemen's Directory.

Announcements:

June 17th is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

X. Tracy Turner adjourned the meeting at 8:28PM.

NEXT MEETING ♦ July 12, 2011 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
University of MN ♦ Leatherdale Equine Center



Finding the Right Instructor--continued from page 3

- ♦ Is the instructor flexible? Does the instructor integrate riding theory and practical, how-to suggestions? Can she change her teaching style to suit timid riders, bold students, and those in between? Does the instructor explain the same thing several ways to accommodate students with different learning styles? Does the instructor check periodically to make sure students understand what she is asking or telling them?

- ♦ Does the instructor have sufficient riding ability to correctly demonstrate anything she is teaching on a school horse or, if necessary, on the student's own horse?

The fourth important step is to create a simple evaluation system that is relevant to you then use it to compare the places you've visited. This could be as simple as using your observations to give the barn and its lesson program an overall "grade" like A, B, C, or D. You might give an automatic F to any instructor who fails to meet a minimum standard you feel is essential. Or you could rate individual observations that are important to you on a scale of 1 to 10 and add up the barn's total score.

Doing your homework increases the likelihood that your riding lessons will be positive and rewarding experiences. If your riding goals change over time or you reach a skill level that the particular instructor cannot take you past, you may need to change instructors. If you have chosen an open-minded, professional instructor to start with, the parting of the ways should be amicable. The best of all possible situations occurs when both instructor and students can enthusiastically recommend one another.

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2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

View www.mnhorsecouncil.org and
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 14	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 24	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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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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Aisle of Breeds

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

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

Minnesota Horsemen's Directory

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

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Pioneer Award

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Jennifer Willey ♦ 612-669-7564 ♦ jenniferwilley@mnhorsecouncil.org

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

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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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Minnesota Horse Council

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Expo 2012

APRIL 27, 28, & 29