



**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

**2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Yvette Anderson-Rollins Receives AHC's 2015 Van Ness Award**

On June 16, the American Horse Council presented the Van Ness Award to Yvette Anderson-Rollins of Springville, Indiana during the organization's annual meeting in Washington, DC.

The Van Ness Award is presented annually to an individual who has shown leadership and service to the horse community in his or her state. It is awarded in memory of Mrs. Marjorie Van Ness, one of the founders of the New Jersey Horse Council. Mrs. Van Ness was one of the organizers of the AHC's Coalition of State Horse Councils.

"Ms. Anderson-Rollins has dedicated her life to creating, maintaining and promoting land and trail usage both in Indiana and nationwide," said AHC president Jay Hickey in presenting the award to her. "She is a true educator in conservation, planning and government affairs, and has worked tirelessly to open lines of communication, keep them open, ensure concerns are heard, and answers found to major problems."

Ms. Anderson-Rollins has spoken at many trails symposia, including the National Trails Symposium, the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference, and the National Equestrian Trails Conference. She has served as the Treasurer and Vice-Chair for the Back Country Horsemen of America, as well as on their Media and Public Lands Committees. She was the President of Hoosier Back Country Horsemen, BCHA of West Central Indiana, the Indiana Horse Council, and the Indiana Trail Riders Association. She served on the Governor's Committee for the "Hoosier's on the Move" master trails plan and was the Chair for the DNR Trails Advisory Board.

Receiving the Van Ness Award is just the latest in a long line of awards. She has also received the Trail Warrior Award from *Trail Blazer Magazine*, the Trail Advocate Award from the Mid-America Trails and Greenways Conference, and was the first recipient of the Mike Phillips Award from Best of America by Horseback.



She has worked for the past 29 years at Indiana University. "During her spare time, she raises and rides American Quarter Horses and is an adventurous trail rider who enjoys riding with her grandchildren and discovering what is over the next ridge with the hope that they will carry on the tradition of promoting and protecting trails," said Hickey.

"I am truly honored to have been chosen as the recipient of the Marjorie Van Ness award," said Ms. Anderson-Rollins. "When I look at all those who have received this award before me and their great accomplishments, and the knowledge they have shared, I am overwhelmed by their dedication to the betterment of the horse. There are so many people who deserve to be recognized with the Van Ness award. I would like to thank all those for their hard work and volunteerism ensuring future generations an opportunity to enjoy the horse."



## MHC GIVES DIRECT FUNDING TO LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY 4-H SILVER SPURS CLUB TO SUPPORT CLINIC



To Make The  
Best Better



Excerpts from July 19, 2015 Letter to the Minnesota Horse Council

### RE: JUNE HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC

We want to thank Minnesota Horse Council for helping Lac qui Parle County 4-H Silver Spurs Club to have another amazing horsemanship clinic this year. Our clinic was held for three days, June 17-19. We had 20 youth that participated from counties including: Lac qui Parle, Chippewa, Douglas, and Stevens. The ages of the youth ranged from 10 years old to 19 years old. The clinic ran from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm each day. Lita has such a great relationship with many of these youth, so we got down to business right away. Skills were covered in Showmanship, English, Western and Trail. The kids focused on improving the movement of their horses by learning new drills and techniques. Lita also covered how they need to present themselves in the judging arena and encouraged them to have confidence in themselves and their horses. Her favorite term was, "You need to show the judge that you are "all that and a bag of chips", She often critiqued their riding posture and taught what she would like to see them improve, for instance putting shoulders back when riding, keeping hands and legs quiet, etc. The kids and parents had a great time. Throughout the clinic, there was much opportunity to ask questions and many youth took advantage of the opportunity to get help on individual issues they had been having with their horses. One girl was able to learn how to do a flying lead change, which was fabulous for all the kids to watch and they learned some of the drills that horses need to be comfortable with in order to do a flying lead change. As always, Lita allowed a bit of time for fun games in between



her sessions, which the kids always enjoy. Several parents commented on how much they appreciated the low price of the clinic and that it made all the difference. Lita once again graciously agreed to stay with one of our 4H families.

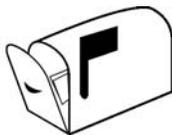
As one of the leaders/parents of these youth, I cannot emphasize enough how important opportunities such as this are in the lives of youth. Horses have the ability to be such good teachers in so many ways. So, once again, thank you so much for your generous support of our 4H youth across the counties. You are much appreciated!

Sincerely,

Michelle Jibben

### MHC IMPORTANT DATES

MN State Fair Horse Barn Aisle of Breeds	Aug. 27 - Sept. 7
Grant Applications	Due Oct. 1
Horse of the Year Nominations	Due Oct. 1
Scholarship Applications	Due Nov. 1
Horseperson of the Year Nominations	Due Nov. 1
MHC Board Candidate Bios & Photos	Due Nov. 1
MHC Annual Meeting	Jan. 23, 2016



#### NOTE! ADDRESS CHANGE

MN Horse Council Address has changed to:

**Minnesota Horse Council**

PO Box 96

Monticello, MN 55362

## Call for MHC Board of Director Candidates

Each Minnesota Horse Council (MHC) Board of Director is elected to a 3-year term. That means that the MHC membership has the opportunity to vote to file 1/3 of the board positions. This year five board positions are up for election. Current board members whose current terms expire on December 31, 2015 include: Glen Eaton, Trina Joyce, Sue McDonough, Kim Otterson, Thomas Tweeten, and Mark Ward.

Any MHC member in good standing is eligible to submit their name as a candidate for a MHC Board of Director. A candidate biography and picture must be submitted to the Nominations Committee Chairperson, Darrell Mead, by November 1st. Each candidate biography and picture will be included with election materials that will be distributed to MHC members in December prior to the MHC Annual Meeting in January 2016.

The Nominations Committee encourages all perspective candidates to attend monthly board meetings to meet current board members and get a feel of what the board does. The Nominations Committee will also provide each candidate with a copy of the MHC Bylaws and other pertinent material to help a perspective candidate learn what is entailed in contributing to the success of the MN Board of Directors and the Minnesota Horse Council.

Darrell Mead, 2nd Vice-President, Nominations Committee



Dear Minnesota Horse Council,  
Thank you so much for the scholarship & investing in my future. I am currently enrolled & registered for classes at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for this fall! I am thrilled to begin this new chapter towards my future goal of becoming an Equine Chiropractor. Thank you for helping me turn my dreams into a reality.

Thank You!  
Paige Gabrielson

## The Five Most Important Things on Which You Should Spend Money for your Horse

By David Ramey, DVM

These are challenging economic times in which to own horses. You certainly want to do your absolute best in taking care of your horse, but you certainly don't want to waste money, and particularly so when times are tight. So, I've come up with a list of what I think are the five most important things on which you should spend the money that you've budgeted for horse care. You might have your own opinions, but that's what makes such lists fun!

**1. As Much Room as You Can Afford.** Personally, I'm not often swayed by the "natural" argument. While I do think that there is a lot of good to be said for decreasing the use of pesticides, reducing pollution, eating less red meat, recycling, etc., "natural" is not a synonym for "good." I mean, rattlesnakes and tornadoes are "natural," too. Still, in their natural state, horses are constantly on the move, traipsing through the wide open spaces. That state of affairs seems to have been good for them, allowing the genus *Equidae* to survive for something like 55 million years.

Sadly, civilization has limited the ability of the horse to roam. Now, instead of endless acres of open land on which to move and feed, a horse is often kept in a small stall, getting out only for an hour of exercise whenever his owner can make the time. For the horse, such care is certainly much better than nothing, but stabling is also associated with a variety of equine ills.

In my opinion, it's probably best to mimic the "natural" movement of the horse to the extent that you can. Over the years, I've seen any number of stabled horses that had a personality change or an improvement in lameness, within a couple of weeks after being turned out (and being able to move around). But you don't have to necessarily buy, say, Montana. If your horse can spend some time in a pasture, that's great. A large paddock is better than a box stall. If your horse has to be in a box stall, try to arrange to have someone turn him into a larger area as often as possible, or get a stall with an attached outside area. Regular movement and exercise is healthy for your horse, and it's something for which you should pay.

And, much to my delight, there's even some scientific support for that idea. In August 2013, in the *Journal of Equine Veterinary Science*, investigators concluded that horses turned out in pasture are every bit as fit as horses that are stalled and exercise. The bottom line is that the more your horse can move around, the healthier that he or she will be!

**2. Good Forage.** The plant material eaten by horses is broadly referred to as forage. In the wild (back to that "natural" thing), horses are browsers, and they eat fresh forage in 23 out of 24 hours in a day. They came up with the phrase, "Eating like a horse," for a reason.

Stabled horses usually get to eat dried forage; there are many different types of hay available for horses, mostly depending on the area in which you live (e.g., in California, alfalfa hay abounds, while in Texas, there's a lot of coastal bermuda hay). It's not possible, or necessary, to keep your horse eating according to a

*Five Most Important Things--continued on page 5*



## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

### PAST Act Introduced in the House

On July 28, 2015, Representatives Ted Yoho (R-FL) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) re-introduced the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2015 (HR 3268) (PAST Act) in the House of Representatives. The PAST Act is supported by the American Horse Council (AHC) and almost all major national horse show organizations and many state and local horse organizations. The Senate version of the bill was introduced by Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Mark Warner (D-VA) earlier this year.

The PAST Act would strengthen the Horse Protection Act (HPA) and end the soring of Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, and Racking Horses. Despite the existence of a federal ban on soring for over forty years, this cruel practice continues in the “performance” or “big lick” segments of the Walking Horse industry.

“As a veterinarian and lover of animals, I feel the time is now to stop the practice of horse soring for good. I am not the only one who feels this way. Roughly 280 plus organizations, associations, veterinary and animal health advocates, horse industry professionals, and various other groups, support the ending of this unnecessary practice. Also the Senate companion bill, introduced by Senator Kelly Ayotte, currently has the support of 41 Senators,” said Representative Ted S. Yoho (R-FL).

“The Walking Horse industry has had since 1970 to reform their ways and come up with a more ethical means to achieve their desired goal. They have failed to take advantage of this opportunity and now is the time for horse soring to end,” continued Yoho.

“Soring is a cruel and inhumane practice and, despite being illegal for more than 45 years, it remains far too prevalent in the walking horse community. We must end the industry’s failed self-policing of this abuse, ban the use of soring devices, strengthen penalties and make other reforms needed to end this malicious practice. I’m proud to partner with my colleague and fellow veterinarian Representative Yoho on this bill to strengthen the Horse Protection Act in an effort stop to this heinous abuse of American horses once and for all,” said Representative Kurt Schrader.

“Ending soring is important for the welfare of Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, and Racking Horses,” said AHC president Jay Hickey. “But, it is also important for the economic health of the horse industry because, while soring happens only in a

*PAST Act--continued on page 5*

### Recreational Trails Program in Senate Highway Bill

On July 30, the Senate passed its version of a multi-year national highway bill, called the DRIVE Act. The bill would reauthorize the Federal Highway Administration’s Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

An amendment by Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) was filed that would have eliminated the Transportation Alternatives Program, which includes the Recreational Trails Program. However, this amendment was not considered and the RTP program will continue unchanged if this bill becomes law.

Grassroots support from recreational trail users, including equestrians played an important role in making sure RTP was included in the Senate-passed bill. The AHC appreciates all the individual horsemen and organizations that contacted their Senators in support of RTP.

Since its inception RTP has provided money for thousands of state and local trail projects across the country, including many that benefit equestrians. RTP provides funding directly to the states for recreational trails and trail-related facilities for all recreational trail users. It is funded with a portion of the gas taxes paid into the Highway Trust Fund by recreational off-highway vehicle users.

For now, because of disagreements over funding a multi-year highway bill, the House of Representatives is unlikely to consider the Senate Passed DRIVE Act.

In the meantime the Congress has passed a 3 month extension of the current highway bill, which includes the RTP program..

### Bill to Allow State and Tribal Management of Wild Horses Introduced

On July 22, 2015, Congressman Chris Stewart (R-Utah) re-introduced the Wild Horse Oversight Act (H.R. 3172) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) introduced a Senate version of the bill (S. 1845). The bills would amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to allow states and Indian tribes to assume the management and protection of wild horses and burros.

The bills would allow a state or federally recognized Indian tribe to assume all management and protection functions of wild horses and burros within its borders, if requested by the legislature or Governor of a State, or the governing body of an Indian tribe. Currently, the federal land management agencies, primarily the Bureau of Land Management, are responsible for overseeing the wild horse and burro population. The bills would not alter any of the protections for wild horses under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act and the federal land management agencies would continue to be responsible for tracking the number of wild horses and burros even if a state or tribe assumed management of its wild horses.

The House bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### **PAST Act--continued from page 4**

small segment of the Tennessee Walking Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse, and Racking Horse industry, such abuse damages the image of the entire horse industry.”

Most major national horse show organizations support the PAST Act, including the American Horse Council, the American Quarter Horse Association, the U.S. Equestrian Federation, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Paint Horse Association, the American Morgan Horse Association, the Pinto Horse Association of America, the Arabian Horse Association, the American Saddlebred Horse Association, the United Professional Horsemen's Association, the Appaloosa Horse Club, as well as many state and local horse organizations.

“The bill was introduced with the support of 108 original co-sponsors, 54 Republicans and 54 Democrats, very few bills in Congress ever achieve this level of bi-partisan support,” said Hickey. “The magnitude of support for this bill is clear, but there is still a lot of work that will need to be done to make sure it is brought to a vote.”

The AHC urges all members of the horse community to contact their Senators and Representative and tell them “the PAST Act should be given a vote as soon as possible and they should vote for it, when that happens.

The AHC says individuals who wish to support the PAST Act can visit [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org) to find out more information or support the AHC's efforts by joining the AHC.

### **JOIN THE AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL**

The American Horse Council in collaboration with the Coalition of State Horse Councils (CSHCs) is pleased to offer a special discounted AHC grassroots membership to individuals who are members of a State Horse Council.

Regularly \$25, these special grassroots memberships will be only \$15 and can be offered as a new benefit to your members and have the all the features of a normal AHC grassroots membership including:

- ◆ Quarterly AHC Newsletters;
- ◆ Free copy of the AHC Grassroots Lobbying Guidelines
- ◆ AHC Washington Update electronic news services
- ◆ Discounts through AHC Advantage Plan
- ◆ Discounts with Avis, Hertz
- ◆ Member window decal
- ◆ Unwanted Horse Coalition Updates

Most importantly these memberships support the work the AHC does in Washington, DC and helps keep individual horse people engaged and up to date on what's going on in Washington. As an added incentive, a third of the proceeds from these memberships will go directly to the CSHCs to fund any activities they choose to undertake on behalf of the SHCs.

If you wish to participate or would like more information contact Ashley Furst at 202-296-4031 or [afurst@horsecouncil.org](mailto:afurst@horsecouncil.org).

### **Five Most Important Things--continued from page 3**

“natural” schedule, but it's absolutely mandatory that you feed your horse the best quality forage that you can afford. Good hay shouldn't be dusty, moldy, or discolored. It should be free of dirt, sticks, rocks, or thick stems. It should smell good, and be mostly green in color.

Good forage is essential for good horse health. In fact, the vast majority don't need anything BUT good forage and clean water. Feeding good forage helps to eliminate many health problems, and, of course, also avoids problems related to poor nutrition. You can probably cut out a lot of superfluous things from your horse's diet, but when it comes to forage, don't cut corners.

**3. Hoof Care.** One thing that's annoying about aphorisms: they're mostly true. Thus, the time-worn phrase, “No foot, no horse,” is absolutely right on the mark. The vast majority of all lameness problems of the horse somehow relate to the horse's foot. If you don't have a hoof pick, get one (or two or three – they tend to evaporate), and use it regularly. Keep your horse's feet from being too wet, so they don't crumble and fall apart. Find a reliable farrier, stick with him or her, and make sure your horse is trimmed on a schedule that's appropriate (NOTE: the “appropriate” schedule will most likely differ for each horse). Most horses don't have special needs when it comes to hoof care, but every horse needs to have its feet looked after regularly, so as to avoid lameness problems. It's worth the money.

**4. A Veterinary Visit.** It's probably a good idea to spend money on a visit from your veterinarian at least once a year. Your veterinarian can administer vaccinations, give advice on parasite control, check your horse's teeth for proper wear, provide nutritional advice, and give an overall evaluation of your horse's health.

It's also a good idea to have a previously established relationship with a veterinarian in case you have an emergency. Some veterinarians may be reluctant to serve first-time clients on an emergency basis – it's one thing to get up to help someone that you've worked with for long time, but it's quite another feeling when you're awakened in the middle of the night to hear someone say, “I tried three other vets, but they didn't answer the phone.” The time to meet your veterinarian for the first time, ideally, is not 2 o'clock in the morning.

**5. Comfortable Tack.** Most people who own horses do so intending to ride them. If that's the case, why not make the experience comfortable for both of you? A comfortable saddle will help make your ride enjoyable for you, and a properly fit saddle will help make the ride enjoyable for your horse (and reduce the chance that he'll get sore in the back). You don't have to pay several thousand dollars for the latest popular saddle brand, either. There are many nice, reasonably priced saddles (or, plenty of nice used ones). Even an expensive saddle isn't worth much of anything if it doesn't fit your horse.

So there you go. If you can provide those five things to horses, you'll accomplish a lot towards keeping your horse healthy and fit. A little bit of well-spent money up front will go a long way towards keeping you from having to come up with the money to deal with a big problem that might have been prevented.

*Reprinted with permission from [www.doctorramey.com/the-five-most-important-things-on-which-you-should-spend-money-for-your-horse/](http://www.doctorramey.com/the-five-most-important-things-on-which-you-should-spend-money-for-your-horse/)*

## Horse Trail Access: Protect It or Lose It

By Denise O'Meara for Equine Land Conservation Resource

Setting out on the trail with your horse is a magic moment. The promise of quiet solitude, the beauty of nature, relaxing with friends, the companionship of a beloved horse and enjoying a bit of adventure are all part of the attraction of trail riding.

How did this inviting trail become available to you? Did you develop a relationship with the landowner or manager, or is there any relationship at all? Good relations with both public land trail managers and private landowners are imperative. Do you have a written agreement or an informal understanding? And do you show your respect for the owner/manager by using trails responsibly?

Just as trail riding contributes to your happiness quotient, treating the land with respect contributes to the durability and availability of your trail. You should know the condition of your trails before you ride, especially during inclement weather. Thoughtlessly slogging through wet areas can cause extensive damage and create unsafe conditions. And it can lead to loss of trail access.

It's not uncommon for a private landowner to deny access to existing trails on their land, posting the dreaded *No Horses Here* sign. Public land managers, citing damage to sensitive lands, post *Access Denied* notices. Disappointing, yes; and often irreversible.

Education and proper stewardship are critical to maintaining trail access for horsemen. With support from the AQHA STEP program, ELCR has partnered with Tread Lightly!, a national organization concerned land stewardship, to launch the "Respected Access is Open Access" campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to educate trail riders and promote responsible stewardship of trails in order to protect access.

How does careless use of trails affect the owner and the land? And how can you prevent closure of your trails?

### The Cycle of Erosion

All user types will have some impact when trails are used after heavy rains, but a horse's heavy body weight combined with compact, sharp hooves churn up wet ground, plants and soil. Eroded soil washes into the nearest stream or pond as sediment. This can happen quickly if there is nothing to protect or prevent the soil from moving. It affects the waterway by reducing oxygen and obscuring the riparian wildlife habitat. Other pollutants such as herbicides and fertilizers further reduce water quality. Downstream, it all ends up in our drinking water.



Photo by Jan Hancock

Riders and other users tend to avoid the wettest or most eroded part of the trail and traverse the



Photo by Jim Thode

edges, a habitat damage - an endless cycle of degradation continuing until the trail is no longer usable - or until the land owner recognizes the damage and puts a stop to trail use altogether.

### What You Can Do

#### Individuals:

- ◆ When riding alone or with friends, avoid wet or damaged trail areas. Let the landowner know about damaged or wet trail areas so others can be informed. Help with trail maintenance.

#### Trail Clubs:

- ◆ Organize your fellow trail riders and form a riding club. Clubs can focus on both enjoyment and trail stewardship by informing members about trail conditions, who can use private land trails and communicating with the land owner to resolve developing issues. Post current information on your website, social media or your email list!
- ◆ For more information on organizing a trail club consult the ELCR publication "Getting Organized - Creating Equestrian Trail Organizations" available on-line at <https://elcr.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/08/Getting-Organized.pdf>.

#### Public Land:

- ◆ Local/regional and state parks divisions often post trail conditions and emergency weather situations with advice about trail closings on websites and Facebook. For example, North Carolina State Parks ([www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)) has an 'Alerts' section that indicates trail conditions, openings and closings. Users can easily check trail conditions, and adjust plans as needed. If your club uses these public trails, you can check these alerts and re-post them to your club's media.

#### Private Land:

Private trails may require more effort, as landowners seldom post information about trail conditions on their own land. What can you do?

- ◆ When the owner can't provide information, designate certain club members to observe and report unfavorable trail



Riding on trails that are wet can damage trails. Rain softened surfaces are vulnerable to use immediately after rainfall events. Please allow trails time to dry before adventuring out. Ride on dirt roads or more durable surfaces and allow the trails to recover. Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior and best practices.

This PSA was made possible by the American Quarter Horse Association's STEP program.



tread lightly!®

# Rain? Rein go away. Come again another day!

conditions to the club manager. Post information on your club's media or email. For example, the Foothills Equestrian Trails Association (FETA) helps to protect the community's equestrian trails system by limiting access to Association members and their guests. Conditions are strictly monitored and posted on Facebook.

### Better Trail Planning and Design

- ◆ Stay abreast of new trail planning in your community and help to ensure that new trails and repairs to damaged trails are designed to shed water and hold up under the stresses of equine use. Don't know what makes good trail design? A good place to start is with the excellent US Forest Service manual *Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds*, by Jan Hancock et al. Available online at [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/publications/fs\\_publications/07232816/1c07232816.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/07232816/1c07232816.cfm).



- ◆ If you ride or otherwise enjoy trails, volunteer to help with trail maintenance. Contact your local chapter of Back Country Horsemen. They perform and track countless hours of volunteer trail maintenance activities nationwide. [www.bcha.org/reploc/](http://www.bcha.org/reploc/).

For additional information and post-able public service announcements to help spread the word contact ELCR at [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org), and remember - Respected Access IS OPEN ACCESS!

This article is reprinted with permission from the May 2015 issue of *The Trail Rider*. To subscribe, please visit [TheTrailRider.com](http://TheTrailRider.com).

*Minnesota Horse*  
 *Expo 2016*

**APRIL 22, 23, & 24**

## Determining the Value of Rained on Hay

By Krishona Martinson, PhD, University of Minnesota and  
Dan Undersander, PhD, University of Wisconsin

Rain occurring while cut hay is laying in the field causes both yield and quality losses that reduce the value of the crop as an animal feed.



Weather-induced losses are caused by:

1. Prolonged plant respiration reducing soluble carbohydrates and overall energy content.
2. Leaching of soluble carbohydrates and certain minerals from the hay.
3. Leaf shattering and loss, removing the highly digestible and high protein portion of the forage.

Several researchers have studied the effects of rainfall on cut alfalfa. Wisconsin researchers measured dry matter losses of 22% when alfalfa was exposed to 1 inch of rain after 1 day of drying. Similar hay dried without rain damage lost only 6% of the initial yield. Losses appear to be greatest after partial drying of the forage has occurred. In a Michigan study, rainfall intensity was kept constant at about 0.7 inches but spread over periods of 1 to 7 hours. Dry matter losses ranged from 4 to 13%, with highest losses occurring when the rain was spread over a longer duration.

Given the same amount of total rainfall, a low intensity rain will result in more leaching of soluble compounds than a high intensity rain. Also, as forage moisture content declines, it is more prone to dry matter loss from rain. In a Wisconsin study, the maximum loss in dry matter (54%) was a treatment where 2.5 inches of rain fell on hay that was nearly dried.

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

Three primary factors are involved in dry matter losses; leaching, respiration, and leaf loss. Leaching is the movement of cell solubles out of the plant. Components of the plant that are very water soluble are leached out of the forage and lost when rain occurs. Unfortunately, most of these compounds are those highly digested by the animal. About one half of the dry matter leached by rain is soluble carbohydrates.

Unlike other livestock, losses of soluble carbohydrate can be beneficial for some horses, including ones diagnosed with laminitis, Equine Metabolic Syndrome or obesity. In order to manage these horses and reduce the amounts of carbohydrates in harvested forage, horse owners have resorted to soaking hay. Purchasing rained-on hay with naturally low levels of carbohydrates is a possible alternative to hay soaking.

Respiration (breakdown of soluble carbohydrates by plant enzymes) occurs at nearly 2% dry matter per hour in fresh forage, and declines almost in proportion to the decrease in moisture content until the plant reaches approximately 60% moisture.

## University of Minnesota Lunch and Learn Webinars

**Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

**Noon to 1:00 pm CDT**

*Preparing and Managing Arena Footing*  
Dr. Ann Swinker, Penn State University

**Tuesday, December 1, 2015**

**11:30 am - 1:30 pm CST**

*Feeding Whole Grains*  
Marcia Hathaway, PhD, University of Minnesota

To join a webinar, visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/> and click the appropriate webinar under the Events section.

All webinars are recorded and posted online at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/webinars/>.

Every time the forage is wetted by rain, respiration is either prolonged or begins again in cases where the cured forage was below 60% moisture. In either case, additional dry matter is lost.



*Photo by Linda Dahl*

In Wisconsin studies, leaf loss ranged from 8 to greater than 20% as a percent of the initial forage dry matter when rainfall amounts were from 1 to 2.5 inches. In Michigan studies, direct leaf loss was much lower (0.5 to 4%). Experience and common sense tell us that rain damaged alfalfa is more predisposed to leaf shatter after it dries, and rainfall often means additional raking and more lost leaves.

Depending on numerous factors, the digestibility of rained-on hay may decline from 6 to 40%. With the leaching of soluble carbohydrates, structural fibers (acid and neutral detergent fibers) comprise a greater percent of the forage dry matter; therefore, reducing digestibility. However, rainfall has little impact on protein concentration. For rained-on hay, it is common to see relatively high protein values in comparison to fiber concentrations, unless significant leaf loss occurs.

Rained on hay can be a suitable forage, but quality depends on several factors. Forage quality tends to be retained if rain occurs soon after cutting when the forage has had minimal time to dry; the rainfall was a signal event compared to a multiple day or drawn-out event; rainfall intensity was higher versus a longer, lower intensity event; and the forage has not been re-wetted numerous times. Rained on hay is actually beneficial for horses prone to laminitis and other metabolic disorders because of its reduced soluble carbohydrate content.

Analyzing forage for nutrient content is recommended, but can be especially useful when determining the quality of rained on hay.

*Reprinted with permission from the August issue of the University of Minnesota Extension Horse Newsletter.*

## MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES - June 9, 2015

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

Board Members Present: Trina Joyce, Tracy Turner, Darrell Mead, Dawn Moore, Mark Ward, Kris Kelly, Glen Eaton, Kim Otterson, Kari Newman, Barb Anderson-Whiteis, Meg Sax, Missie Schwartz, Doug Persian

Absent: Tom Tweeten, Sue McDonough, Tim Bonham, Dave Fleischhaker

Members/Visitors: Barb Fleischhaker, Allison Eklund

**I. Meeting called to order:** 6:36 P.M. by President Tracy Turner.

### II. Introduction of Board Members/Visitors

### III. Call for Additions/Changes to Agenda

1. AHC was added to New Business by Tracy Turner
2. MHC Vision was added to New Business by Tracy Turner
3. Education was added to Committee Reports by Tracy Turner

**IV. Treasurer's Report** for June was sent by Tim Bonham in hard copy. Assets total \$596,362.59. Discussion and review followed. February, March, April and May treasurer's reports presented for approval. Barb Fleischhaker presented the June treasurer's report that was generated by the new system. Also presented was a management report. That report included additional information not included in the report that was run on June 1st by Tim Bonham. That reflects assets that total \$632,376.37. Allison Eklund advised having the MHC join the MN Council of NonProfits. Dawn Moore will research the benefits of joining and report her findings at the July meeting.

**V. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the May meeting were presented to the board electronically prior to the meeting. Mark Ward motioned to approve the May minutes with the updated Therapeutic Riding Survey report. Glen Eaton seconded, motion carries.

**VI. Secretary's Report:** Dawn Moore advised three new memberships were received via the online system. The Welfare Code of Practice was signed off on by the three new directors. Business cards have been ordered and will be available at the July meeting. Victoria Inget's niece phoned the MHC to advise that Victoria has passed away. Judy Jensen is reaching out to the family.

### VII. OLD BUSINESS

**A. Treasurer's Ad Hoc Committee:** Barb Fleischhaker presented for review procedures for reimbursement, policies and procedures for the treasurer, and policies and procedures for the accountant position. Barb Fleischhaker described the procedure for reimbursement to the board. Glen Eaton motioned to bond the treasurer, president and both vice presidents annually. Kim Otterson seconded. Motion carries. Kim Otterson motioned to increase the bond from \$200,000 to \$500,000. Trina Joyce seconded. Discussion followed. Trina Joyce withdrew the second. The Administrative Assistant will research bonding information and present findings to the executive board prior to the July meeting. Darrell Mead motioned to require a second signature on all checks at or over \$2,500. Glen Eaton seconded. Motion carries.

**B. Teleconference Update:** Tom Tweeten absent, no report. Mark Ward requested plenty of advance notice to set up the connection in the event someone will be absent.

### VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**A. Expo:** Glen Eaton reported most of the bills have been paid, except the State Fair, and we should have that shortly. All in all we had a great Expo. Good reviews are being received. The total attendance was about 48,000 people which makes it the second largest after the 2013 Expo. We should have the final financial figures at the next Council meeting. All is going well with the 2016 planning going full speed ahead. The next Expo meeting is at Lunds & Byerly's in St Louis Park.

**B. Direct Funding:** Mark Ward advised two new applications have been received since my last report, five of those were approved by our committee, and one was not approved. The latest received are numbers 10-11 below. So far in 2015, our committee has received eleven applications for Direct Funding. Eight were approved and one not approved. Two remain to be decided by the committee.

1. Two Rivers Pony Club: \$500 for jump judges, rental of P.A. system, supplies, and ribbons for a schooling jumper show on Sunday, July 5, 2015. Approved.

2. Dakota Wicohan: \$500 for the cost of educators for their May 19, 2015 "Allies of the Horse Nation Fundraiser" and "Sharing of the Dakota Horse Tradition" educational event. Approved.

3. Swift County 4H Horse Project: \$325 for the cost of hosting their May 10th educational seminar and demonstrations on equine chiropractic and natural hoof care, overall horse care, disease prevention, and basic equine first aid. The Direct Funding committee stipulated that the equine chiropractic care presentation will include mention that a veterinarian must refer a horse to the chiropractic practitioner. Approved.

4. Pope County 4-H: \$240 to Pope County 4-H for expenses for a 4-H judge, Andrew Hinrichs, book copies, food, and door prizes, to hold a beginners horse clinic on Monday, June 8 at the Pope County Fairgrounds. Approved.

5. Heels Down: \$500 to cover the facility fee for running a benefit dinner for the Pinky Swear Foundation. Not Approved.

6. Wild Rice Peacemakers: \$500 for various expenses related to a cowboy mounted shooting clinic to be held June 14 at the Red River Riding Club in Breckenridge, MN. Approved.

7. 2nd Chance Youth Ranch: \$500 requested by 2nd Chance Youth Ranch for the purchase of horse equipment to be used at their Family Funfest on May 2nd at King's Ranch in Ramsey MN. Approved.

8. Sun Country & You: \$500 for helmets and a bareback pad for therapeutic riding in their 2015 summer classes. Approved.

9. Lac qui Parle County 4H Horse Project : \$500 for clinician fees (Lita Hottel) for a 3-day horsemanship clinic, June 17-19, 2014 at the Lac qui Parle County horse arena. Approved.

10. \$500 to the Western Dressage Association of MN for expenses of a western dressage clinic held May 23, 2015. (This application was received May 13 and was not approved.)

11. \$500 to Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Association for expenses for a clinician at an August 7-9 clinic at the Straight Rail Ranch in Nevis, MN. (This application was received May 18 and was approved for \$200)

Our budget for 2015 is \$4000. We have made Direct Funding Grants of \$3,765 and now have \$235 remaining.

**C. Education:** Jennifer Willey reported electronically. Expo was a great success. Many people stopped by the booth and there was some discussion of adding an equine information area near the pony rides. This needs to be discussed with the Expo board, a budget decided upon and needs volunteers. The committee has worked to get more information up on the MHC website. If any director has an idea for an article, please submit to Tracy and Jennifer via email.

**D. Communications:** Missie Schwartz advised the newsletters are now going to be sent via bulk mail. This newsletter will go out late as deadlines passed without submissions. Missie Schwartz is asking directors to contribute to the newsletter so that it may be fresh and interesting to all members.

**E. Aisle of Breeds:** Glen Eaton advised the Aisle of Breeds is well underway with people calling to bring their horses. The State Fair runs from August 27th through Labor Day. We will be active all 12 days. I will be meeting with Michelle Butler of the State Fair shortly. Glen

*MHC Minutes--continued on page 10*

*MHC Minutes--continued from page 9*

Eaton asked for help to set up the display, he will ask Mark Goodrich if the State Fair personnel could help. Tracy Turner asked for volunteers to run the table and organize the volunteers. Trina Joyce accepted the position.

**F. Coalition of State Horse Councils:** Glen Eaton advised the committee is meeting once a month and will meet sooner as the dates get closer. We do need sponsors. As for the DC meeting the reception is going well. The Coalition is going well financially with about \$11,000 in the bank plus what donations have been received for this reception which is close to \$3,000 which is the amount we will spend on this reception. There will be more on speakers at the next meeting.

**G. Certified Stables:** Sue McDonough reported electronically. The Certified Stable Program has 65 stables in the program, which includes newest stable *Diamond in the Rough* with one other interested stable to be inspected in the near future. Recertification will be scheduled throughout the summer. We receive continued positive feedback from stables that are recertified. The program is successfully growing with continued "Pride in Ownership."

**H. Inventory/Storage:** Glen Eaton, no report.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. AHC:** Tracy Turner advised a check for \$850 was received for the castration project. The 10-year anniversary for the Unwanted Horse Coalition is this year and the MHC has been chosen to speak at the event regarding the gelding project. Tracy Turner advised the Prevent All Soring Tactics Bill is being presented in the legislature again. The MHC will continue to support the bill. The Double Deck Transport Bill is being presented to ban that mode of transport nationwide. Federal legislation for Banning Medication in Racing which would allow for drug testing to be assumed by the human sports medicine group. Allison Eklund advised the AgTourism Bill did pass and will become law. Tracy Turner received an email from the Department of Revenue requesting an updated estimate of dealer equine sales vs. private party sales. Tracy Turner will respond to that query stating those numbers have not yet been updated from the 2004 study cited in the email.

**B. MHC Vision:** Tracy Turner voiced his desire to see the MHC become the voice of the horse industry in MN. Discussion followed on how to promote the MN Trails in literature, at rest stops, through the Department of Tourism, etc. Mark Ward reminded the directors that the MN State Fair has requested informational demonstrations and thought the MHC could possibly participate. Mark Ward asked if Darrell Mead can get a trail map in an electronic version for inclusion on the website. Dawn Moore presented an idea to have a committee including the MN State Fair and all show chairpersons to see where they can work together and share expenses, equipment, ideas, etc. Dawn Moore will present the idea to the Show Facilities committee. Trina Joyce presented the idea of bringing the MHC to outstate MN. Discussion followed on promoting the MHC to all MN horse people.

**Announcements:**

June 12th is the deadline for submissions for the next newsletter.

**X. Tracy Turner adjourned the meeting** at 9:03 PM.

**NEXT MEETING** - July 14, 2015 - 6:30 p.m.

University of MN - Leatherdale Center



**MINNESOTA  
HORSEMEN'S  
DIRECTORY**

<http://mnhd.org>

**MEETING SCHEDULE****MINNESOTA HORSE COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETINGS**

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

Leatherdale Equine Center Center ♦ 6:30 pm

1801 Dudley Ave ♦ St. Paul (U of M St. Paul Campus)

MHC Board Meetings are open, MHC members welcome to attend.

Sept. 8, 2015	Annual Meeting	June 14, 2016
Oct. 13, 2015	Feb. 9, 2016	July 12, 2016
Nov. 10, 2015	March 8, 2016	Sept. 13, 2016
Dec. 8, 2015	April 12, 2016	Oct. 11, 2016
Jan. 23, 2016 -	May 10, 2016	Nov. 8, 2016

**MINNESOTA HORSE EXPO  
BOARD MEETINGS**

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

6:30 pm

Call 952-356-2090 for location.

Sept. 29, 2015	Feb. 23, 2016	July 26, 2016
Oct. 27, 2015	Mar. 29, 2016	Sept. 27, 2016
Nov. 24, 2015	Apr. 19, 2016	Oct. 25, 2016
Dec. 29, 2015	May 17, 2016	Nov. 29, 2016
Jan. 26, 2016	June 28, 2016	Dec. 27, 2016

*For Horse's Sake*

Editors: Linda Dahl and Missie Schwartz

Publisher: Dahl Graphics & Printing  
888-403-2060 ♦ [www.dahlgraphics.com](http://www.dahlgraphics.com)

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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  
E-Mail: [fhs-mhc@dahlgraphics.com](mailto:fhs-mhc@dahlgraphics.com)

**Newsletter Deadlines**

Sept. 2015	8/14/15	March 2016	2/12/16
October 2015	9/11/15	April 2016	3/11/16
Nov. 2015	10/16/15	May 2016	4/15/16
Dec. 2015	11/13/15	June 2016	5/13/16
Jan. 2016	1/20/16	July-Aug. 2016	6/17/16

## 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)



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

[www.mnhorsecouncil.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

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       United States Postal Service - B&W

Please complete this form and send with your check to:

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 PO Box 96 ♦ Monticello, MN 55362

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## Minnesota Horse Council

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

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#### Budget

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#### Legislative

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 Thomas Tweeten ♦ 952-226-4190 ♦ [thomastweeten@mnhorsecouncil.org](mailto:thomastweeten@mnhorsecouncil.org)

#### Minnesota Horsemen's Directory

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#### Nominations

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#### Pioneer Award

Doug Persian ♦ 763-242-5570 ♦ [dougpersian@mnhorsecouncil.org](mailto:dougpersian@mnhorsecouncil.org)

#### Promotions

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#### Temporary Emergency Equine Feed Assistance (TEEFA)

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#### Trail Blazers

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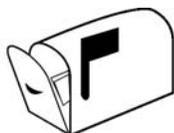


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## Minnesota Horse Council

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**NOTE!**  
**ADDRESS CHANGE**

## Out the Back Door . . .

### *If It Still Works*

I need to have a garbage can next to the hamper. Seems as though every week I fold something that should never have been washed. Jeans, socks, t-shirts and other things . . . yet somehow the item in question is worn again. And it still works. Perhaps not stylish or attractive but the function is still there.

This past weekend we stopped at an estate sale. Since it was the third day of the sale, items were fairly picked over. They were also half off! There were many things I wondered why this person still had. Ah - they still worked.

We live in a - have to have the latest and greatest - need to one up my neighbor - if it does not stack up to what I want then I get rid of it - world. Unfortunately this attitude does not only extend to clothes, electronics and cars. I doubt I will ever need to upgrade my phone every time a new one is available or buy the latest style.

We do need progress and improvement. What we don't need is carelessly tossing something that still works. The idea applies to not only belongings, it should be used with relationships, actions and values. Don't throw away something that works just because something might be better. We can share the old with the new.

Now I believe I will go ride the young horse with the old saddle that still works - out my back door.

Missie.Schwartz@MNHorseCouncil.org



*Old dog meeting the new colt*