



Horse Council Courier

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.

www.horsemencouncil.org

Congressional Cavalry "Ride-In" June 17, 2009

The American Horse Council is holding its annual Congressional Cavalry "Ride-In" on Wednesday, June 17, in Washington, DC. The "Ride-In" will take place as part of the AHC National Issues Forum, which will focus on "The Welfare of the Horse" this year. All members of the Congressional Cavalry and interested members of the horse community are encouraged to participate.

There are many federal issues that Congress deals with that impact the horse industry, including taxes, immigration, welfare, access to trails and public lands, diseases and interstate and international movement of horses. These issues affect horse owners, breeders and those who work in the industry whether they are involved in racing, showing, recreation or working horses.

The AHC would like as many members of the Cavalry as possible to come to Washington and meet with their Representatives, Senators and their staffs. Part of the Congressional Cavalry's mission is to put a face on the \$102 billion horse industry and the millions of Americans who are part of it. The

most effective way to do that is through personal contact with horse people from all over the country who can tell Congress first hand about the horse industry in their respective states and districts and the issues that impact them.

Participants don't have to attend the AHC Issues Forum to participate in the "Ride-In," and can discuss any issues with their members of Congress they want. If an issue is important to a member of the Cavalry and affects horses they are encouraged to bring it up whether it is federal, state or local.

Anyone planning on participating in the "Ride-In" should make appointments with their Congressional offices as soon as possible. Contact information can be found at <http://www.house.gov/> and <http://www.senate.gov/> to schedule a meeting with your Representatives and Senators.

Participants should explain they are constituents and let the office scheduler know what issues they want to talk about. It is easier for congressional staff to arrange a meeting if they know what you wish to discuss. Further information for contacting your members of Congress is available at <http://www.horsemencouncil.org/HCI/Lobbying.php>.

The AHC will conduct a free pre "Ride-In" briefing concerning federal issues impacting the horse industry on Wednesday, June 17 at 8:30 A.M at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.

If you plan to participate in the "Ride-in" or want more information about how you can, please contact Ben Pendergrass, AHC Legislative Director at 202-296-4031

While you weren't looking

Beginning April 6, Congress started its two-week spring break. This break follows a productive six-week stretch full of budget fights, cabinet nominations, bailout plans, corporate firings and a heck of a lot of federal spending. It wasn't long ago when our senators and representatives were labeled as a bunch of "do nothings." Based on what this new bunch has done already this year, I'll take the old bunch.

With the economy, climate change and budget issues dominating the news recently, there are a few issues members are trying to sneak under the radar. One issue in particular deals with the treatment of horses and a more fundamental opinion of livestock and private property. In January, Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) introduced H.R. 503 which makes it a federal crime to transport, possess, ship, purchase, sell, deliver or receive horses for the purpose of human consumption. This bill has been tagged by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) as its top legislative agenda item for this congressional session, and its members are pushing hard.

The horse slaughter bill, as it's more commonly called, has amassed 115 co-sponsors in the House. Twenty-four Republicans have signed on as supporters. With more than 25 percent of all House members now on board, this bill has a decent shot of passing.

However, the outlook in the Senate is not nearly as favorable for HSUS and its followers. In March, Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and John Ensign (R-NV) introduced their version of the bill with 14 co-sponsors. Even with the support of two former presidential candidates (Senators John McCain and John Kerry), the chances of this bill

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President's Corner

The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

It was really great to see so many of our friends at the 20th Annual Illinois Horse Fair! The Fairgrounds were in fantastic shape and the Department of Agriculture and the whole Fairgrounds staff did a fine job getting ready for and during the event. Even the weather cooperated and was unbelievably nice for most of the weekend, something I could certainly get used to. Maybe global warming will eventually make early March in Illinois the best possible time for a horse fair anywhere! But don't take your coveralls out of the truck just yet.

The Illinois Legislature has been on its spring break and will return somewhat rested and ready for a brand new round of budget negotiations and a new game of hide-the-peanut with the dizzying assortment of "shell bills" that have gone over from one chamber to the next. Those shell bills will get new wording attached to them. Many of them likely will be bills that we thought had failed earlier in the session. We will be doing our best to keep you up to date using our Cap Wiz legislative service on the HCI website. Check it out when you get a chance. Cap Wiz not only allows you to follow the activity of the posted bills we are watching but also allows you to send e-mail messages to, and provides contact info for, your legislators. Believe it or not, **your opinion does make a difference**, and our Cap Wiz service makes it easier than ever for you to contact the people making decisions about your horses in Springfield and Washington, DC.

I've believed for years that change is the only universal constant, but most people really hate change! Nowhere is this more prevalent than with those of us who work with horses or have any involvement at all in agriculture. Sometimes it takes years for some people to make simple changes – even though they know the change will be for their own good. I must confess that people like me, who think they are less resistant to change, are still very reluctant to make changes. Seth Godin, in his book entitled *Tribes*, spends considerable time discussing the status quo and its fear of change. He

believes change is inevitable – that it is a normal and necessary part of life – and the sooner we embrace it, the better off we will be. Whether you like change or not, change is on its way. Let's work together to make it positive for the horses.

I recently had the opportunity of addressing the St. Louis Agribusiness Club during their monthly meeting held at Fairmont Race Track. We shared a wonderful lunch, learned a whole bunch about horse racing from the Race Director and his staff and managed to leave a few dollars behind to help stimulate the local economy.

Having the opportunity to showcase the Illinois horse industry to a group of people, whether it's your riding club, a church group, 4-H club, county farm bureau or professional farmers and agricultural businessmen and women is something every one of us needs to be doing more of. Rebuilding an understanding of horses in America and providing some insight into the wonderful things horses bring into your life is probably the single most important thing you can do to secure the future of horseback riding in your community. I know you're busy, but it's important! If you don't do it, who will?

You know, there are so many pressing issues facing horse owners in 2009 that we need to be sure not to lose sight of the reason(s) we got involved with horses in the first place. A small survey that many of you filled out at Horse Fair reveals that the #1 reason we own horses is that horses allow us to relax and reduce stress in our all-to-hectic lives. I am hopeful that we can expand on that survey and get some web-based input from across the state so that HCI can work to serve you in the best ways possible. Look for a message from us in your inbox in the near future and please take some time to share your thoughts with us. ■

Cowboy Logic: "Don't let so much reality into your life that there's no room for dreaming."

Frank Bowman

Illinois Equine Promotion Board Awards more than \$72,000 in Grants

Springfield, IL – More than \$72,000 in grants by the Illinois Equine Industry Research and Promotion Board (IEPB) have been awarded, according to Karen Freese, chair.

Grants are funded by the Illinois equine checkoff program, which provides for the voluntary assessment of a nickel per 50-pound bag of horse feed sold at retail.

The awards went to projects in nine communities from deep in southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest to urban DuPage County in the north. The grants were presented at the 2009 Illinois Horse Fair.

Shawnee Backcountry Horsemen received \$8,734 for equipment to help its volunteers with trail construction, reconstruction and maintenance on Shawnee National Forest and nearby private property trails.

"Hardening of the trails to withstand traffic without trail tread failure, muddiness or erosion is an increasingly important consideration," according to Pat Laubscher, project contact for the group headquartered in Eddyville, IL.

Equipment being funded includes pack-saddles with gravel bags for use in wilderness areas, and a hydraulic gravel-hauling wagon for use in non-wilderness areas.

"Thousands of equestrians yearly will benefit," Laubscher said, citing a 2003 study

showing more than 38,000 visitors to Shawnee area horse campgrounds alone. Trail use also generates considerable economic activity for feed stores, farriers, trainers, as well as community restaurants, retailers and service stations.

Rainbow Riders Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Monmouth, IL, received \$8,000 toward its barn and paddock restoration project.

"Because we are a not-for-profit corporation in a rural, low socio-economic area, all of our current resources are directed into a ridership fund, which ensures that every person who could benefit from this type of therapy is able to, regardless of financial position," said Drew Angotti, Rainbow's executive director. "Consequently, we do not have enough resources to finance a project this size (restoration of weather-damaged roof and wash-outs creating safety concerns for users)," he said.

Pike County Fairgrounds was given \$7,800 to improve arena fencing and footing, re-establishing safety at the site for the many groups that use the public facility. During the severe flooding in the area over the summer of 2008, the grounds were used as a staging area for sand-bagging and other flood-fighting activities. Fencing around the area is used metal pipe, donated 20 years ago, and now rusted to ruin.

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Bob Wagner accepts an \$8,700 IEPB grant from Karen Freese, EPB chair, as Don Cloud looks on.



Dr. Bill VanAlstine of the Decatur, Illinois Park Board, accepts a \$14,000 IEPB grant. From left are Chuck Reynolds, interim manager, Big Creek Riding Center, and Rod Bussell, chairman of the Big Creek Community Advisory Committee.



Lisa Smith, Pike County Fair Board Member, accepts a \$7,800 IEPB grant. Left is Martha Sheppard, coordinator, Two Rivers RC&D.



Debra Hagstrom, left, University of Illinois Extension equine specialist, accepts a \$2,500 IEPB grant from Karen Freese, EPB chair.



Drew Angotti, executive director, Rainbow Riders Therapeutic Center, Monmouth, IL, accepts an \$8,000 IEPB grant.



Trail Riders of DuPage received a \$7,200 IEPB grant during ceremonies at the Illinois Horse Fair. (L-R) George Sevenburg, Karen Freese, EPB chair; Richard Hargreaves, and Tom Jennings, Illinois Director of Agriculture.



Dr. Eric Carlson of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, accepts an \$11,300 IEPB grant.



Mark Schwarm of the Equine Science Program, Southern Illinois University, accepts a \$3,000 IEPB grant from Karen Freese, EPB chair.



Matt Thouvenin, vice president, and Linda Kennedy (second from right) secretary of the King City Saddle Club, Mt. Vernon, IL, accept a \$9,000 IEPB grant. Assisting with the presentation were Tom Jennings (center) Illinois director of agriculture, and Frank Bowman (right) president of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

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Like many other projects supported by the EPB, volunteers will remove old and install new fencing at Pike County's grounds, according to Brenda Middendorf, project coordinator.

First steps for a new Big Creek Riding Center, Decatur, IL, are being funded with a \$14,000 grant. The project is part of a 10-year master plan by the Big Creek Riding Center Advisory Committee, which requested help in creating a 7-acre turn out pasture to serve boarders and show participants, along with refurbishing access roads and ultimately a new indoor and outdoor arena and boarding facilities for 52 horses at the facility owned by the Decatur Park District. Big Creek has more than five miles of wooded and natural prairie trails.

According to Jim Kiefer, project manager and park district operations manager, the district will provide labor and use of equipment, local donors will fund ornamental horticulture and three agencies have joined flood mitigations projects at the site.

Trail Riders of DuPage (TROD), Warrenville, IL, received \$7,200 to enhance and expand its 12-year-old ongoing training program for first response personnel who may serve at equestrian accident scenes. Objective of TROD sessions is to develop basic familiarity in how to safely handle horses under crises conditions, according to Richard Hargreaves, project director.

"To date, more than 800 responders have been trained, Hargreaves said, "the majority of them from DuPage and Chicago collar counties." Now we want to develop resources, instructors and sites to reach first responders all across Illinois, he said.

Mark Schwarm of the Equine Science Program, Southern Illinois University, received \$3,000 for the promotion of Natural Horsemanship Training Methods. "Natural Horsemanship is the term coined to describe a method of two-way communication between horse and human that is cooperative in nature," Schwarm said. "It differs from the more traditional, coercive-type horse training methods in that it offers options to the horse and encourages the horse to choose the desirable option rather than forcing the horse into a single, dictated action," he explained.

Schwarm says that learning the rudiments of natural horse-human communication is the basis of the horse training classes offered at SIU, the only four-year collegiate equine science program in Illinois.

King City Saddle Club, Mt. Vernon, IL, received \$9,000 for the club's arena and grounds project. Included in the grant is funding for road repair and a public address system and upgrades to arena and driveways at the site, which hosts 10 to 15 fun, pleasure and speed shows annually, as well as being used by many clubs. "In 2008, there were 23 events and 1,000 horses," said Linda Kennedy project director. The PA system is a valuable aid in safely controlling equestrian and spectator traffic, according to Kennedy.

Investigators from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, lead by Allison Stewart, DVM, received \$11,300 to study the effects of hyaluronic acid and triamcinolone alone and in combination on synovitis of equine stifle (which treatment option is best for painful, often debilitating osteoarthritis in a horse's knee joint).

"In horses, osteoarthritis is more common and has greater economic impact than acute traumatic injuries or respiratory disease," Dr. Stewart said. "It is a major source of debilitating pain, economic loss and de-

creased athleticism in the performance horse," she said, noting that "70% of Illinois' 213,000 horses are used for recreation or showing."

Debra Hagstrom, equine extension specialist, University of Illinois, received \$2,250 to outline, organize and conduct horse pasture management workshops. These will be one-day events programmed to provide information on improving the quality and productiveness of pasture for horses. "Information will be offered on forage species best suited to Illinois soils and climate, grazing management to optimize pasture production and longevity, and pasture fertilization and renovation techniques," Hagstrom said. Workshops will include "pasture walks," enabling participants to see actual pasture conditions and learn how to apply know-ledge they gain in classroom sessions, she added.

By law, EPB funds must go to support equine research, education and promotion in keeping with the enabling legislation's core purpose: "Enhancement of the Illinois equine industry through self-funded programs, projects and activities. Grants to institutions and individuals will be related to equine research, education and industry enhancements and promotion."

Illinois has more than 77,000 horse owners and 213,000 horses, constituting a \$3.8 billion industry and providing more than 15,000 fulltime jobs.

Any group, individual, company or institution may apply for funding. Preference will be given to projects benefiting the largest number of people/horses. A detailed research application is available at www.HorsemensCouncil.org (as well as a shorter project application) or from the EPB administrative office, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 308, Springfield, IL 62703, phone (217) 585-1600. ■

Crowds Like "New & Different" at HCI's 2009 Illinois Horse Fair

Springfield, IL – Illinois Horse Fair 2009 drew record crowds on an unseasonably warm and sunny 72-degree Saturday (March 7) in Springfield, according to Joy Meierhans, manager, who hastened to add that while the tornadoes that skipped

through nearby Loami and part of the city itself reduced attendance Sunday afternoon, "We are all thankful no one was seriously hurt during the annual three-day event which drew more than 10,000 horsemen to the Fairgrounds."

Horsemen's Council of Illinois, which presents Illinois Horse Fair with sponsorship from Purina, Midway Trailers Sales, John Deere and Arenus, suffered considerable financial loss in 2008 when the Horse Fair was cancelled – the Fairgrounds were

closed due to electrical problems a week before the event. "A great turnout and our 'sold out' new Ranch Rodeo Saturday night helped us recover some of our losses, said Frank Bowman, HCI president.

Sponsored by Purina, the Ranch Rodeo featured teams competing in cowboy skills events, such as team branding, trailer loading, wild cow milking and a cowboy race.

Features between rodeo events included cowboy mounted shooting, cowboy dressage and the stallions contest.

"By mid-afternoon the Ranch Rodeo sold out," Bowman said. "Our administrative and Horse Fair manager's offices have been receiving lots of enthusiastic response to the Ranch Rodeo, so we want to assure folks that it will be a definite consideration again for a future Horse Fair," he said.

Positive response also was logged from both horse owners and vendors, Meierhans said. "With the economy being what it is, we weren't sure how folks would react when they came to Illinois Horse Fair, the first of the major Midwestern horse fairs on the circuit," she said. "But reports from many vendors are that they had some of their best sales days ever with us Saturday," she explained.

Education also was a popular draw, not only with lead clinicians Craig Cameron and Richard Shrake filling their venues, but with equine specialists on a variety of subjects, such as Julie Cyra (West 20 Saddle Co.) nearly filling the 400-seat Livestock Center Seminar Hall for a session on the physics of saddle fitting. Her talk created so much interest that Cyra graciously answered questions for 30 minutes after the session, finally having to escort the curious back to her booth to continue the dialog.

Bob Wagner of Back Country Horsemen of America set up a trail camp on the grounds and entertained visitors both casually at his camp site as well as during formal presentations on horse packing and camping. As Wagner and sidekick Don Cloud prepared baked potatoes and steak outside their tent on Friday night, their horses grazed quietly in an adjacent corral, each drawing about as much attention.

New to Illinois Horse Fair this year was premier gaited riding clinician Liz Graves'



clinic, which drew SRO attendance in the large Building 13 arena. Organizers had to do their best Disney World imitation by asking everyone in the six sets of bleachers flanking the entrance to "stand up,

please...now move to the left (or right) and help make room for the folks who do not have seats."

Also new to Horse Fair this year was an equestrian life-style fashion show organized by Pam Sigler, who utilized many items from vendors' stock, choreographing the show with rodeo queens and princesses, and presenting materials themed for farm and ranch wear, show clothes and accessories, even integrating tack. The show was presented with lights, music and comedy skits and patter in the Livestock Center Arena.

A total of 25 different breeds/disciplines participated in demonstrations in the Livestock Center arena, giving audiences a representative look at the fine points of each. Groups included the popular stock horse and show breeds as well as the more unusual, such as Gypsy Cobs, Bashkir Curlies, Spotted Saddle Horses and mules.

Dave Davis's inspiring Horseback Music Ministries' Cowboy Church Sunday morning warmed an ardent following. Davis used his trick horses and horsemanship in an uplifting nondenominational service, which began in the cool gray of the Coliseum and concluded with sunshine streaming across the tanbark and the faces of worshippers.

Nearly everywhere folks looked between the Coliseum and Livestock Center, they found horses, vendors and educational opportunities. Sponsor Midway Trailer Sales parked trailers along Central Avenue, in the barn aisles and "over the hill." In the Carriage Room, the Land of Lincoln Horseshoers Association demonstrated the farriers' art between sessions on "Leg wrapping – Different Wraps for Different Reasons" and a horse "painted" to reveal its musculature. The Series 25 barns held not only a large group of horses for sale, but literally tons of tack. In addition to these venues, Illinois Horse Fair also utilized all of the Annex (Building 110 during State Fair) and the adjacent Building 26, housing more than 140 vendors in all, selling everything a horse owner could need or want. ■

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passing are far less than in the House. Thanks to the Senate's ever present speed bump known as the filibuster, Landrieu, Ensign and the HSUS will have to convince 60 senators that livestock owners should no longer have the opportunity to dispose of their property in the most economical and humane fashion allowable.

Which brings us to the heart of this issue. Several years ago, the HSUS and others went into a horse slaughter facility and found that the methods employed to process those horses did not follow the industry standards for humane practices. Eventually, HSUS would use this information to convince the courts to shut down the last remaining horse processing facilities in the country. With no option for domestic horse processing, many horse owners now send their unwanted horses to Canadian and Mexican facilities. In most cases, these horses are no longer able to perform in the fields and, in these times of economic turmoil, owners either turn to the foreign processors to take their horses or they just abandon the animals because they cannot afford to keep them.

Horse abandonment is becoming a real problem throughout the country—so much so that the New York Times recently did a piece on it. For a big city paper to dedicate print space on what is mainly viewed as a rural concern says something. Many horse rescue centers have already spent their year's budget on feed and it's only April. Members of Congress need to remember something in this debate: while Americans may not like to eat horse meat, millions of others around the globe do. The American livestock industry is the best in the world and ships its products to consumers wherever demand exists and trade laws allow. They employ thousands here at home producing a product in a safe and humane manner. Yes, there are a few "bad apples" out there who should be punished for breaking the law, but we must not condemn an entire industry as a response to the stupidity of the few. For those who would like to see the end of all meat production, today's target may be horses; but, if successful, who knows what tomorrow's target might be. ■

*—by Seymour Klierly,
Midwest Ag Journal*

Horsemen's Council of Illinois Awards two annual \$1,000 Scholarships



Rachel Brooks.



Ryan Heaton.

Springfield, IL—Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) has awarded two \$1,000 college scholarships.

The 12th annual Ruby Holmquist Memorial Scholarship went to Rachel Jean Brooks of Oakford, IL. Ryan Heaton of Murrayville, IL, won the 3rd annual Dean Scoggins Memorial Scholarship. Both awards are to further the students' equine education.

The Holmquist scholarship is established and administered by HCI in memory of Ruby Holmquist, dedicated horsewoman, loyal HCI director and inspiration to all who knew her. It is restricted to an Illinois resident for assisting in the pursuit of or advancement in a horse-related career.

The Scoggins scholarship was initiated in 2007 by HCI to honor the memory of the late Dr. R. Dean Scoggins, DVM, a dedicated horseman in addition to being a skilled veterinary practitioner and faculty member at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. He spent a great deal of time promoting the strength and integrity of the horse industry through his educational efforts, teaching both on-campus and off-campus as an Illinois State Specialist with UI Extension. In addition, he promoted these ideals as a proactive HCI board member. This scholarship aims to help promote Dr. Scoggins' ideals through recognizing an outstanding Illinois resident veterinary student who has a demonstrated background and interest in the health and welfare of horses in Illinois.

Brooks, daughter of producers Jerry and Nancy Brooks, is a senior at Petersburg PORTA High School with a 4.15 GPA

and long list of scholastic, athletic and community service honors, including being a member of the Scholastic Bowl State Championship Team and captain of the swim team and school record holder in the 100 breaststroke and 200 Free Relay.

President of the Oakford Pioneers 4-H Club 2006-2009, Brooks has been a member for 10 years. Among her horse-showing titles is Winner ISF Horse Show, Western Horsemanship ages 15-16. Aiming for a career in the horse industry, Brooks spent last summer shadowing the professionals at Cass Veterinary Clinic.

Brooks has applied to the Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences program at the University of Illinois where she hopes to graduate as an equine veterinarian.

Heaton is the son of Ken and Becky Heaton. He received his B.S. Degree in Animal Science from the University of Illinois and currently is a third-year student in the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. Upon graduation he would like to complete an internship at a top level equine clinic to advance his experience in lameness diagnosis and sports medicine.

Applications for next year's scholarships are being accepted until December 1. Guidelines and application forms are available by writing to the Horsemen's Council of Illinois or on its web site www.HorsemensCouncil.org. HCI may be contacted at 3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite 308, Springfield, IL 62703. Phone (217) 585-1600. Fax (217) 585-1601. ■

Join Us Today!

Individual Membership Application

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

County _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____

Work Phone () _____

Fax () _____

Email _____

How many horses do you own? _____

_____ at home _____ boarding stable

Individual Membership Dues (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$39/yr**

Organization Membership Application

Organization _____

Contact Name _____

Street _____

City _____

County _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Fax () _____

Email _____

Website _____

of Illinois Members in Organization _____

Check appropriate category
 Business/Professional Association Charity

Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr.

Make check payable and mail to:



Horsemen's Council of Illinois
 3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite 308
 Springfield, IL 62703
 Phone: 217.585.1600
www.horsemenscouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) - A Useful Tool for Equestrians.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) have become practical for recreational use over the last 10 years. Prior to that, they were used primarily by the military and in high end scientific and surveying applications. Now they are used for navigation in all types of vehicles, for geocaching, and for locating lost hikers and trail riders. GPS receivers can be useful tools for equestrians.



The Basics

A GPS system consists of three components: satellites, ground control stations and a receiver that captures the satellite signals. In the U.S. launched system, 24 satellites orbit the earth sending back signals. If the GPS receiver gets a 'lock' on any three of these satellites, the user's location can be determined. A 'lock' on four satellites provides the user with location and elevation. In most of the U.S., it is possible to receive data from 612 satellites at the same time. The more satellite connections received, the stronger the signal quality, the more accurate the data. A GPS receiver suitable for equestrian recreational purposes can be purchased for \$150 to \$500.

Navigational Uses

Use of GPS devices for navigational purposes has exploded in the last 5 years. Hand held GPS units enable equestrians to:

- Plot positions (waypoints) along the trail to mark points of interest, trail junctions or trailheads.
- Return easily to a marked waypoint using preprogrammed, one-step routines using electronic compasses.
- Store useful information regarding a trail ride, such as speed, distance traveled, and elevation.
- Download trail routes from a computer and follow the routes as you ride.
- Obtain a more complete picture of performance by using GPS data in conjunction with horse heart monitors.

Documentation Uses

As you ride along the trail, the GPS plots the route as you travel (track log). These tracks and waypoints can be downloaded into the computer and be displayed using software such as Google Earth. Mapping the GPS data and waypoints can be an excellent way to document a trip.

Digital photos and audio recording can be linked to specific coordinates along the trail for enhanced documentation. Aerial photos can be used as background to create more realistic maps. Maps with trails plotted with GPS coordinates can be used as documentation for grant applications and trail easements.

These are just a few of the applications of GPS technology. As the devices are used, many more applications will become evident. View the GPS unit as a tool to improve your trail experiences and help you to enjoy the ride.

Good Luck and Happy Trails! ■

—by Jim Meyer,
Trail Management Services

For questions on GPS use, contact Jim at jim.meyer@trailserv.com or visit his website at www.trailserv.com. Jim is based in the Cincinnati, OH area. He works with park systems of all sizes and private land owners with trail systems.

This article reprinted with permission from the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource. For more info, visit www.ELCR.org.

Illinois Manure Share Website Launched

"Illinois Manure Share" is a new website (<http://www.manureshare.illinois.edu/>) designed to connect farm operations and stables that have extra manure with landscapers, composter, golf courses, gardeners and others who can utilize the manure. The goal is to remove the manure from operations that do not have the acreage to adequately utilize its nutrients on their fields or pastures.

The environment is the ultimate winner with less manure going to landfills and instead being utilized as a valuable nutrient resource and lowering fertilizer costs. The University of Illinois Extension website was developed by Randy Fonner, U of I Extension Certified Livestock Manager Program Specialist and Ellen Phillips, Extension Educator-Crop Systems.

"Several years ago we did a survey of horse stables in the Chicago area and learned that a significant portion of the manure was collected as garbage and headed towards landfills. This site is our effort to have this excellent natural resource better utilized and recycled by those who can utilize it as fertilizer or in composting systems," said Ellen Phillips, Extension Educator.

"The initial response has been overwhelming, but the site will work best in a few months when more people learn about it and register."

At the website, participants can fill out one of two forms. The "I Have Manure" form is for stables that have manure they would like to have removed. Participants will indicate what type of animal manure it is, if it is composted, if there is a nutrient

analysis available and whether they can help by loading, delivering or spreading the manure. The "I Want Manure" form allows participants to indicate the type of manure they want.

You don't have to register to utilize the website. The website has two searchable directories of those who have signed up for each of the lists. The public can contact those in their region and negotiate how to transfer the manure. The website also includes links to federal and state rules and regulations affecting the process. For further information or questions about the website contact Ellen Phillips, Extension Educator-Crop Systems, 708-352-0109, ephillips@illinois.edu. ■

SIU offers Equine Science Camps

The Department of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is offering two, week-long Equine Science Camps, June 8 and 15.

Camp enrollment is limited to 12 participants each week. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. A \$100 deposit is required. Deposits should be received by May 4, 2009. The balance is due upon arrival at the camp. Register on-line at www.dce.siu.edu.

Resident Camper Fee: \$800

This fee includes four nights lodging, all meals, and materials. Housing is provided in SIUC's air-conditioned, supervised residence halls.

Commuter Camper Fee: \$650

This fee includes welcome reception, lunches, one dinner at Giant City Lodge, and all materials. Commuter campers should arrive at the Student Center main entrance daily at 8 a.m. and be picked up at the Student Center main entrance each evening at 6 p.m.

This camp is designed to expand horse knowledge, meet new friends and experience SIUC. Each morning will bring an opportunity to ride and work with the University's horses, followed by a laboratory class each afternoon. Campers will learn about horses from ground to mounted work, and from the inside out.



Topics include: Horse selection, nutrition, health care and management. Evening activities will be arranged for residential campers and may include a movie night, a trip to the SIUC Recreational Center (bring a swimsuit if you like!), a Sunset Concert and light hiking at Giant City State Park.

Horse experience is required for students to apply to camp. Each student wishing to attend the camp must be comfortable handling and working around horses. They should have experience riding at the walk, trot, and canter. Each camp will be limited to 12 participants in order to ensure that each student gets as much opportunity to learn as possible. Students must be 14 to 18 years old this year. The camp sessions will be coordinated by SIUC Equine Science Instructor Stephanie Speiser.

For program questions, call Speiser at (618) 453-1773. For reservation questions, call Jackie Welch at (618) 536-7751. ■



Horse Council Courier

Horsemen's Council of Illinois, Inc.

The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 308

Springfield, IL 62703