



# Horse Council Courier

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

## Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo set for November 20-21; Organizers ask horsemen to tell them what they want to learn



Organizers of the third annual Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo & Holiday Market (November 20-21, 2010 at the Lake County Expo Center, Grayslake, IL) are asking people from all segments of the horse industry for suggestions on programming.

"We want to hear from competitors, professionals and those who make their living in the business of horses, as well as recreational riders and those just getting into horses," said Joy Meierhans, who manages Expo for Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

"HCI wants to build on the 50 different presentations offered over the two days of last year's Expo," Meierhans said, "which covered such wide-ranging topics as 'What genomics can tell us about health and disease' and 'Nutritional product claims vs. fact-based research' to 'Overcoming fear by building confidence' and 'Equestrian travel – discovering the world upon a horse.'"



"As always, Expo will not have horses on site, but it will feature leading trainers, nutritionists, animal scientists,

veterinary specialists and researchers in the forefront of equine understanding," Meierhans said.

To see a complete list of last year's programming, representative of the type of programming Expo will continue to offer in 2010 and in years to come, go to [www.horsemencouncil.org/Expo09](http://www.horsemencouncil.org/Expo09) and find the programming plus a list of participating vendors.



Steve Kenyon, communications specialist for the University of Wisconsin's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, called last year's Expo "the best equestrian education opportunity," he'd ever seen. Kenyon



and his wife participated in a hands-on session learning about leg wraps, "Different wraps for different reasons."

Suggestions for Expo speakers and topics may be submitted online at [www.horsemencouncil.org/expo](http://www.horsemencouncil.org/expo). The web site also has a place to sign up for

"Updates" to be emailed as Expo nears.

In addition to its extraordinary educational emphasis, Expo offers shopping for "all things equestrian" across the new building's 65,000 square feet of exhibit space.

Sponsored by Purina, hours for the all-breed Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo & Holiday Market are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets will be available online or at the door: Daily \$8, Weekend \$14.

Parking is free at the Lake County Expo Center, located west of I-94 at the intersection of Peterson & Midlothian Roads in Grayslake.

As speakers and programming are finalized, information will be placed on the Expo web site accessed through [www.horsemencouncil.org/expo](http://www.horsemencouncil.org/expo).



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## President's Corner

### *The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry*

#### **Hot enough for ya?**

At this writing, the Illinois State Fair is in full swing. Temperatures and humidity are both approaching triple digits, but that should be anticipated during the middle of August in Central Illinois. The combination of heat and humidity can become lethal, however, if we're not careful. It sure helps to make the lemon shakeups after the show all the more delightful. Congratulations to all the competitors who showed in Springfield and the many county fairs across the state. Hope everyone pulled thru alright.

Having the opportunity to participate and highlight horses on the trail during the Fair in Conservation World is a real treat. Believe it or not, even here in Illinois, the majority of people are now 4 or 5 generations off the farm. During those years, we have lost a lot of common horse sense. Many urban citizens may have never taken the initiative to go for a dude string ride or even been up close to a horse before. Lots of these folks may never make it to the livestock barns. Most may have never encountered a horse on the trail and wouldn't know how to act if one (or more) were to ride up sudden like on a back country trail. The work and effort at the Fair by BCHA Instructor Bob Wagner, our HCI member organizations and the many dedicated volunteers will go a long way to demystify horses to this crowd and begin talking with others about really sharing trails in Illinois.

So, now with temps starting to moderate and frost not all that far away, everyone should be making plans to visit a favorite state park and enjoy the fall colors from horseback. Let's be sure to

take the good work that has been started and make time to talk to our land managers about shared trails, too. Remember though, if we fail to use trails responsibly or miss the opportunity to volunteer to make them better we may just lose them entirely.

With the elections right around the corner, too, there's another group of people we need to be talking to. People vying for elected office, incumbents and challengers alike, need to hear from you about how much your horses mean to you and the benefits you realize from your equestrian activity. As candidates make their way across the state and to functions in your neighborhood this fall, we need you to be there and to be heard in a proactive way. Most of these folks are a long way off the farm, too. Those who spend the majority of their time in Washington DC especially need a reality check from their constituents on a regular basis.

Legislation, confronting the animal rights threat, maintaining access to your favorite riding trails, tax issues, zoning pressures and even your ability to reasonably keep and enjoy your horses are all issues that we work on every day while you're out riding and doing the things you like best. We'll do the heavy pulling for you. In return, we appreciate your continued support and welcome your active participation. Contact the HCI office with questions or to see how you can help.

The Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo & Holiday Market will be here before we know it. November 20th & 21st at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Mark those dates on your calendar today.

Sure hope to see you there! 

*Frank Bowman*

#### **HCI Volunteers help staff Conservation World exhibit**

Horsemen's Council of Illinois will be represented in Conservation World during the 2010 Illinois State Fair in August. "We are really pleased to be taking part in a new 'Share the Trails' exhibit area and to have the opportunity

for folks, many who may never even get the livestock barns, to get up close and personal with a real live horse, and maybe learn something about encountering horses on our shared trails"

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## *National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) adopts new policy resolution calling for USDA inspection of horse meat.*

By Sue Wallis, Executive Director,  
United Organizations of the Horse

The policy resolution was passed at the annual Legislative Summit held in Louisville, Kentucky on July 25-28, 2010. The policy was first reviewed and passed by the Agriculture and Energy Committee, and then passed at the Business Meeting of the 45 states in attendance. Policies which receive a super majority vote of more than 3/4 of the states attending give NCSL staff in Washington, D.C. the authority to lobby Congress on behalf of the position of the states.

USDA ante and post mortem inspections are mandatory if an animal is to be sold as meat, and the animal must be slaughtered in a USDA-inspected facility. Federal appropriations law contains a prohibition on allowing federal dollars to be spent on salaries for inspectors who inspect horses before or after slaughter, making it impossible for operations that

want to process horse meat within their borders to market this meat.

Inspectors also cannot respond to a voluntary, fee-based inspection request to inspect horse meat. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes that these provisions unduly restrict states' action regarding horse slaughtering facilities within their borders. Therefore, NCSL calls upon Congress to remove these restrictions in existing law, and not insert similar provisions in subsequent appropriations bills or other legislative vehicles.

The closing of horse slaughter facilities in America has decimated the equine industry, and has curtailed the ability of states and tribes to control the numbers of excess and abandoned horses on their lands. Documented reports indicate an increase of 400% in the number of starved, abandoned, and neglected horses between 2008 and 2009 alone. This has

resulted in unprecedented state budget increases and taxpayer costs at a time when states cannot afford unnecessary expense. It has severely impacted the livestock industry as a whole, and by eliminating the salvage value of horses has significantly reduced the market value of all horses.

The loss of markets for horse meat for pet food, for the maintenance of zoo animals, and for byproducts has greatly impacted these sectors. The loss of horse products for export has eliminated more than \$42 million dollars of direct income for an already struggling sector of the livestock industry, not to mention millions of dollars in indirect costs because of the loss of value of individual animals. Given the current state of the horse processing industry, it is particularly important that the federal government not restrict access to inspection. 🐾

### ***Toward responsible horse ownership...***

Lingering federal legislation (HR 503 and S 727) still threatens a nationwide prohibition on equine slaughter in the U.S. There are actually only seven (7) states that prohibit horse processing. Illinois can now count itself in that minority. We won't see any investment in new facilities, no jobs or taxes for communities that may have been interested. We continue to see our surplus horses being shipped longer distances to potentially less regulated facilities in Mexico to meet the same unfortunate end.

By now we can all agree that each and every one of us needs to recognize our lifelong responsibility to the horses we raise, but consider this - the only people making money off this discussion are those pandering to your emotions. Groups such as HSUS/PETA, and a whole host of other copycat groups, go out of their way to make you feel absolutely

terrible about an issue and then promise that you can feel better by sending them a donation "to help the horses."

We have met with these people on countless occasions and can honestly tell you they are distracted by the money and are not interested in finding, or funding, a solution. Ask them what they are doing and you get glossy lip service and shallow feel good. They're really living large, wining and dining with movie stars and senators, making too much money playing to your emotions and the emotions of an agriculturally illiterate population to solve the problem. And with all that money, they hire attorneys - not veterinarians - so they can find ways to make more money. If you haven't stopped donating to these organizations already, please stop right now! **Then pick up a phone and call your federal legislators. Tell them about the things that their money can't buy - your vote!**

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said Frank Bowman, HCI president.

The Conservation World exhibit will include three wall tents and a portable corral with a horse camp theme and 3 - 4 Pack Horse Demonstrations daily by Bob Wagner, certified BCHA instructor, sponsored by the Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

Located to the west of the pond, behind IDNR's beautiful headquarters building, where the Lumberjack show had been for many years, HCI's shared trails exhibit will be next to the "No

Child Left Inside" tent and demos of several outdoor based activities, Illinois Humane's exhibit and adoptions and the Shed Antler Search.



"We will have information available about HCI, our member organizations, horseback riding opportunities in Illinois, sharing trails with horses and have volunteers available to answer questions and talk about horses with the folks that stop by," Bowman said.

HCI thanks and appreciates the many member organizations that are volunteering time and energy to make this event happen. 🐾

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## ***Equine Insurance 101*** By HCI Director Yvonne Ocrant, JD

We all know that equine activities are exciting, enjoyable, and, yes inherently dangerous not only to ourselves and our horses, but also to other participants and spectators. You may be familiar with the Illinois Equine Activity Liability Act and its provisions regarding equine liability, protections from liability, and exceptions for those protections. While the Equine Act says that we participate at our own risk, the Equine Act does not apply to all causes of injuries and it does not limit liability in all equine activities. Written releases are necessary, however, they too are subject to their own limitations. The point is, as existing laws and signed releases do not eliminate all possible liability and medical expenses can quickly become unbearable, insurance may reduce your financial exposure to injuries resulting from horse related activities and financial strain due to increasing medical bills. To assist you in your understanding of equine insurance, this article defines basic policy terminology, introduces various types of equine insurance policies, and identifies what each type of policy intends to insure so that you can consider what insurance is best for you to relieve your liability and financial concerns. *Basic Insurance Terminology*

Understanding basic insurance terminology is necessary to comprehend the terms of an insurance policy.

**Insured:** The individual or entity purchasing the insurance. Other individuals or companies may be added to a policy as additional insureds.

**Insurer:** The company providing the insurance policy and other insurance services.

**Premium:** The fee paid by the insured to the insurer for coverage.

**Deductible:** A pre-set amount excluded from an insurance settlement. Premiums may be reduced with the purchase of a higher deductible.

**Exclusions:** Specific conditions causing losses not covered by the policy.

**Endorsements:** Additional coverage the insurer agrees to provide the insured, sometimes for an additional charge.

### *Various Types of Equine Insurance*

Horse owners have numerous types of insurance to choose from, each providing specific coverage and exclusions. Insurance for horses includes, but is not limited to,

mortality and theft, loss of use, major medical and surgery, breeding stallion or mare infertility, prospective foal insurance, and specified or named perils insurance. Liability insurance is available for horse and facility owners and includes, but is also not limited to, homeowner's, personal horse owner, general commercial liability or farm owner's liability, which includes professional liability, and event liability.

- Mortality insurance is equivalent to life insurance for a horse. If the insured horse dies or is stolen, the insured is reimbursed up to the policy limits.

- Loss of Use insurance is typically offered in two forms: Loss of Use I or "external", and Loss of Use II, or "internal." Loss of Use I pays the insured if the horse suffers a physical injury rendering it permanently unable to perform the discipline or purpose for which it was insured. Loss of Use II provides recovery for the same loss caused by an internal illness as opposed to a physical injury. For example, if an insured event horse suffers a career ending injury (Loss of Use I) or an internal neurological illness (Loss of Use II) prohibiting it from ever jumping again, the insurance company may pay the insured 50% of the horse's stated value.

- Major Medical insurance is available with Mortality insurance. This policy reimburses (after paying the deductible) for veterinary services, including surgery, up to the stated limit per year. Surgical insurance is also available at a less expensive rate than major medical, but with less coverage. For example, if you purchase only surgical insurance and your horse undergoes colic surgery, the policy would cover the expense (less the deductible). If the horse is treated at the hospital, but surgery was not necessary, Surgical insurance would not cover the expenses and, without a Major Medical policy, you would be left to pay the bill.

- A Breeding Stallion or Mare Infertility policy may provide coverage if a stallion becomes unable to breed or a mare becomes barren. A Prospective Foal policy may provide coverage in the case of a fetus or foal abortion, still-birth, or death by specific cause.

- Specified or Named Perils insurance covers the loss of horse in the case of transportation accidents or acts of nature

such as fire, earthquakes, lightning, tornadoes, and floods.

- A Homeowner's Policy may cover liability for unintentional injuries on your property and unintentional damage to someone else's property. However, there are exceptions and exclusions to this coverage. For example, the policy will not cover injuries resulting from business activities such as riding lessons, training, or boarding on your property.

- Personal Horse Owner insurance provides coverage for damage your horses causes on or off your property whether on a trail ride, horse show, or at the barn, but only if your horse is boarded and cared for by a third party and not on your own property.

- General Commercial Liability insurance provides coverage for bodily injury or property damage, on or off the property, resulting from boarding, training, clinics, showing, transportation, or other compensated for equine activities. A typical exclusion includes injuries to horses belonging to others. A care, custody, and control policy will cover such injuries. Another exclusion includes injuries to employees while at work. Worker's compensation insurance would apply.

- Horse and riding associations, clubs, and event sponsors can obtain an insurance policy covering a series of shows or events. However, while the policy will usually cover injuries to spectators, it may not cover claims for damages to association members or event participants.

- Excess liability insurance is a policy included with several association and/or organization memberships that provides additional coverage to your valid and collectible policy. For example, your \$42.00 annual membership with the Horsemen's Council of Illinois includes \$1,000,000 excess liability insurance coverage. You can visit the Horsemen's Council web site at [www.horsemen-council.org/HCI/Benefits/FAQs.pdf](http://www.horsemen-council.org/HCI/Benefits/FAQs.pdf) for answers to your questions on this valuable insurance policy.

The insurance policies mentioned above are the most commonly purchased. However, other types of insurance can be tailored for special circumstances. It is therefore important that you contact an experienced equine insurance agent to discuss your insurance needs

and read your policy with your agent or attorney so you understand its applications, exclusions, notice requirements, and any other coverage prerequisites.

If you need a referral for an equine insurance agent, please do not hesitate to

contact me at (312) 704-3080 or e-mail me your request to [yocrant@hinshawlaw.com](mailto:yocrant@hinshawlaw.com).

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*the author is not rendering legal advice to readers. If you have questions or concerns regarding this article's subject matter, you may contact the author, a licensed attorney practicing equine law, at [yocrant@hinshawlaw.com](mailto:yocrant@hinshawlaw.com).* 

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## **Governor Signs Bills Important to the Horse Community**

Governor Pat Quinn in July signed two bills into law that the Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) was instrumental in working to pass and that are important to the equine community in Illinois:

SB 2632 Public Land - Saddle/Pack Animal Act is now Public Act 96-0985. This bill recognizes horses as users of public lands and their access to state lands and trail systems where currently permitted. The new law requires a posting at the trailhead when trails are closed for significant public safety concerns or required maintenance. This bill was sponsored by Senator Gary

Forby (D – Benton) and championed in the House by Rep. Brandon Phelps (D – Harrisburg).

SB 2951 Vehicle Code - Bicyclist Safety Act is now Public Act 96-1007. This bill creates protections for bicyclists (and horses as other users of the public right-of-way) from reckless actions by drivers of vehicles on roadways and the throwing of “missiles” from the vehicles. The needed inclusions for the protection of pedestrians, horseback riders and animal drawn vehicles were made at the request of HCI.

Specific language of the law includes “A person driving a motor vehicle shall

not, in any reckless manner, drive the motor vehicle unnecessarily close to, toward, or near a bicyclist, pedestrian, or a person riding a horse or driving an animal-drawn vehicle...if a violation results in great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement to another, the person shall be guilty of a Class 3 felony.”

Additional information on both of these new laws is available from the HCI administration office at 217-585-1600, via email at [hci@horsemen-council.org](mailto:hci@horsemen-council.org) or on the HCI website at [www.horsemen-council.org](http://www.horsemen-council.org) 

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## **Purina Research Farm Tour** *By Bob Meierhans, HCI communications director*

Earlier this summer, Kirk Dailey, Purina Regional Horse Specialist, invited a select group of customers and prospects to join him at the company's Conference on Nutritional Research for the Health of the Horse. Horsemen's Council of Illinois was represented by Frank Bowman, president; Joy Meierhans, director and manager for Illinois Horse Fair and Equestrian Lifestyle Expo; and Bob Meierhans, communications director.



The two-day session at Purina's LongView Animal Nutrition Center (equine research farm) in Gray Summit, Missouri, southwest of St. Louis, included an insider's tour of the 1,200-acre facility shared with parent Land O'Lakes and Ralston brand studies on breed-specific nutrition for horses, beef and dairy cattle, swine, poultry and aquaculture, birds and zoo animals. Opened in 1926, the research center is the only one of its kind in the industry.

In addition to today's herd of 80 horses, the place is populated with DVMs and Ph.D.s, all of whom exhibited a remarkable talent for speaking laymen's language rather than that of academicians, though there was no shortage of detail when asked to expound.

No photography is permitted at the farm, although the tour included many memorable moments. One of the most impressive was watching nutrition/performance testing on a horse on a treadmill where he was set up for blood draws, telemetric measurements of heart rate, respiration gasses, etc.

For a pure adrenalin rush, I stood directly in front of the animal as he ran 19.9 mph on the treadmill. I could observe the gait change and length of stride as he moved from a walk to a trot to canter (no full-out gallop). We were told that animals may spend up to four months learning how to use the treadmill before testing begins. A number of the horses in their program can attain speeds of between 32 and 35 miles an hour at the gallop.

Kent Lanter, process engineer and the person who oversees the on-site pilot feed manufacturing plant, began the educational program with a review of ingredients and process research. He explained the rigid incoming ingredient

standards ensured through near infrared analysis to determine the percentage of protein in corn, oats, soybean meal, alfalfa and other sources used to produce Purina horse feeds. In development and in ultimate manufacture, Purina uses a constant nutrition formulation, adjusting as needed for ingredient nutrients rather than using a fixed formula based on volume.

Lanter also showed us his palatability lab, where he runs real world tests on all manner of “flavoring” for Purina feeds...as in, what good is the best nutritional product if the horse won't eat it!?

Research Director Randel Raub took us “Beyond the Feed Tag” into what a nutritional analysis and ingredient list on commercial bagged feed shows and does not show. An example he noted is that ionophore ingredients are great for cattle but toxic to horses, and he explained how this and other drug contamination should be eliminated from a manufacturing system.

Karen Davidson elicited lots of audience response to her discussion of equine reproduction and growth. She explained differences in meeting needs of early and late gestation and lactating mares in terms of daily calorie requirements.

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She referenced her examples to a participatory session the group enjoyed earlier in the day on body condition scoring. The session also covered the needs for trace minerals and how to get them into a mare's diet. Much of the discussion evolved into supporting sound growth and development of foals, citing optimum vs. maximum growth rates. Purina has an app for that.

Demonstrating that Ph.D.s have a sense of humor, Equine Specialist Rusty Bane enlightened us on the "Ins & Outs" of equine digestive physiology. Did you know that a horse's hind gut has a 200 liter capacity? That the horse has 100 feet of gut? And 70 feet of small intestine? Or that while food passes through the stomach in 30 minutes, it takes 48 hours to pass through the entire track?

Bane's purpose in explaining the physiology was to develop an appreciation for how Purina formulates its feeds for maximum efficiency in the digestive system.

Kelly Vineyard, Ph.D., addressed specifics of equine sports nutrition, illustrating how feeding should be based on a performance horse's type and duration of work, current body condition, medical condition and feed preferences. As with human athletes, carbohydrates are

the horse's principle energy source... yet an overabundance of starch in the diet can cause major digestive upset.

The research farm includes its own veterinary center, directed by Kathy Williamson, who guided us through the center and intrigued us with displays of pasture pests, their infestations, and how to control them.

Others attending the Conference from Kirk's group were: Owner Lee Anne Koch and trainer Bob Lee, Koch Quarter Horses, Oswego, IL; Frank Bowman, president, Horseman's Council of Illinois; Phil May, manager, Sunflower Farms, Bristol, WI; Patty Oxendine and Tim Neher, From the Horse's Mouth Equine Magazine; Gary Gibson, Gibson's Training Center & Regional Ambassador; along with Kindra Gradert, newest member of No. IL/So. WI Purina sales team.

We were part of more than 200 guests invited by other regional horse feed specialists from across the nation. Purina conducts these sessions four times a year in an effort to educate customers and prospects on why Purina remains the number one brand selection not only of horsemen, but animal producers, caretakers and lovers of all species. 

## Combating parasite resistance in horses

By HCI Director Kevin H. Kline, PhD, PAS, University of Illinois

No new anti-parasitic drugs have come onto the market in recent years, resulting in limited options for livestock and horse producers to purge internal parasites from their animals and reduce the environmental parasite load through chemical means. The overuse of a limited number of previously effective products has actually resulted in a steady decline in the effectiveness of these anthelmintic drugs, due to unintended "selection" for resistant worms, which then breed to produce more drug-resistant worms.

At the 2010 Illinois Horse Fair, hosted by the Horsemen's Council Of Illinois, Dr. John Byrd, DVM addressed an audience at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield during his lecture entitled "Are the Worms Winning?" Dr. Byrd is a leading parasitologist, and founder of Horsemen's Laboratory in Mahomet, Ill. At Horsemen's Laboratory,

Dr. Byrd conducts fecal egg counts for horse owners by mail and then E-mails the results to the horse owners.

Dr. Byrd's primary points from his very well-received lecture included:

1. **Resistance is a real threat.** With no new parasite control products on the horizon, it's important to start protecting our ability to control parasites by keeping current products effective.

2. **Know the product classes.** Nearly all current equine parasite control products belong to one of three different classes: benzimidazoles, macrocyclic lactones, and pyrantel pamoates.

3. **Use what works.** It's important to know what class you're using because many experts believe macrocyclic lactones is the only class of medications that is capable of controlling key parasites in adult horses. Ivermectin and moxidectin belong to the macrocyclic

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## Join Us Today!

### Individual Membership Application

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City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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How many horses do you own? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ at home \_\_\_\_ boarding stable

**Individual Membership Dues** (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$42/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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## HCI's Efforts to Spread Equine Rescue Training Statewide

Big Creek Stable in Decatur, Illinois held the first downstate Equine Rescue Training session presented by the ERT unit from Trail Riders of DuPage for first responders (firemen and police) to an accident site that might involve a horsetrailer occupied by live animals. Two 3-½-hour sessions were held on Saturday, July 17, 2010, with lead instructor Steve Odell, safety officer Lt. Richard Hargraves, and safety officer Merry Odell. Volunteer horse handlers were trained the night before in order to assist the instructors with the students who may not have ever been around horses. Each horse and handler was allowed to have only two students for maximum learning potential.



After the students were instructed how to halter and lead their horse, they practiced leading the horse through an obstacle that eventually contained frightening objects that might be encountered in an accident situation. The students were also challenged to make a makeshift halter if one was not available.



Following the horse activities in the arena, the students were taken outside to become familiar with different types of horse trailers and the best ways to

extract the horses with the least amount of damage to the horse (not the trailer).

It is HCI's intent to support many more ERT training sessions across the entire state. The next ERT training



session has already been scheduled for September 25 at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Notify Ron Rhoades, HCI Director, [hci@horsemencouncil.org](mailto:hci@horsemencouncil.org) if you would be interested in holding an ERT training session in your area. 🐾

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lactones class. Recent research suggests that even these drugs are becoming less effective on small strongyles, and ascarids (large roundworms) have also been found to have resistance to these drugs now.

**4. Don't rotate without reason.** Many experts have traditionally believed that rotating through a series of different drugs will mask the effects of using products with resistance problems. However, this really does not appear to be the case, based upon recent research.

**5. A few worms are OK.** In the past, the goal of parasite control programs was to completely eliminate all parasites. However, today's programs should be focused on reducing transmission of parasites, keeping worm burdens below harmful levels, and treating clinically affected horses. Maintaining a population of parasites that can be killed by dewormers is an important factor in delaying the development of resistant parasites.

**6. Get the information specific to your own horses.** By performing a fe-

cal egg count reduction test (FECRT), your veterinarian can help identify the key parasite threats on your premises, if the products you are using are working and what products should be included in your parasite control program.

**7. Know what's in your region, and on your farm.** The species and amount of parasites attacking horses can vary by geographic area. For instance, tapeworms might be more frequently encountered in the upper Midwest or Southeastern parts of the United States, compared to the West coast.

**8. Get it done right.** FECRTs can easily be misinterpreted if samples are collected, handled, or analyzed improperly. Be sure these tests are properly conducted by veterinarians or by an independent, reputable laboratory.

**9. Treat the "problem" horses.** It's estimated that 20 to 30% of the horses on a farm put out about 80% of the parasite eggs, while other horses tend to shed fewer worm eggs whether treated or not. By focusing treatments on horses shedding most of the worm eggs, you can help maintain a population of susceptible parasites reduce the

risk of resistance and help keep horses healthy.

**Future biological control of horse roundworms?**

In addition to the above recommendations, horse owners should stay alert to new developments regarding deworming products of a non-chemical nature. Recent horse parasite research in Australia has found some promising non-toxic fungal organisms that have the potential to be fed to horses, which then pass through the GI tract and kill the newly-hatched nematode larvae in horse manure. This novel approach has the potential to reduce the environmental load of parasites and may be another tool to manage equine parasite numbers in the face of increasing parasite resistance to traditional chemical methods. Although a commercial preparation using natural fungus to help combat worms is not currently available, it may become available at some time in the near future. 🐾



*Horse Council Courier*  
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*The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry*  
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## ***Trails group working to reopen Matthiessen***

*By Linda DeMarco, Marshall Putnam Trail Riders*

On Tuesday, July 27, 2010, a group of trails enthusiasts met with Tom Levy to walk the closed trails at Matthiessen State Park. Present were Tom Levy, site superintendent; Peter Veit, Horsemen's Council of Illinois; Lori Kennedy; Tony Troyer, Rock River Trail & Horsemen; Linda DeMarco and Ron and Mary Flohr.

We began at the south end and walked and looked at each trail that has been closed. Each trail closure was evaluated along the way with Tom Levy providing explanations for each closure and discussing remedies to repair them so they can be reopened. Tom agreed to reopen some of the trails immediately.

Other trails can be expected to be reopened by Labor Day if repairs go as planned. One dangerous washed out culvert has already been replaced (Shortly after the north entrance, just after the trail splits which will take you around to the southeast end) and work is scheduled to repair others. Some trails will remain closed until permanent repairs can be made to make them safe for all users. All in all we have regained use of about 3/4 of a mile of the trails that were closed to horses before our walk. We also gained more "mileage" of trail that the IL Valley Mtn Bike Club made in re-routes of old horse trails. Those trails had become eroded and not sustainable. Time constraints prevented us from covering the entire south end of

closed trails so another trail walk with Levy will be necessary some time soon.

In summary, we were assured that trails will be improved, hazards will be eliminated and a number of trails will be reopened as soon as trail markers and signage is completed.

Our time with Tom was very congenial and he was open to all of our suggestions. He has indicated a desire to keep all user groups happy and anticipates good working relationships among all of us.

Another meeting was held at Starved Rock Lodge to update around 30 interested parties present and establish a steering committee to continue to work on our goal of reopening all the Matthiessen trails to equestrian use. Levy came to the meeting and fielded questions from the group. Dan Eiten and Kevin Hill from the mountain bikers organization were also present.

Since our original idea of creating a "presidents' committee" did not appear to work, a committee of volunteers was formed to become the steering committee to continue the work started by Peter Veit, Lori Kennedy and Linda DeMarco. Members of our newly formed steering committee are as follows:

**Tony Troyer**, Chairman  
il4aerc@aol.com *Rock River Trail & Horsemen* 815-530-4464 home

**Toni Spires**, Co-Chairman  
tpettery59@yahoo.com,  
*member at large* 815-795-5450 home  
815-795-3738 office 815-685-5077 cell

**Linda DeMarco**, trails liaison & committee Secretary  
iride@hughes.net  
*Marshall Putnam Trail Riders*  
**Steve Cenkar**, *member at large*  
**Gary Nelson**, *member at large*  
**Kathy Harper**, President, *Kendall Co. Horse Show Association*  
**Laura Collins**, Secretary, *Kendall Co. Horse Show Association*  
**Ronald & Mary Flohr**, *members at large*  
**Carol Dilbeck**, *Rock River Trail & Horsemen*  
**Sandy DiFrancesco**, *Nat Assoc. Mounted Orienteering IL/IN Chapter*  
**Kim Baker**, Newsletter editor, *Marshall Putnam Trail Riders*  
**Peter Veit** and **Lori Kennedy** will remain involved as consultants as needed.

From this point forward, please direct all comments and suggestions to either Tony or myself for review and discussion by the committee and/or eventual presentation to Tom Levy for consideration. **Please limit your suggestions at this time to issues involving reopening the Matthiessen trails** to horses. Any other problems or concerns will be addressed at a later date after we have accomplished our immediate goal.