



## **NYS HORSE COUNCIL UPDATE ON INHERENT RISK IN AGRICULTURAL TOURISM LAW**

The NYS Horse Council is pleased that our NYS Legislative passed critical legislation to help protect our farms and agricultural business from unnecessary lawsuits. We hope this new inherent risk reform will lead to stabilizing insurance costs or even reducing them for our equine industry. We thank the bill's primary sponsors Senator Robert Ort and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner for shepherding this bill through to completion.

As the Law is written, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) is charged with oversight of the language to be used by farms to alert visitors of potential hazards on their farm. After communicating with officials at NYSDAM, I've found that they do not plan to prepare generic boiler plate language for all farms to use. Their position is that each operation is unique and therefore should prepare signage specific to their place. Ag and Markets suggests each farm, in consultation with their insurance agent and perhaps a lawyer, undergo an assessment of their place to determine their risks and potential hazards. After that review, farm operators can then post signs where they will best alert visitors with instructions and guidance and alert them of potential dangers.

We suggest you begin your review now and begin posting some signs. Here is a link to the actual Inherent Risk [Senate Bill 1152A](#) where it defines requirements of both farm operators and visitors.

Your NYSHC will keep in contact with Ag and Markets as they prepare information and materials to educate farms about this law and pass along any assistance they provide. We will alert you when we get new information and post as much as we can to help you comply with this new law.

Thank you for being a member of the NYSHC and for supporting the future of equine in New York State. Have a safe and enjoyable riding season.

*Our mission: To create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State.*

*Stephen Ropel,*  
President  
[stephen.ropel@nyshc.org](mailto:stephen.ropel@nyshc.org)