

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM PAULINE BURNES



In early January I attended the annual meeting of the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO).

This 29-member collaborative group completes a policy handbook which is presented to State legislators every year prior to the adoption of the State budget. For a copy of the 2024 CAO Policy Handbook go to: <u>https://empirestatecao.info/policies</u>.

Near the end of January 2024 I was contacted by the Equine Chair of the New York Veterinary Medical Society regarding the New York State Governor's proposal to schedule xylazine (this means including it on the controlled substance list), a commonly used large animal veterinary sedative. I responded

by sending a letter to Governor Hochul, copied to various significant New York Legislators. This is an issue that is being addressed at both the federal and state levels, as the powdered form of xylazine is being mixed with fentanyl and used in the illicit drug trade. I followed up with a letter to Senator Schumer and copied federal legislators regarding the issue. A copy of the letter sent to Governor Hochul is included in the April Newsletter of the NYSHC. The NYS Veterinary Medical Society (NYSVMS), American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) are requesting an exemption for Veterinarians if xylazine is scheduled in New York State. The AVMA, AAEP, and American Horse Council are also working on this issue at the Federal level. The New York State Horse Council, Inc. supports the exemption for veterinarians if xylazine becomes scheduled in New York State."

New Horse State Horse Council Chapters and great volunteers are planning and participating in events as volunteers during 2024. I had the pleasure to present at the Western New York Equi-Fest on March 16 and 17 at the Erie County Fairgrounds as a speaker, promoting the NYS Horse Council. NYSHC banners were displayed at Western NY Equi-Fest. The 3 ft by 8 ft banner will be displayed at Houghton University's Equestrian Center, and the 4 ft by 10 ft banner will be displayed at various equestrian venues throughout the year.

If you have a banner to promote the NYSHC, please use it throughout the summer at various venues, such as local horse shows and county fairs. On April 6 and 7 Little Joe my unregistered Tennessee Walker and I attended the Ranch Horse Clinic sponsored by the Western Chapter of the NY State Horse New York StateHorse Council. We drove 2 ½ hours through snow squalls to reach Wilson, north of Lockport but the entire weekend was well worth the drive and experience! The clinician, Mike Bednarek of Bednarek Quarter Horses specializes in reining, ranch horse riding and ranch horse trail as well as working cow horses. Mike is an AQHA, PHBA, IBHA, NRCHA and NSBA Judge. Mike has been involved with the equine industry for more than 40 years training, showing, and breeding horses, as well as teaching at Morrisville State College and Cazenovia College. Mike is a kind and patient instructor and coached my Tennessee Walker and this old' gal set in her ways to placing first in the final Ranch Horse Trail class at the end of the clinic. Way to go Little Joe! Proceeds from the clinic benefitted the MK Rodeo Girls

Mike instructs Pauline and Little Joe at the Gate

NYSHC is still sponsoring the Ride and Drive program for 2024. It would be great to have more participants. If you are unable to ride or drive, but would like to help sponsor end of year awards, please contact Joanne Freschette or myself, both listed under Contacts on the NYSHC website.



The New York State Economic Impact Survey is complete! For more information, please contact Dr. Karin Bump at Saddle Up! NY <u>https://www.saddleupny.com/</u>. For information regarding the National Equine Economic Impact Survey, contact the American Horse Council at <u>https://horsecouncil.org/economic-impact-study/</u>. There is a fee to purchase the National study.

If you have a newsletter article to submit, please contact Lauren Berardi; <u>info@nyshc.org</u>. If you would like to nominate anyone for the Lifetime Achievement Award, or Horse Person of the Year award, please contact me. For nominations to the NYS Horse Council Board of Directors, please contact Lissette Ruotolo. We are all on the NYS Horse Council Contacts List.

The New York State Horse Council is actively seeking members to serve on Committees. For a list of committees, go to the NYS Horse Council website Contacts list. If you have questions regarding the work of committees and time involvement, please contact the Committee chair.

All members are welcome to join us at the next Board of Directors meeting scheduled to be held in person at the Broome County Library on April 27, 2024 from 10 am to 2 pm. A zoom link will also be available for NYSHC members or Board members who are not able to attend in person.

I am looking forward to a great year for the New York State Horse Council and our members in 2024!



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul New York State Governor Executive Chamber, State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224 RE: Proposed scheduling of the veterinary sedative, Xylazine.

Dear Governor Hochul:

I am the President of the NYS Horse Council, Inc. (NYSHC). The Chair of the Equine division of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society recently sent me notice regarding the proposed scheduling of the non-narcotic veterinary sedative, analgesic, and muscle relaxant, xylazine.

Xylazine is used in veterinary medicine and is especially important when working with horses,

cattle, zoo animals, wildlife, and laboratory species to facilitate safe medical evaluation, treatment, and surgical care. Xylazine has been approved in the United States for veterinary use since 1972. Limiting veterinary access to this critical drug will jeopardize animal welfare and human safety when handling large animals for medical evaluation and treatment.

While the NYS Horse Council, Inc. recognizes the threat of illicit use of xylazine as it poses grave health and safety risks to humans when mixed with other narcotics such as Fentanyl, we feel that addressing the illicit use of xylazine is preferred to scheduling this important sedative widely used in veterinary large animal medicine.

The NYS Veterinary Medical Society (NYSVMS), American Veterinary Medical Association

(AVMA) and American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) are requesting an exemption for Veterinarians if xylazine is scheduled in New York State. The AVMA, AAEP and American Horse Council are also working on this issue at the Federal level. *The New York State Horse Council, Inc. supports the exemption for veterinarians if xylazine becomes scheduled in New York State.*



The Mission of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. is "To create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State." We have individual, family, business, club, and chapter members throughout New York State. For more information regarding the NYSHC, go to www.nyshc.org.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Pauline C. Burnes, RLA

Pauline E. Burnes, President New York State Horse Council, Inc. PO Box 424 Arkport, New York 14807

cc: Richard Ball, Commissioner, NYS Agriculture and Markets Jeanne Best, DVM, Chair of the Equine Committee, NYSVMS Janet D. Donlin, DVM, Chief Executive Officer, AVMA Francois Elvinger, DVM, Diplomat, ACVPM & ECVPH Associate Dean, Diagnostic Operations and Govt. Relations Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Health Diagnostic Center, Ithaca, NY Allison Conti-Frey, VP, New York State Horse Council, Inc. Katherine Garrett, DVM, Dipl. ACVS, 2024 President AAEP Michelle Hinchey, Chairperson, NYS Senate Agriculture Committee Susan Knauer, Chairperson, NYS Medicine Liz Kreuger, Chairperson, NYS Senate Finance Committee Donna A. Lupardo, Chairperson, NYS Assembly Committee on Agriculture Helene E. Weinstein, Chairperson, NYS Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Last Summer at the Lorenzo Driving Competition

by Gary Slate, Vice President Central Region

For those of us who grew up watching TV Westerns and movies, there is a stirring interest in seeing horses pulling coaches, buggies, wagons, and buckboards. Usually, they provided background color, but without them, you would wonder how people got things from town if they didn't have more than a saddle horse. John Ford movies always seemed to go the extra mile to give an authentic picture of how much people used horses in bygone days. While there are many places to go online or on TV to find scenes of people driving carriages, wouldn't it be more interesting to see it happen in person? Well, this is your chance to see the real thing, with people driving antique and newly made vehicles pulled by all sizes and breeds of horses.

Even before the age of the automobile, there were horse shows and competitions to test various types of riding, jumping, and even carriage driving and coach driving. County Fairs were everywhere, with harness racing on the track and draft horses showing conformation and pulling power. Driving horses in harness became a high art, requiring skill and fashion, extending well into the age of the automobile. Never completely dying out, driving classes could still be found in several breed show lists. In my memory, carriage driving and competition began to regain interest in the 1960s and 70s as its own discipline with local driving clubs and the national organizations of the American Driving Society (ADS) and Carriage Association of America (CAA). Some enthusiasts were primarily interested in antique vehicles, and some were more interested in using their horses in harnesses. At this moment, it appears that interest in carriage driving has wained, as has interest in horse shows and breed associations in general, but despite Covid and more than one national

financial disaster, there are still significant numbers of horse owners willing and able to gather for equine events.



Mini horse put to a cart

There is a common misperception that the New York State Horse Council is only helpful to trail riders. While we do advocate for more state support for maintaining and increasing horse trail use in all areas of the state, we support and encourage other disciplines as well. As our mission statement says, "to create a strong, unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State." Once again this year, Central Region will help sponsor the Lorenzo Driving Competition in Cazenovia, New York, July 19-21. (Full details at lorenzodriving@gmail.com)

The attendance at the Lorenzo Driving Competition in 2023 was larger than in recent years. There were ring classes that included singles, pairs, 4-wheeled runabouts, 2-wheel carts, horses, ponies, and even a class for turnouts including a "carriage dog". There were also classes for obstacle courses, driven dressage, and marathon courses laid out through meadows and forests. There were vendors offering a wide variety of goods needed by carriage drivers, ranging from fancy hats to harnesses, bits, and whips. The tents set up on the fine lawns of the Lorenzo estate offered cover from rain and oppressive heat, and the gentle winds blowing off Cazenovia Lake moderated the sunny July weather. The temporary stabling allowed the public to get a close-up look at the horses at rest, and inquire of the owners where they came from, and why they enjoyed their horse breed. Horse people always seem to find things to discuss.

I hope that this sounds like the type of event you would like to see. The general public is invited without admittance, and all are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs to sit on underneath the trees, and a picnic lunch. There are usually a couple of food vendors who set up booths as well, often supporting local community groups.

If for some reason you are not able to attend this weekend, perhaps you would be interested in something similar nearer to where you live. The Cherry Valley Carriage Association (cherryvalleycarriage.com) lists a calendar of events in the area of Central New York for their membership. You could email Judy Cary, the current president of CVCA, or contact person Judy Sobczak at Judy.carriagedriver1@gmail.com and ask for assistance in finding more details. Judy has done the great service of compiling the following list of driving events and contacts:

—- Saratoga Driving Association (www.saratogadriving.com), June 8/9 Pleasure Driving Show, Shaticoke Fairgrounds.

—- The Classic at Twin Birch (www.twinbirch.net), August 15-18, Twin Birch Farm, Skaneateles, NY

—- Orleton Farm Driving Competition (www.colonialcarriage.org), August 8-11, Orleton Farm, Stockbridge, Mass.

—- Northampton Driving Society (www.northamptondrivingsociety.org), June 23, Pleasure Driving Show, Silver Shoe Farm, 336 Pratt Rd, Batavia, NY 14020

—- Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club Driving Show (www.gvrdc.org), Sept 7-8, Hideaway Farm, 4130 Roots Tavern Rd, Geneseo, NY.

--- Western New York Combined Carriage Association (www.wnycca.org),

- May 25-26, Spring Combined Training/Continuous Drive, Avon Driving Park Sept 14, Fall

Combined Training/ Continuous Drive, High Hopes Farm, Honeoye Falls, NY

— July 26-28, Pleasure Driving Show, Avon Driving Park



Enjoying the show from the shade of the trees



Selecting a new bonnet



A couple with a pair



A happy competitor



2024 Ride & Drive Competition

- Log your hours riding and driving
- Earn awards for milestones
- Year end awards
- For NYSHC members
- More information at nyshc.org





Hey Horse Council Members!

Did you know that the NYS Horse Council members can receive recognition for their hours spent in the saddle or in the seat of a carriage? Well, you can and you can even win some cool prizes and earn badges. It's called the Ride & Drive Program and it's open to all paid members of all ages. It is a great way to keep track of exactly how much time you spend out riding or driving with your equine buddy plus it can be a motivator to get out there and ride or drive.

To participate, member dues must be paid for the current year. Keep track of your hours ridden or driven on the log sheet that can be downloaded (or you can keep track on your computer) from the NYSHC webpage, nyshc.org, Awards, Ride & Drive. You can even set up your own spreadsheet if that's what suits you best. There are also a number of free cell phone apps that are available to help keep track of time. Here are just a few:

MapMyRun, MapMyRide (I used both of these), Sports Tracker, Maprika, and Geo Tracker, just to name a few.

There is an initial \$15 registration fee for the first year. After the first year, there is a \$5 registration fee. This year, Donna Brown, received the Most Hours Ridden for 2023 award. She will be receiving a \$30 gift certificate from Dover Saddlery. Donna will also be receiving 300 and 500-hour patches for riding. So, visit nyshc.org and sign up for the Ride & Drive program now! See you on the trails!!!!



2023 Most Hours Ridden Award Winner: Donna Brown





2023 Most Hours Driven & Vintage Driver Award winner: JoAnne Frechette. JoAnne and Tom Frechette are also the Family Combined Hours Award winners

Tickborne Diseases are Still Increasing by Jan Lyon

Tick "seasons" are getting longer and they are getting worse. 2023 was the worst year for ticks in recent memory and that has been confirmed as such by research. Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the US Department of Health and Human Services continue to stress the best defense against tick-borne disease is to not be bitten in the first place. They offer tips on how to avoid bites, but they are not 100% effective and people fail to practice them all daily. Therefore, tickborne diseases continue to rise.

Babesiosis has been identified by the Centers for Disease Control as a rapidly rising tickborne disease. Between 2011 and 2019, the latest published information, shows the cases have risen 25%. The CDC added 3 new states to the list of states where Babesiosis is now considered endemic; Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. It was already considered endemic in Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Babesia is usually spread by tick nymphs, a size as small as a poppy seed.

Babesiosis is a threat to horses, dogs, and people. The disease presents with a lack of appetite, fever, anemia, puffy swelling in particular body parts, enlarged liver and/or spleen, and can lead to liver failure and death. Nausea and vomiting are often present in the human version. (Anaplasmosis more often presents as fever, anorexia, reluctance to move, depression, edema in limbs, and little blood clots under the skin which can also lead to liver failure.) The good news is that it can be treated, but of course the earlier detection and identification results in a better outcome.

By now we all probably know somebody with Lyme Disease. Lyme continues to grow in under-reported numbers. During the 20 years from 1999 to 2019, Lyme cases increased 44%. It also continues to be misdiagnosed regularly because it truly is "the great imposter". Because horse people are at greater exposure to ticks, it's crucial we don't take a negative test as a definitive answer. If we continue to experience Lyme symptoms or those of other tickborne diseases, we have to advocate for ourselves with doctors to look beyond the test. There is still a lot of research into Lyme prevention and treatment, and a vaccine is currently

being researched. Unfortunately, money that would have been funneled to the various Lyme research organizations was diverted to Covid research because of the pandemic, so these groups now have to re-apply for the funding.

Keeping our horses and domestic pets free of ticks is not only beneficial to them, but to us as well because we are in close contact and can pick up ticks that they find in the environment, even if we are careful. We need to do a daily, or more frequently, check of our animals and ourselves for ticks. The sooner a tick is discovered and removed, the less chance of disease transmission there is.

The girls at TNT-Tick Natural Terminator have hated ticks long before Lyme was even on the radar and continue to educate ourselves about the spread of tick populations and the diseases they carry. The list is growing constantly. That's why we have dedicated our time to offering a product that KILLS ticks, is safe for all birds, mammals, and people, and doesn't harm the environment. Many of the pesticides we all use cannot make that claim. Most of us don't read the warnings on the products we use, but we all should. For years, the chemicals used in most horse sprays have been enhanced to be stronger so they will kill ticks. But, because ticks are so prolific, they often become immune to the chemicals. Which of course leads to new products with stronger chemicals. It's really important to read the application and warning labels. That is especially true if we have cats, young children, and compromised individuals around us. These chemicals are detrimental to these populations, causing convulsions and death in some cases. Know what you are using on your animals and what you are doing to the environment. Remember, "natural" is not the equivalent of "safe". Do your research.

Some natural pesticides still contain phenols (a type of acid), which are extremely toxic to cats because they are filtered through the liver, and cat livers can not process them. Symptoms of toxic effects include fatigue, dizziness, drooling, and vomiting. Cats are susceptible to the effects of many essential oils absorbed through their feet and respiratory system. So if you have barn cats, be aware of what you use on the horses, just as you would be for your house cats.

The CDC has recently issued a warning about the spread of the Asian Longhorned Tick. This tick has been found in New York State and

continues to expand its territory. This tick does not need a mate to reproduce. It can clone itself, leading to a quick infestation on an animal or you! If undetected on your animals in the field, it can rapidly cause anemia and death and is difficult to eradicate because of the sheer numbers. If you suspect you have one of these ticks, you need to put it in a plastic zip-lock bag and submit it to be tested so that it can be identified and recorded. Cornell University has offered this service free of charge when the funding permits. Other NY locations can be found through your veterinarian or online. Often there is a charge of \$20-\$60 for the service, which is one reason the number of ticks reported is way below the actual number. But if you know what type of tick you have in your environment, you can be better prepared for treating any disease you or your animals may develop.

A scary international study was recently published about people developing tick-borne disease because they were bitten at night while they slept. The diseases were spreading but people didn't realize they had even been bitten. This is why it's vital that we keep our pets tick-free and continue to do our tick checks. If we get lazy about this, we put ourselves and our families in danger.



Each female tick lays thousands of eggs. Knowing that ticks are responsible for many diseases that threaten the lives and quality of life of our animals and our loved ones, do you still just want to just repel them? Why not kill them as much as possible to reduce their numbers so they can't find a mouse, bird, or other wild animal and continue to breed?

If we all kill ticks, and not just repel them, perhaps we can slow the increase in the tick diseases we are constantly dealing with.

HORSE RACING IN NEW YORK BRINGS \$3 BILLION TO THE NYS ECONOMY

By Dr. Karin Bump

New York is one of the largest racing hubs in the United States, and the recent results of the American Horse Council (AHC) Economic Impact Study, along with those of the associated New York State 'breakout' study, document the strength and importance of the racing sector in New York's Equine profile. Together, the Thoroughbred and Standardbred Racing sectors in New York bring an economic impact of \$3 billion (inclusive of tourism impact) and employment impact of 19,785.

Table 28: NY Racing Sector Economic Impact Summary (\$MMs)			
	Direct	Indirect and Induced	Total
Employment	15,040	4.745	19.785
Labor Income	\$646	\$333	\$979
Value Added	\$996	\$649	\$1,645
Output	\$1,492	\$991	\$2,483

With 11 pari-mutuel racetracks (four Thoroughbred and seven Standardbred), New York hosted 1078 live race days in 2022, with a total handle reaching \$2.7 billion and purses topping out at \$295 million. In addition to race days, New York hosts some of the top sales in North America. The Thoroughbred sales venue at Saratoga's Fasig Tipton lands in the top 10 for both the Saratoga Sale and the New York Bred Yearling Sale, both of which take place in August. In Middletown, NY, the Goshen Standardbred Yearling Sale in September is among the Top 10 public Standardbred yearling sales in North America.

Horse racing has a long and robust history in New York, drawing tourists to tracks, farms, towns, and communities. The economic value of tourism is part of the \$3 billion total impact, as \$575 million of that \$3 billion comes from racing tourism. Saratoga, as the preeminent and oldest Thoroughbred track in the country, attracts more than a million visitors a year. The Goshen Historic Track in Goshen, NY, established as a Standardbred facility in 1838, is the oldest continuously operated track in North America, regardless of breed. Although horse training occurs year-round at the half-mile oval, it is a tourism hub for Orange County during its summer race meet. Because of the historic nature of both racing venues, Saratoga Springs and Goshen are home to their respective sport's Hall of Fame Museums, a further tourism draw for New York.

The New York racing numbers for 2022:

Number of racetracks: 11 tracks—4 Thoroughbred and 7 harness tracks. Number of race days: 1,078 live race days. Purses: of \$295 million. Handle: \$2.7 billion on New York Races and \$655 million in betting on out-of-state races.

While most of the highlights of racing come on the track at the sport's various race meets, the behind-the-scenes work of the people who care for the horses – day and night – is what makes it all possible. That work takes place at home farms, stables, and practice tracks across New York, including the rolling fields where young foals first stretch their legs, learning the basics and growing strong to one day become racing prospects. According to Tom Grossman, owner of Blue Chip Farms in Wallkill, NY, "Our standardbred nursery boasts an average population of 150 mares and their youngsters with enormous trickle-down economic benefits supporting agricultural entities like hay growers, grain and bedding suppliers, and equipment providers (tractors, trucks, hay balers, etc.)." The expanded impact of horse farms is an often unrecognized benefit –including the impact on land preservation and associated capital improvement of the land. Based on the AHC study results, 51% of New York horse owners own or lease a farm, barn, or stable, with total acreage estimated at 303,000.

And while breeders hope those foals will make it to the track, that doesn't always happen. Thoroughbred and Standardbred race prospects are highly desired for their ability to transition to new careers, however. New York was an early adopter of mechanisms to support such transitions, with programs such as Take2, TAKE THE LEAD, Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, Purple Haze Standardbred Adoption, and the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program. In addition, the NY Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund has provided well over a million dollars to Thoroughbred aftercare facilities in the state and annually provides more than \$100,000 to facilities that re-train Thoroughbreds or provide sanctuary homes for those that cannot have useful second-career.

This summer, New York will see an additional boost to racing's economic impact, with Saratoga playing host to the Belmont Stakes – the third leg of the famed Triple Crown. According to Najja Thompson, Executive Director of the New York Thoroughbred Breeders, "Last summer, the Saratoga County Industrial Development Agency (SCID) found that the Thoroughbred meet at Saratoga generated \$371 million in economic impact and provided 2,900 jobs across the Capitol

Region alone." Those numbers will no doubt rise dramatically with the Belmont, and the buzz is growing around the potential for those figures. "The Saratoga Chamber of Commerce thinks the four-day Thoroughbred meet in June for the running of the Belmont Stakes will pump \$50 million into the area – and that's just an estimate of the tourism dollars," says Tracy Egan, Executive Director of the NY Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund. Enthusiasm for horses in New York is strong, with 2.4 million households (30% of all households) containing a horse enthusiast – and New York racing has something for everyone. Racing schedules for Thoroughbred racing in the state can be found at the NYRA website (www.nyra.com) and the Finger Lake Racetrack website www.fingerlakesgaming.com. The Standardbred racing schedule can be found at www.nysirestakes.com.

The New York State Economic Impact study was commissioned by SaddleUpNY! and made possible through the generous contributions of the following industry partners and friends: New York Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Old Field Farm, Ltd, Blue Chip Farm, John Madden Sales, Cornell University Hospital for Animals, New York Farm Bureau, New York State Horse Council, Karin Bump, Timothy Williams, Sally Lynch, Kent Nutrition and Triple Crown Nutrition. In addition, a linked GoFundMe campaign was also utilized for essential broader support from individuals across the state.

This is the second in a series of press releases focusing on the results of the study. Additional highlights of the New York State Economic Impact study will be released in the coming weeks. Questions can be directed to Dr. Karin Bump, Executive Director of SaddleUpNY!, at Dr.kbump@gmail.com

Photo credit: Photo Courtesy of Blue Chip Farms, Wallkill, NY. Photo credit to Tammie Jean Photography



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SaddleUpNY! Contact: Karin Bump Phone: 315-569-3186 dr.kbump@gmail.com

For Immediate Release

February 15, 2024

New York Equine Industry has a \$7 Billion Economic Impact

According to the New York State Equine Economic Impact Study (a 'breakout study' from the American Horse Council National study), the New York equine industry contributes \$7 billion to state's economy and has a total employment impact of 52,319 jobs. This documents a growth in both economic and employment impact since the prior study (2017), and lands New York in the top ten states for largest direct equine economic impact. The report reinforces the importance of the New York equine industry as a significant contributor to the overall economy of the state.

Economic impact comes from spending on the horse itself (including feed, veterinary care,

training costs, boarding costs, riding supplies, etc.) as well as spending related to involvement with equines. Those related expenditures include land, buildings, tractors, trucks, fuel oil and taxes. The economic impact goes further and includes horse enthusiast spending on travel, dining and lodging while attending and/or participating in events – to the tune of \$2.4 billion. Much of that spending is felt in the counties and towns hosting events and competition.

In a state where 2.4 million households (roughly one out of every three) contain at least one

horse enthusiast, it is perhaps not surprising that New York is in the top 5 for horse enthusiasts by state with involvement from a full range of ages and household incomes. Demonstrating the variety of equine engagement in the state, Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing remains the highest economic impact sectors at over \$2 Billion annually while the activity of trail riding is at the top of household equine participation. In fact, just under 10% of households in New York State participate in Trail Riding and the vast majority (87%) do so on public lands.

Overall, the findings in the New York State Equine Economic Impact Study provide insights useful in understanding the state's equine industry and the myriad of ways that equines are important in the overall economy and the lives and livelihood of many households in New York.

The New York State Economic Impact study was commissioned by SaddleUpNY! Industry Partners and made possible through the generous contributions of the following Industry Partners and friends: New York Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Old Field Farm, Ltd, Blue Chip Farm, John Madden Sales, Cornell University Hospital for Animals, New York Farm Bureau, New York State Horse Council, Karin Bump and Timothy Williams, Sally Lynch, Kent Nutrition, and Triple Crown Nutrition. In addition, a linked GoFundMe campaign was also utilized for essential broader support from individuals across the state.

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Wider perspectives on agriculture and horses includes a Social License to Operate.

What in blazes does that mean? When you're out in the barn on a rainy spring evening listening to your horse munch on hay (one of my favorite sounds!) and simply enjoying their company, it may seem that the rest of the world doesn't matter much. While I encourage you to live in the moment and relish time spent with your horse, it is important to realize that simply caring for your own horse may not always be enough to keep our passion available to us and others.

Horses have been part of human history since ancient times, but as we learn more, we must continue to do better. Scientific research is broadening our understanding of what horses need to maintain the best life we can provide. For example, Dr. Susan McDonnell has published extensive research on reading pain signals in horses and how these are much more complex than simply if they're limping or not. Mary Ann Simonds, author of the newly published book, A Horse By Nature, lays out tips backed by years of observation and research about how we can bring elements of a horse's natural life more into our daily routine while we train and enjoy horses.

The onus is not simply that we strive to better care for our horses' physical and mental well-being, but that we, collectively as an industry, hold all equestrians accountable for their actions. Social License to Operate (SLO) relies on the public's perception and trust that what WE are doing is in the best interest of the horse. Everyone who breeds, trains, competes, manages and owns horses must view all things we do with horses through the lens of how the horse feels, physically and mentally.



Public acceptance of our love and use of horses cannot be assumed; it must continually evolve as we learn more. Creating transparency of what happens throughout the lives of horses can maintain public trust that we, as horse owners, are their biggest and best advocates. How can we do this? First, we must honestly evaluate ourselves and if we are continuously seeking ways to improve our horses' welfare. Secondly, be open to questions and use evidence-based information to support our choices for horses. Finally, we need to make it clear that unacceptable behaviors related to equestrianism will not be tolerated. SLO is simply terminology and a way to describe what those of us who love horses have always tried to do. Keep an open mind and seek opportunities to learn and grow your own knowledge. Share what you love about horses outside your circle of "horse people"; there's room for more of us in the arena!

Karen Lassell, Equine Manager, Miner Institute NYSHC Northeast Regional VP



RIDE AND TIE JOINS HECTOR HALF HUNDRED IN 2024!



Come ride 16, 30, or 50 miles in the beautiful Finger Lakes National Forest OR run and ride. What a hoot, 1 horse and 2 riders! OR combine running and riding in the equation, ride one loop and run the other, OR you ride and a friend runs!!

The event is September 14th.

Vet in on September 13th, 3 pm-6 pm OR 7 am on the 13th if a 16miler and you don't want to camp over. HOWEVER: All riders and runners must attend the preride briefing(and get a great chicken dinner!) at 6 PM on Friday the 13th.

All the details can be found on the AERC webpage. <u>https://aerc.org/</u> Look under Calendar, North East region...Hector Half Hundred. OR: <u>https://www.rideandtie.org/</u> under events. For more information or any questions contact, Pam Karner. 607-280-2282. <u>drpamkarner@gmail.com</u>

HOW TO BEAT SHOW JITTERS AND STAGE FRIGHT By Susan S. Kelley

The big day is here and you've been practicing all summer, your horse is sound and ready to bring home the blue ribbon. You enter the arena and you and your wonderfully prepared horse are not in sync; it goes from bad to worse. The harder you try the worse it goes, you end up feeling awful and leave the arena dismayed. What just happened?

For starters, most of us unconsciously hold our breath when we are under stress. Back in prehistoric times, when sabretooth tigers were stalking us, ancient man would instinctively take a huge breath, hold it, then burst forth running for his life. A horse does the same thing, holds his breath and shy's or spooks or worse bolts when frightened.

These day's we humans are top of the pecking order and are no longer daily prey to predators, but we still unconsciously hold our breath when under stress or making a strong effort "to make things happen."

So there you were, trying with all your might to have a great ride, but with your breathing connected to your taut emotions; and just like that, your horse locks up as he mirrors you and things spiral into a mess.

Has This Happened to You?

Breathing well and in rhythm is a valuable, overlooked skill. I've had two times in my life when I completely froze-up by not breathing when under pressure;

The first time was when taking my final exam in algebra, my senior year in high school. Math was and still is my weakest skill, my mind went completely BLANK! I couldn't remember a thing and sat there petrified. I realized that I had to get hold of myself and calm down, so I started to breathe, and it all came back to me.

The second time was at the Pony Club Regional A & B Rally when it was at our home club, Bridlewild, in 1976. I was the captain of our "B" team, all eyes were on me and our family pony, Little Sir Echo, when we entered the dressage arena. I went down the center line, halted and saluted, then my mind went blank. I didn't know which way to proceed at "C" the next letter after my halt. Once again, I let out a big breath and started to breathe and I remembered the test.

Breathe Right

Breathing well is a practical skill to learn for life that counteracts the urge to hold your breath creating stiffness and rigidity, on or off a horse.

To start, place your hands on your belly and lower back and breathe as if filling up this whole area, down through the back of your pelvis and lower body. Breathe as though your breath is filling this arena from the bottom up, much like pouring water into a glass, it fills from the bottom up.



much like pouring water into a glass, it fills from the bottom up. Allow your breath to travel easily throughout your body – no forcing or gulping air.

Find a rhythm along with the beat of your horse's stride at the walk, like in your mind say breathe in 2, 3, 4 then breathe out 2, 3. 4 Integrate the rhythms of your body and your horse. Practice at the walk first then proceed to faster gaits. I exhale whenever I ask my horse to do something, i.e. from the halt to a walk, a walk to a trot, and so forth, in downward transitions, and especially on the takeoff while jumping.

Breathing with your Horse

Anyone who has spent time with a horse knows that, your horse picks up on your frame of mind, any stress or physical issues present on that day. It makes sense that in a new situation like a show ring, once you start breathing and relax into your breath rhythm, your horse mirrors you and relaxes too. Every step towards this goal enables you and your horse to function confidently.

Remember, along with Breathing there are three further basics of Centered Riding:

• Soft eyes • Centering • Alignment (building blocks)

Combined, these basics form the cornerstone for excellence in riding.

To learn more, check out my website www.bighousestables.com email: sskelley27@gmail.com or call me 585-507-3397

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE AND SCORES IN TENT PEGGING BY AHMED H ZUBAIR

Having been playing, training, developing, and promoting the equestrian sport of Tent Pegging for decades, I have gathered an array of points to discuss. Besides the chit-chat and occasional banter on social media, I have toyed with this idea of penning down my experiences in a formal way for long. Guess it's about time to write about the game now in this article for the benefit, or at least amusement, of riders and tent-pegging lovers. So I have zeroed in on making an attempt herein to pen a few concepts and ways to improve the scores. I will try to list the derivatives from my experiences in playing and training for this game.

As we know tent pegging evolved into an equestrian sport from the military tactics of taking down enemy tents by uprooting pegs of tents in pre-dawn raids in the battlefields of erstwhile India, i.e. present-day India & Pakistan. This military skill was also used to maim and decommission elephants in battles by piercing or wounding their legs. Just like the anchored tent pegs, the pachyderms' legs posed as a relatively stationary target cos of their slow speed.

Tent pegging is a game of taking a stationary target while mounted atop a fast galloping steed



Tent Pegging. Illustration for Chatterbox annual (Wells Gardner, early 20th century). Tent Pegging Indian Cavalry, 1980 (color litho)



Tent Pegging at camp gymkhana on the Western Front, 1914-18(b/w photo)

VOL II, 2024

Historically, a similar skill was used by bison hunting Indians in the Americas. A 'similar skill' but not a 'same skill' as the bisons were a bigger target and a moving target.



Charge of Cuangurus Indians, 1839 (Lithograph).



In pursuit of moving target - astride his Appaloosa, native Indian hunting bison

Be it the tent-pegging soldiers of the Indian subcontinent or the native Indian warriors of the Americas, astride their Appaloosas, all ancestral practitioners of this military skill combined a long sharp weapon and a galloping steed along with the indomitable spirit of a warrior. Hence a soldier and a warrior's perspective is a must if the modern-day tent pegger's performance has to improve. The fire that burns for the gold in every tent pegger's heart must be tempered through the steadiness of the seat and hand of the rider and the eye of the rider. Based on my personal experiences while playing and training, the following aspects warrant consideration towards improvement and better scores.

Speed – speed is the mother of accuracy

Tent pegging is a game of warriors. In war, both speed and accuracy are crucial skills that must be integrated into one single maneuver. Speed brings steadiness in hand. Needless to say steadiness in body only comes into play after the rider gets out of the seat and steadies his weapon. Once the rider rises and leaves the saddle and develops the standing stance with his/her feet alone in the stirrups, speed improves steadiness in the hand and helps in stabilizing the weapon before aiming at the target

War Cry – the warrior's battle cry

Tent pegging, with its origins in the battlefields, includes a war cry or battle cry in each run. Almost a thing of the past now, the war cry has been an integral element of tent pegging. The war cry is a battle cry that the tent pegger yells once he/she rises out of the saddle, stabilizes, and takes the attack stance while aiming the weapon at the peg.

The war cry helps the tent pegger focus on the target while deploying full force and concentration of his/her mind, body & soul, and most importantly with no fear. Since about last two decades, somehow the tradition of war cry has been lost, with many tent peggers galloping in silence mode. In the past, when tent pegging was solely governed by FEI Federation Equestre International, there were points given for war cry. Bringing back the war cry will definitely raise the standard and bring more thrill to the game.





USTPA Team USA in South Africa 2016 ITPF World Cup Qualifier – 2015 August - Lt to Rt: Ahmed H Zubair, Michelle Simone, Ammar Nomani & Lindsay Lake

Focus – the concentration to aim

Eyes on the peg..... eyes on the peg! Eyes on the peg..... - not on the weapon. In sword tent pegging, some players have been observed to have their swords pierced with a piece of paper (approx 1"x1") prior to the runs, as a visual aid to assist in lining up their sword tip with the peg.

Instances: The German team in India 2015 March International Tent Pegging Championship and sometimes the Brits as well (2015 August South Africa ITPF World Cup Qualifier) have been seen using this visual aid.

When the target is the peg, then following the tip of the sword (or seeking assistance by such visual aids will only add in distraction and will slow the speed. In fact, rules need to be promulgated to ban attachment of any visual aids to weapon tips. This suggestion is in line with a warrior's state of mind in hot pursuit of game, when all what a warrior knows is the target. Yes, meeting of the weapon tip with the target is of importance for a successful run but following the weapon constantly visually, with a visual aid, is not of prime importance. Aiming the target is primarily a job of the mind and not of the hands. Remember "eyes on the peg....." eyes on the peg...." Mind training the eyes on the peg is a far superior asset than eyes following a visual aid in lining the weapon tip with the peg. Focus on the target is more of a mind game than of honing the skills to meet the target. Like the saying goes: "Its all in the head" - following the mantra "eyes on the peg..... eyes on the peg....." will help achieve the gold.

Piercing vs Impaling - mindset of the tent pegger

Piercing or Impaling – a matter of state of mind of the tent pegger. Think...... Just thinking of piercing will not do the job - 'Impaling' is the word. You do what you think. You do what you think of doing. Right? Hence a rider who thinks of impaling certainly will experience more success than a rider who simply thinks of piercing. During the short final phase of aiming the target, thinking of impaling the peg rather than piercing the peg will invariably result in higher scores.



Eyes on the peg; consequent frames showing aim and impaling of the peg. USTPA Cpt Ahmed H Zubair of Team USA astride Apollo in India International Tent Pegging Championship – 2015 March

A game of chance – a game of high-stakes

To sum up, tent pegging is a game of high chance and high stakes. High stakes warrant a higher degree of retrospection and study of the rider's own skills and planning. Hopefully, my above observations will help fellow tent peggers achieve higher scores and kindle interest in others to take a peek at the game of tent pegging.

About the author: Ahmed H Zubair is an avid rider and a tent pegger. He is the founding president of the US Tent Pegging Association (ustpa.us) and World Tent Pegging Federation (wtpf.us), a past founding member of the International Tent Pegging Federation (itpf.net) representing the USA, and also the founding Technical Advisor of ITP - International Technical Pegging Photojournal Magazine

(internationaltentpegging.net). He has represented the USA in three international tent pegging competitions and won the first Silver medal for the USA in the 2016 ITPF World Cup Qualifier played in South Africa in 2015 August. He presently serves as the Regional Director for the New York State Horse Council Southeast Region and as a Mounted Auxiliary for the New York City Parks Enforcement Mounted Unit.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article are based on the author, Ahmed H Zubair's, personal experiences derived from playing, training, and his decades-long contributions to developing the game of equestrian tent pegging and his association with the world tent pegging community.

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NYSHC Tour of the New Barn at Tioga Downs

On Saturday, April 27, 2024, members of the Board of Directors of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. toured the new barn at Tioga Downs that was completed on Wednesday, April 24 to replace the barn destroyed by an arsonist on November 9, 2024. Tragically, 30 horses and one cat died in the inferno, as the flames were so intense rescuers were not able to evacuate the animals.

The arsonist was apprehended on the morning of the fire. The Chair of the Humane Committee of the NYS Horse Council, Inc., Colleen Segarra, crafted a letter submitted to the Tioga County District Attorneys office to ensure that animal cruelty charges were included in addition to arson. On December 8, 2023, the District Attorney's office sent a press release that included animal cruelty charges.

When the President of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. (NYSHC), Pauline Burnes learned that the new stable constructed on the same site as the barn where 30 horses perished, would be open by April 27, 2024, she requested a tour of the new barn prior to the NYSHC Board of Directors meeting in Binghamton.



Laurie Poulin, Secretary of the Southern Tier Harness Horsemen's Association, Inc. (STHHA) led the tour. More than half of the stable is already filled with horses, trainers, and their handlers. Laurie explained that additional padding would be added to the flooring, and that "man doors" were installed in the new facility, which are not in the older stables.

We met Randy Taft, President and Executive Director of the STHHA as he was having his horse Evan's Pick shod in preparation for the opening of the racing season on May 4, 2024, at Tioga Downs. Mr. Taft then hitched up Evan's Pick and posed for our picture prior to heading to the track for training.

"The Southern Tier Harness Horsemen's Association, Inc. is an organization of owners, trainers, drivers, grooms, and breeders of Standardbred Horses whose purpose is to promote the welfare of Harness Racing in New York, and in so doing promote the welfare of its members."

The New York State Horse Council, Inc.'s mission is "To create a strong unified voice for all horse interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State".We appreciate the tenacity of the trainers, horse owners, staff, and all who are moving forward at Tioga Downs.





2nd Annual Tack Swap and County Fair

> Sunday June 2nd 12pm -4:20pm

461 Cooley Rd, Parksville, NY 12768

E <u>Come Join the Fun!!</u>

Therapeutic Horsemanship

cto

4th Annual "Victory Hill" Road Rally

A community-wide scavenger hunt!

Saturday, Oct 12th, 2024 10am-4pm

Starts at Greenville Park

1566 US-6 #1486, Port Jervis, NY 12771

For more information, to purchase tickets or to donate, please visit us at: Victoryhillth.org > "Events" or aim your phone camera at the QR Code below .

TICKETS: \$35 per person (Price includes event T-Shirt and approx. 20 giveaways)

Approx. 20 local businesses will participate and host a "stop". Decipher the clues to find each stop and pick up a prize at each! Upon completion, go into a drawing for FABULOUS Prizes!

A FANTASTICALLY FUN day for a GREAT cause!!

All proceeds will be donated to Victory Hill Therapeutic Horsemanship to keep our programs affordable and available to those who need them most.

For more info: laurie@victoryhillth.org or 845-843-0020





New York State Horse Council Youth Scholarship / Adult Educational Grant

The New York State Horse Council (NYSHC) will award two different one thousand (\$1,000.00) awards per year!

The first award is a Youth Scholarship that will be given to an NYSHC member whose age is 16 to 24 years old within the given year.

The second award is an Adult Educational Grant which will be awarded to a NYSHC member whose age is 25 years and older.

Both the Youth Scholarship and the Adult Educational Grant will be awarded to an NYSHC member who is attending a collegiate horse-related program or a professional certification program (Parelli, John Lyons, farrier, etc.).

Applications Due May 15th of the Current Year. Applicant must be an individual, family, or student member.





NY State Horse Services Directory

ADOPTION

Sunshine Horses Inc. 3721 Verplank Rd Clay NY 13041 <u>315-456-9380</u> <u>sunshinehorsesinc@gmail.com https://www.sunshinehorses.org</u> Rescue/Rehabilitation/Retraining/Adoption of Standardbreds and other *BOARDING*

American Heritage Morgan Farm 1974 Murdock Rd Lydonville NY 14098 <u>585-</u> <u>735-5322 demorgan@lakeplains.net</u> ...Preserving, promoting & perpetuating the Morgan Horse

MK Quarter Horses 4430 Chestnut Rd Wilson NY 14172 <u>579-204-5281</u> <u>mkquarterhorses@hotmail.com http://www.mkquarterhorses.com</u> Boarding, Training, Lessons, Barrel Racing, Equine Rehab, Foaling Facility Potter Ranch 239 Hynes Rd Poughquag NY 12570 <u>917-744-0048 pat@potter-</u> <u>ranch.com</u> <u>https://www.potter-ranch.com</u> Potter Ranch is the last of Western Culture offering Lessons, Boarding and more.

Rose Stayer-Ruffner 3991 West Branch Rd. Allegany NY 14706 716-307-5276 <u>stayerrm@alfredstate.edu</u> Horse boarding with indoor and outdoor arenas and plenty of pasture area, Riding lessons with focus on horsemanship, ranch riding and reining, riding teams for grades 4-12, Alfred State Western Equestrian team

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CLINICS

Kinship With Horses, LLC 9324 North Otto Road Cattaraugus NY 14719 <u>716-982-5180</u> <u>gail@kinshipwithhorses.net</u> <u>http://kinshipwithhorses.net</u>/ Progressive Horsemanship keeping the horses point of view in mind. Horsekeeping begins from the Ground Up. Balance the diet, the teeth , the feet and now we have a good place to begin a dialogue that the horse can understand.

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Rising Starr Horse Rescue Corp 93 Silver Spring Rd Wilton CT 06897 <u>203-257-8345</u> <u>Risingstarr100@gmail.com https://www.risingstarrhorserescue.org</u> 39.3 of our 41 acres are in Lewisboro, NY

W.H. Miner Ag Research Institute 1034 Miner Farm Rd., PO Box 90 CHAZY New Y 12921-0090 518-846-7121 x120 <u>lassell@whminer.com http://www.oneredthread.org</u>/ Education & Research Institute

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One Red Thread Equine Connection, Inc. 7755 Milestrip Road Orchard NY 14127 <u>716-</u> <u>949-7723 redthreadequine@gmail.com</u> <u>http://www.oneredthread.org</u>Learning and healing through groundwork activities with horses. No riding involved.

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Landsman Kill Trail Association 63 Cobblestone Ridge Hyde Park NY 12538 845-240-4299 paula58130@aol.com http://www.lkta.org Landsman Kill Trail Association maintains over 70 miles of trails throughout Northern Dutchess County, primarily in Rhinebeck, NY. Trails are open year round to members (except hunting season). Many trails are color coded for ease of use. Two hunter paces and two organized trail rides are held each year and are open to non-members.

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