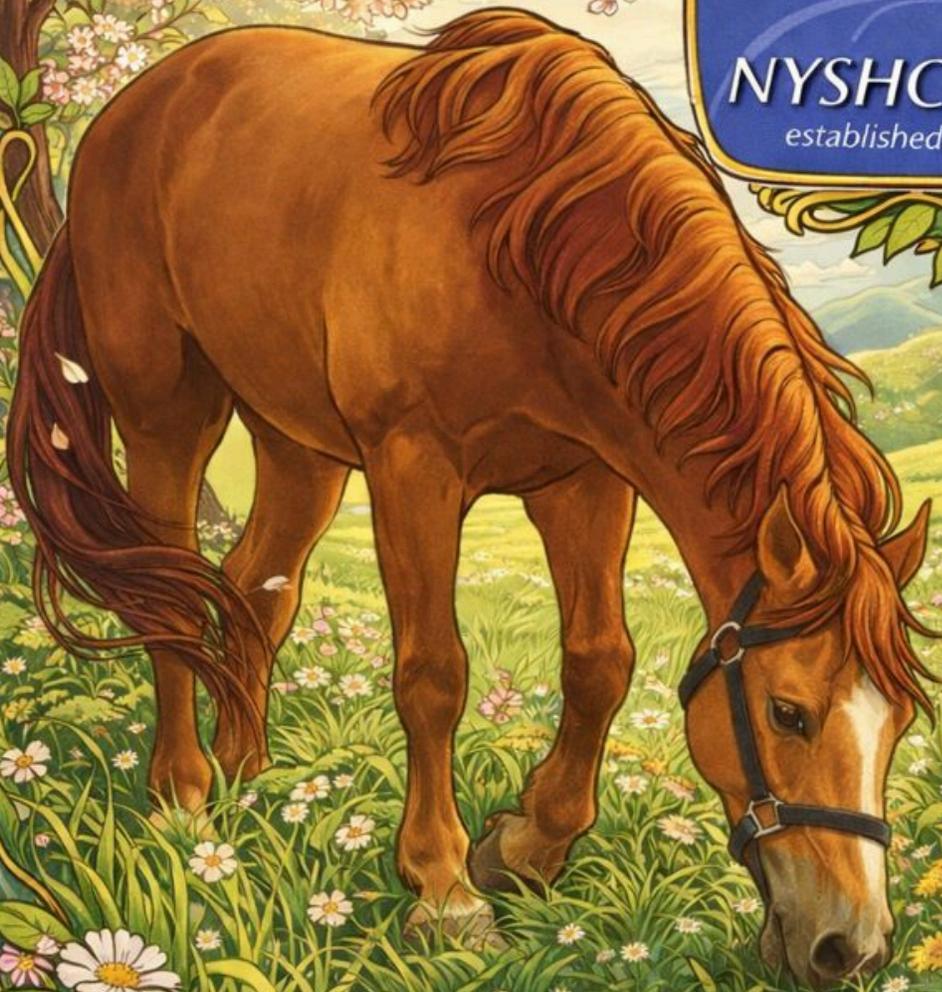


# New York State Horse Council



Spring 2026 newsletter

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the 250th anniversary of the forming of our great nation, the United States. It is also the Year of the Horse! It has only been 100 years since the transformation of transportation from horses and mules being our primary means of transportation to the automobile, tractors, and trucks. Let's celebrate these contributions and continue to work together "To create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses (and equids) in New York State." If you have local parades, county fairs, clinics, horse shows and other events, get involved! Contact the organizers, show the NYSHC Banner and support the equine events in your area.



Statue of General Sheridan at the base of the New York State Capital Building Steps

The New York State Horse Council, Inc. is a member of the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations, Inc. (CAO) <https://empirestatecao.info>. Karen Lassell, Vice President of the Northern Region, and I participated in the planning and annual meetings of CAO to provide comments on the 2026 CAO policy handbook that is delivered to the New York State Legislators every year. This was also an opportunity to introduce a NYSHC budget request to the New York State Legislature through the CAO to expand programs sponsored by NYSHC.

On February 3, 2026, the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget request of \$100,000 was presented to New York State Legislators by the NYSHC team: me, Colleen Segarra, NYSHC Executive Vice President, Christina Hansen, NYSHC Secretary, and Karen Lassell. The next day, on February 4, 2026, we participated in the CAO lobby day and visited legislators as a member of a team formed by various members of CAO. This is valuable experience, as some members of the CAO have a great deal of experience in meeting with legislators and their staff.

On February 9 we braved the frigid sub-zero temperatures, returning to Albany to participate in the Taste of New York reception organized by the New York Farm Bureau. This is an incredible experience, where we had a booth to informally educate legislators and others on the programs and activities of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. Thanks go to Karen Lassell and Christina Hansen for participating in this activity.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED



---

Amy Abbati, Legislative Director, Pauline Burnes, Assemblywoman Lupardo and Christina Hansen at Taste of New York Reception, Albany, NY

I discovered in my meetings with legislators and their staff that they are elected representatives, and they want to hear from their constituents, YOU!. Contacting their office is quite easy and expressing your opinion in a polite forum can be done by email, phone call, personal meeting at their home office, or even a virtual meeting. Here is a link to locate your State Senate and Assembly representatives <https://elections.ny.gov/new-york-state-elected-officials>.

Please note that the budget request is under consideration, but not final. Let's continue to do our excellent work through our fantastic volunteer teams and Board of Directors. I am grateful for your encouragement and support. If you have questions regarding the NYSHC initiatives, please contact me at [pauline.burnes@nyshc.org](mailto:pauline.burnes@nyshc.org)

CHAIR OF THE  
MINORITY CONFERENCE  
  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
INSURANCE  
  
MEMBER  
LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS  
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON RURAL  
RESOURCES

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR  
PAMELA A. HELMING  
54TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
FINANCE  
RULES  
AGRICULTURE  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Temporary President and Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 330  
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Robert Ort  
Minority Leader  
New York State Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 315  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Legislative Leaders,

We are writing to respectfully urge you to include a line item of **\$100,000 for the New York State Horse Council, Inc. (NYSHC)** in the final enacted FY 2026-27 State Budget.

NYSHC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, established in 1968, that provides a wide variety of horse-related activities and advocates for open space preservation across New York. Their mission is to “create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State,” with their work spanning across NYC and Long Island, and the Mid-Hudson, Capital, Northern, Central, Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, and Western regions of the state.

According to the 2023 New York State Equine Economic Impact Survey, the NYS Horse Industry and related businesses generate seven billion dollars in revenue each year. This income stream includes agricultural products, professionals (veterinarians, farriers, trainers, riding instructors) the racing industry, recreational rider, horse show participants, boarding and lesson stables, breeding operations, equestrian programs at universities, and more.

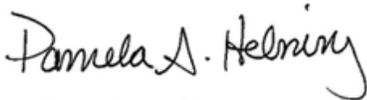
With increased interest in outdoor recreation, there has been a surge in the purchase of pleasure horses and the need to educate their owners on proper care, safety, and training. The NYSHC has long promoted multi-use trails on public land, making New York a premier tourist destination for trail riders. The appropriation of \$100,000 would support the following programs:

- \$20,000 Equine Industry Workforce Development and Skills Training
- \$10,000 Establish a NYSHC Youth Leadership Board with representatives from Equine University programs, Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H, U.S. Pony Club, and others.
- \$30,000 Equestrian and Multi-Use Trail Improvements on Public Lands

- \$20,000 Emergency Preparedness – Large Animal Rescue Training and Safety Education for Barn Owners, Horse Handlers, and EMS personnel
- \$20,000 Marketing and Education – includes collaboration with the American Horse Council, Coalition of State Horse Councils, Cornell University, and other Equine University and Education Programs in New York State

It is our hope that you will consider the inclusion of this allocation for NYSHC in the final enacted FY 2026-27 State Budget. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



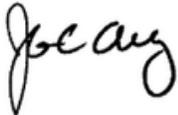
Pamela A. Helming  
Senator, 54th District



James Tedisco  
Senator, 44th District



George M. Borrello  
Senator, 57th District



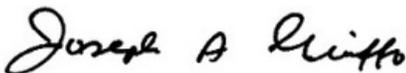
Jacob Ashby  
Senator, 43rd District



Anthony H. Palumbo  
Senator, 1st District



Stephen T. Chan  
Senator, 17th District



Joseph A. Griffo  
Senator, 53rd District



Steven D. Rhoads  
Senator, 5th District



Mario R. Mattera  
Senator, 2nd District



Peter Oberacker  
Senator, 51st District



Left to Right- Colleen Segarra, Senator Helming, Pauline Burnes, Christina Hansen, Karen Lassell



Pauline explaining the NYSHC line-item request to Senator Helming



Colleen's CAO Team-Colleen Segarra, Sam Filler and Sue Adams



Pauline's CAO Team-L to Rt is Brian Reeves, Aaron Ristow, Alee Coombe and Pauline Burnes

## **EQUINE INDUSTRY**

Encompassing racing, breeding, showing, sales, working horses, and recreational aspects, the equine industry is a vital part of New York State agriculture and New York's economy. New York ranks 16th among the states in its number of horses. The current value of New York's 200,000 equine currently residing on farms and stables, is estimated to be more than \$2 billion, and those equine contribute over \$7 billion to the state's economy. It is incumbent on the state to provide a safe and viable economic platform to thrive as the industry supports the production of hay, feed and supports agribusinesses, thereby helping protect and retain farmland and open space throughout the state.

### **WE RECOMMEND:**

1. Support for funding for the New York State Horse Council, Inc. an independent, nonprofit organization that advocates for all breeds of horses and all disciplines of equestrian pursuits, to expand their education programs, marketing, communication and promotion of equestrian events and trails on public lands in New York State. The New York State Horse Council has the history and infrastructure to utilize funding to the benefit of the equine industry to foster growth and sustainability.
2. Re-establishment of the New York State Horse Health Assurance Program (NYSHHAP).
3. Support funding the revitalization, improvement, and establishment of New York horse venues, to include county fairgrounds State and local parks, and equestrian trails and camping areas on public lands, as an economic engine for the state.
4. Opposition to legislation which explicitly or implicitly removes any equine from farm animal classifications and defines them as companion animals.
5. Support the establishment of educational loan forgiveness for equine and large animal veterinarians who stay to practice in New York State, in order to combat the veterinarian shortage and support the equine industry.
6. Support the Carriage Horse industry as an instrument of urban outreach for agriculture.
7. Support the sales tax exemption of horse-riding equipment purchased for riding lesson and trail riding businesses, to encourage education about horses and improve affordability, helping to ensure the future of the equine industry.
8. Support the implementation of research and development for low-cost gelding and humane euthanasia programs for equids and commission a working group to support and finance programs such as the Cornell Waste Management Institute in implementation of a statewide program for equid livestock composting.
9. Support for education involving horses at all levels. In pre-K through grade 12, increase programs in agricultural literacy, promoting safe recreation and career building skills in the equine industry, both at schools and through programming offered by Cornell University's Extension Service. Fully fund secondary education requests by the College of Life Science and Agriculture at Cornell for equine studies, pre-vet and veterinary schools, and the SUNY system as they are unique opportunities to connect youth increasingly not growing up on farms to jobs in the equine industry

## **NYSHC EQUINE ADVOCACY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT YOUTH LEADERSHIP BOARD, SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

### **REQUEST**

We respectfully request that a line item of \$100,000 be appropriated for the New York State Horse Council, Inc. (NYSHC) in the 2026-2027 budget for the expansion of education programs, workforce development, the establishment of a NYSHC Youth Leadership Board and marketing dedicated to advocating for all breeds and all disciplines of horses in New York State.

### **BACKGROUND**

Founded in 1968, the New York State Horse Council, Inc., a volunteer organization, advocates for horses, open space preservation, and trails across the Empire State. The Mission of the NYSHC is “to create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State.” According to the 2023 New York State Equine Economic Impact Survey, the NYS Horse Industry and related businesses generate seven billion dollars in revenue each year. This income stream includes agricultural products, professionals (veterinarians, farriers, trainers, riding instructors) the racing industry, recreational rider, horse show participants, boarding and lesson stables, breeding operations, equestrian programs at universities, and more. With increased interest in outdoor recreation, there has been a surge in the purchase of pleasure horses and the need to educate their owners on proper care, safety, and training. The NYSHC has long promoted multi-use trails on public land, making New York a premier tourist destination for trail riders. Therefore, the New York State Horse Council, Inc. is requesting a \$100,000 allocation to support the following programs.

1. \$20,000 Equine Industry Workforce Development and Skills Training
2. \$10,000 Establish a NYSHC Youth Leadership Board with representatives from Equine University programs, Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H, U.S. Pony Club, and others.
3. \$30,000 Equestrian and Multi-Use Trail Improvements on Public Lands
4. \$20,000 Emergency Preparedness – Large Animal Rescue Training and Safety Education for Barn Owners, Horse Handlers, and EMS personnel
5. \$20,000 Marketing and Education – includes collaboration with the American Horse Council, Coalition of State Horse Councils, Cornell University, and other Equine University and Education Programs in New York State

### **GOALS**

The NYSHC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with significant achievements through its dedicated volunteers. The appropriation of \$100,000 would provide funding to advance the New York State Equine Industry with the following NYSHC initiatives: Workforce Development and Skills Training; establishment of a NYSHC Youth Leadership Board; funding for Equestrian and Multi-use trail improvements on public lands; Large Animal Rescue Training and Safety Education; Marketing and Equine Education. To accomplish these goals, the NYSHC plans to collaborate with other equine organizations, universities and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Dear NYSHC Member,

The New York State Horse Council (NYSHC) is requesting a \$100,000 line-item appropriation in the 2026–2027 New York State Budget to expand education, safety, workforce development, youth leadership, and trail access across our state.

The New York equine industry generates \$7 billion annually and supports thousands of jobs — from veterinarians and farriers to lesson barns, breeders, trail riders, and equestrian students. With increased horse ownership and public land use, the need for education, safety, and workforce training has never been greater.

## WHAT THIS FUNDING SUPPORTS:

- Equine Industry Workforce Development & Skills Training
- Creation of a NYSHC Youth Leadership Board
- Equestrian & multi-use trail improvements on public lands
- Large Animal Rescue & Emergency Preparedness training
- Education, safety programs & statewide equine advocacy

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TODAY

Legislators listen most closely to their own constituents. A short email or phone call from you makes a real difference.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS:

Find your representatives:

- NY Assembly: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>
- NY Senate: <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>

What to say (sample message):

As a constituent and supporter of New York’s equine industry, I respectfully ask you to support a \$100,000 line-item appropriation for the New York State Horse Council in the 2026–2027 State Budget. This funding supports education, youth leadership, workforce development, safety training, and trail access for horses across New York State.

Even one sentence helps — emails do not need to be long.

## WHY IT MATTERS

NYSHC is a volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) working statewide to protect horses, trails, open space, and equestrian opportunity for all breeds and disciplines. This funding allows us to serve more communities, support youth, and strengthen the future of horses in New York.

Thank you for standing with NYSHC and for being a voice for horses.

With appreciation,

New York State Horse Council

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

## MEET the BOARD

Mrs. Burnes has been President of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. since 2023. Prior to that time, she served as Western New York Region Director. Her knowledge, skills and abilities are varied, giving her practical experience that has been an asset to the New York State Horse Council. She enjoys exploring new initiatives for the Council and meeting horsemen across New York State.

In the 1970's Pauline attended Cornell University's College of Agricultural Sciences (CALs). She obtained farrier training at the Wolverine Farrier School in Howell, Michigan and started her own horseshoeing business. In 1976 it was quite unusual for a woman to be in the farrier business. In addition to farrier work, she trained young horses to carry saddle and rider for the first time, reschooled an off the track thoroughbred for eventing, and instructed individuals on their own mounts.

Mrs. Burnes acquired her Master Instructor certification with the International Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) in 1981 while managing a 40-horse corral at the Girl Scout National Center West in Ten Sleep, Wyoming. The following year she acquired her CHA Clinic Instructor certification from Susan Harris and instructed clinics in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Vermont.

Pauline later worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) where she acquired training in farm planning and the design of soil conservation practices for erosion and sediment control. While employed at SCS Pauline completed a Bachelor of Science Degree with/ a concentration of studies in Natural Resources. She returned to college full-time in 1989 to complete a master's degree in landscape architecture with a concentration of studies in Environmental Planning.

After graduation Pauline acquired a Landscape Architect position at the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). While employed at NYSDOT for 23 years she obtained valuable experience in the restoration of highly disturbed landscapes, the use of Geographic Information Systems, environmental scoping, stormwater management, and construction cost estimating. She served as Regional Landscape Architect and Project Landscape Architect for the construction of Interstate 99 from Pennsylvania to Presho. She obtained certification as a Red Cross Instructor Trainer and trained other instructors in CPR/AED/First Aid.

After retiring from NYSDOT in 2018, Pauline was a guest speaker at the 2019 International Trails Conference sponsored by American Trails in Syracuse, New York. During that same year, in collaboration with the Cattaraugus/Chautauqua Chapter of the New York State Horse Council, Pauline wrote a successful grant application for trail improvements on the West Almond Trail System.

Pauline has worked collaboratively with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation West Almond Forestry Office and co-founded IMPACT: Friends Improving

Allegany County Trails, Inc. (IMPACT). She has served as Vice President and Secretary for IMPACT, designing and managing trail construction projects.

Mrs. Burnes currently has a certification as Equine Facilities Manager with CHA and has been a presenter at the International CHA Conference at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She currently enjoys trail riding her gaited Tennessee Walker Little Joe and competes in Equine Trail Sports and Obstacle competitions.



Pauline, Yogi the bear and her horse  
Little Joe



Pauline shoeing a horse in 1981  
at Girl Scout National West Ten  
Sleep, Wyoming



Pauline eventing on Salamanca Chief

# YOUTH CORNER

## ☀ Introducing the Proposed NYSHC Youth Board ☀

The New York State Horse Council is excited to announce the formation of a proposed NYSHC Youth Board – and we’re looking for motivated, passionate young equestrians to get involved!

This new initiative is designed to give youth members a stronger voice within NYSHC while developing leadership skills, networking opportunities, and a deeper understanding of the equine industry across New York State. The Youth Board will work alongside the NYSHC Board of Directors to bring fresh ideas, plan youth-focused activities, support membership growth, and help shape the future of our organization.

Youth Board positions are expected to include roles such as:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Public Relations Chair
- Committee Members



↖ Membership Form

Serving on the Youth Board will provide valuable experience in leadership, communication, teamwork, and event planning – all excellent additions to college, scholarship, and job applications.

### 📌 Interested in applying?

The first step is to make sure you are a current NYSHC Youth Member. Only active youth members will be eligible to apply when applications officially open.

If you are not yet a member, now is the perfect time to join! Visit our website and complete the online membership form so you’re ready when Youth Board applications are released.

This is an exciting opportunity to represent youth equestrians across New York State and help build something meaningful from the ground up.

Stay tuned for more details – and get your membership in place today!

## Two \$1,000 Annual Scholarships — Apply by May 15!

The New York State Horse Council (NYSHC) is proud to support the future of New York's equine community by awarding two \$1,000 scholarships each year. These scholarships reflect NYSHC's ongoing commitment to youth leadership, workforce development, and lifelong learning within our state's horse industry. If horses have helped shape your goals, work ethic, and leadership skills — we want to hear your story.

### Youth Scholarship – \$1,000

Open to high school students and currently enrolled college students, ages 16-24, this scholarship supports young equestrians pursuing higher education in any field of study.

Whether you are studying:

- Veterinary medicine
- Equine science
- Agriculture
- Business
- Communications
- Education
- Or another career path

We are seeking applicants who demonstrate:

- Leadership
- Academic dedication
- Community involvement
- Volunteerism
- Commitment to the equine industry

### Adult Scholarship – \$1,000

Education and professional growth do not stop after high school — and neither does NYSHC's support. Our Adult Scholarship is designed for members continuing their education, pursuing certifications, advancing careers, or returning to school later in life. Whether you're expanding your knowledge within the equine industry, or strengthening your professional skills, this scholarship can help support your next step. The adult scholarship is for ages 25 and over.

### Why Apply?

An NYSHC Scholarship is more than financial assistance — it is recognition from New York's statewide equestrian community. It represents our belief that investing in people strengthens the entire horse industry. From youth riders and 4-H members, to industry professionals and lifelong learners, our scholarship recipients reflect the dedication and diversity of New York's equine community.

## Apply by May 15

**All applications must be submitted by May 15.**

Do not wait until the last minute — gather your materials, request recommendation letters early, and take advantage of this opportunity.

Visit the NYSHC website [www.nyshc.org](http://www.nyshc.org) and click JOIN if you are not a member of NYSHC.

For eligibility requirements and application details: <https://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=9>

You can also contact Karen Lassel for more information: [lassell@whminer.com](mailto:lassell@whminer.com)

## Help Us Spread the Word

Parents, trainers, instructors, affiliate organizations, and barn owners — please share this with the students and adult learners in your programs. A simple reminder could make a meaningful difference in someone's future. The strength of New York's equine industry depends on developing educated, passionate leaders — at every age.



*Adult Scholarship Form*

*Youth Scholarship Form*

## Finger Lakes Region Update

### New Member Access, Community Events, and Trail Conditions

#### NYSHC Members Now Have Access to Rochester Trail Riders

We're pleased to share that all New York State Horse Council members now have concurrent access to Rochester Trail Riders (RTR). \_\_\_

This expanded access connects statewide advocacy with rider-driven trail resources, giving members additional tools to connect, share information, and explore horse-friendly trails across the region.

Getting started is simple. Visit the [Rochester Trail Riders website](#) and use the email address associated with your NYSHC membership. Select "Forgot Password" to set up your account and gain access to the Member Area, forums, GPX trail data, and additional NYSHC-specific features. We encourage members to log in, explore the site, and take advantage of the expanded resources now available to you.

---

#### Courses on Horses – February 7

On February 7, Genesee Valley Equine Clinic hosted Horses on Course at Mercy High School. Despite record wind chills reaching -20 degrees and below, a dedicated group of equestrians came out for a morning of educational sessions focused on horse health.

The event demonstrated once again the strength of our equestrian community—when it comes to learning and improving care for our horses, weather is rarely a deterrent.

NYSHC staffed a table at the vendor fair and welcomed several new members who were previously unaware of the many benefits and advocacy efforts the organization provides. Events like this continue to highlight the importance of outreach and education within our region.

We also offered two door prizes:

- A free Basic NYSHC membership
- A book on poisonous plants affecting horses
- 

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who stopped by to connect.

## **Trail System Update – Snowmobile Traffic Closed**

As of February 17, snowmobile traffic has officially been closed on the Western New York trail system. With rising temperatures and no significant snowfall in the forecast, this will likely conclude snowmobile activity for the remainder of the season.

While this signals a shift toward spring, it is important to remember that snowmobile-packed trails often hold slush and ice longer than untouched snow in surrounding areas. These conditions can create unsafe footing for horses and contribute to trail damage.

We understand the temptation—after a long winter, everyone is eager to get back on the trails. However, patience during this transition period helps protect both our horses and the longevity of our trail systems. If you choose to ride, consider sticking to greenways while park trails have time to dry. Many park systems typically do not reopen to horse traffic until May.

A little restraint now goes a long way toward:

- Keeping horses sound and safe
- Reducing erosion
- Preserving trail conditions for the full season ahead

As always, respect the trail, wear a helmet and volunteer! Happy Trails!

Lindsay LaBella

VP Fingerlakes Region

## **Trail Update: Mountain Bike Proposal at Finger Lakes National Forest**

The Finger Lakes National Forest has released a proposal that would designate additional mountain bike trails and allow bike use on approximately 24 miles of existing system trails — many of which are currently open to equestrian use.

While no horse trail mileage is being removed, several trails would transition to shared use. This means equestrians will legally be sharing portions of the trail system with mountain bikers if the proposal moves forward. Seasonal bike closures (March 15–May 15) would remain in place to protect trail conditions.

As always, staying informed and engaged is key to preserving safe and sustainable horse access.

 Read the full article here:

<https://rochestertrailriders.com/2026/02/mountain-bike-trail-proposal-at-finger-lakes-national-forest/>

Please take a few minutes to review and stay aware of how this may impact our riding community.

The Ulster County Horse Council Chapter of NYSHC has been busy since the first of the year ushering in two new board members and planning for 2026! We welcome Eija Lawrence as Secretary and Jazmine Langlitz as Treasurer! Katharine Majestic will continue as President and Tenney Gravatt as Vice-President for the coming year.

Our plans for 2026 include our annual Obstacle Challenge in early autumn as well as a virtual Obstacle Challenge to begin in April. Stay tuned for more information about that event!! Do it yourself challenge! We also will host a few workshops this year. One will be “Emergency First Aid Kit for the Barn – what to have available as first aid for your horse” this spring and another on Horse Insurance. Looking to offer a Hoof Care workshop, Vaccines round table and Holistic practices clinic to keeping your horse feeling it’s best. We plan to host a Poker Ride in early autumn as well as another trail ride with other Chapters. Our club welcomes collaboration with other Chapters of NYSHC to put on events and share our knowledge with one another. Please reach out to our club through [UCHCNY@gmail.com](mailto:UCHCNY@gmail.com) or visit us on Facebook at “Ulster County Horse Council” to say hello.

Submitted by Tenney Gravatt , VP of Ulster County Chapter on 3/5/26



# JOIN THE NYSHC YOUTH BOARD



## YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS

- Gain Leadership Skills
- Plan Youth Events & Activities
- Service Horse Community

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
WITH YOUR VOICE AND  
IDEAS!**

**OPEN TO AGES 14-22!**

**LEARN MORE**

# **NYSHC Member Benefits**

## **Why Join the New York State Horse Council?**

When you join the New York State Horse Council, you support a statewide organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the equine community. Your membership helps create a unified voice for horse owners, riders, drivers, and equine businesses throughout New York State.

### **Advocacy for the Equine Industry**

NYSHC represents the interests of horse owners and equine organizations across the state.

- A strong voice in Albany on legislation affecting the equine industry
- Advocacy for equine land use, trails, and horse-friendly policies
- Representation for all breeds and disciplines in New York State

### **Education & Information**

Members stay informed about the issues and opportunities affecting the equine community.

- NYSHC Newsletter with equine news and updates
- Educational seminars, clinics, and industry programs
- Legislative updates impacting horse owners
- Resources for horse care, management, and safety

### **Programs & Opportunities**

Members can participate in a variety of NYSHC programs.

- Eligibility for the NYSHC Ride & Drive Program
- Youth Scholarships and Adult Educational Grants
- Discounts on NYSHC sponsored clinics and events
- Networking with horse owners and equine professionals statewide

### **Member Resources**

Members gain access to useful directories and tools.

- NYSHC Business, Club, Farm & Organization Directory
- NYSHC Horse Trails Guide
- Statewide equine event calendar
- Member networking opportunities

### **Insurance Protection**

Individual and family memberships include access to liability protection.

- \$1,000,000 Excess Personal Liability Insurance through Equisure
- Coverage for personal equine activities (non-commercial use)

### **Member Discounts**

NYSHC membership provides access to special discounts through equine industry partners. Examples include discounts from:

- John Deere Equine Association Discount Program
- Sherwin-Williams – up to 40% off paint and products
- Office Depot – preferred pricing on office supplies and printing
- Red Brand Horse Fence – savings on equine fencing
- Stagecoach West – merchandise discounts
- Access to additional discounts through the American Horse Council

### **Join or Renew Today**

Help protect the future of horses in New York State while enjoying valuable member benefits. Join or renew your membership today



*Membership Form*

### Vaccination Time: Spring Check-Ups for Horses

By Leslie Barlow, EDCC Communications Manager

When the clock springs forward to signal a change in the seasons, your horse's vaccinations records need an update to help protect against potentially fatal equine diseases.

For adult horses, "spring shots" should be performed mid-March to mid-April to make sure immunity is boosted before likely exposure to insect and animal vectors.

A standard vaccination program for all horses does not exist. Each individual situation requires evaluation based on the following criteria: risk of infection, consequences of the disease, anticipated effectiveness, potential for severe adverse reactions to vaccines, and cost of immunization versus potential cost of disease. The timing of the vaccination is critical to ensure the horse's immune system peaks during the highest risk period for the disease exposure.

According to the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) vaccination guidelines, the five core vaccinations that all horses need include: West Nile Virus, Eastern and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE and WEE), tetanus and rabies. All horses are exposed to these potentially fatal diseases and need to be vaccinated annually. In some cases, multiple vaccinations during the year may be advisable depending on the environment and horse activity.

Core vaccinations protect against diseases that are endemic to a region, are virulent or highly contagious, pose a risk of severe disease, pose a public health risk, and/or are required by law. These vaccines are recommended for all equids because they demonstrate efficacy and safety, with a high level of patient benefit and low level of risk.

West Nile Virus, EEE, & WEE are three mosquito-borne viruses that can cause severe and often deadly neurologic diseases. Tetanus is caused by the neurotoxin of bacteria *Clostridium tetani*, which often enters the body through puncture wounds or lacerations (like people). Tetanus can be deadly or at least require long-term intensive care in a hospital setting. The Tetanus vaccine is highly effective and because it is commonly used, it's relatively uncommon to see an equine case of tetanus. Rabies is rare, but there is a risk of exposure from wildlife. Rabies is essentially fatal. Rabies legally must be administered by a veterinarian.

Although no vaccine prevents all diseases, all these diseases have highly effective vaccines which can prevent death or decreases the number of sick horses. EEE, WEE, West Nile, and Tetanus are often combined in one vaccine to make a "four-way", aka a "3-way and West Nile". Having your veterinarian administer the vaccine helps guarantee the efficacy of the vaccine.

"All horses, no matter where they live or how they are managed are susceptible to these core diseases, which can cause extreme illness and even death," said Dr. Katie Flynn, Equine Health and Biosecurity Veterinarian for the United States Equestrian Federation.

.

### **Vaccination Time: Spring Check-Ups for Horses, continued**

By Leslie Barlow, Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) Communications Manager

Horses who travel or comingle with new horses at horse shows or on the farm are often at higher risk to be infected with additional viruses or bacteria and will benefit from vaccination.

Veterinarians recommending risk-based vaccinations for horses in these situations will often suggest additional protection against equine influenza and equine herpesvirus (EHV). The AAEP list of risk-based vaccines also includes Anthrax, Botulism, Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA), Leptospirosis, Potomac Horse Fever, Rotavirus, Snake Bites, Strangles, and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE). Owners and trainers should ask their veterinarian about whether their horses need risk-based vaccines in addition to the core vaccines.

“Vaccinations don’t guarantee 100% protection, so pairing them with a good biosecurity program is crucial,” said Dr. Flynn.

The AAEP vaccination guidelines include foal and adult horse vaccination charts for core and risk-based vaccines with guidance on when foals should receive their first round of shots and boosters as well as when adult horses need booster shots.

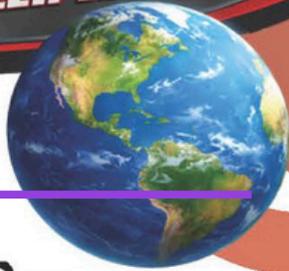
Veterinarians can guide you on the best timing of the vaccines that are right for your horse and situation.

The EDCC is an industry-driven information center which works to protect horses and the horse industry from the threat of infectious diseases in North America. The center is designed to seek and report real-time information about diseases similar to how the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center (CDC) alerts the human population about diseases in people. The EDCC is based in Lexington, Ky. At the American Association of Equine Practitioners headquarters, with a website and call center hosted by US Equestrian. The EDCC is funded entirely through the generosity of organizations, industry stakeholders, and horse owners. To learn more visit [www.equinediseasecc.org](http://www.equinediseasecc.org)

## Southern Tier Regional Report

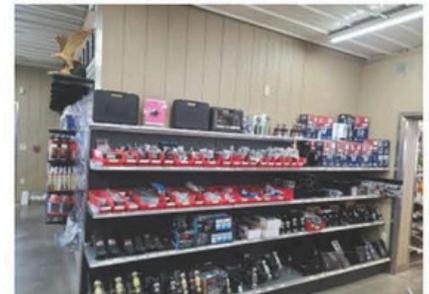
JoAnne Frechette and I tabled at the Schuyler Equine Conference on February 14. NYSHC donated a copy of Dr Eleanor Kellon VMD's Guide to First Aid for Horses, as a door prize. We also hosted a noontime roundtable for attendees. Also in February, I communicated with the Tioga County (NY) IDA, requesting that they add equestrians into the user matrix as they do feasibility studies for a rail trail in Northern Tioga County. A letter of support was sent to the Coddington Valley Rail Trail group. Annual followup was made with the Dryden Rail Trail governing committee. DRT folks have always been supportive of equestrian users, and committed to that for the foreseeable future. A letter in support of a state grant for additional funding was sent. I also recruited a local rider as a steward for a section of the trail.





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

# PARTS SERVICE SALES



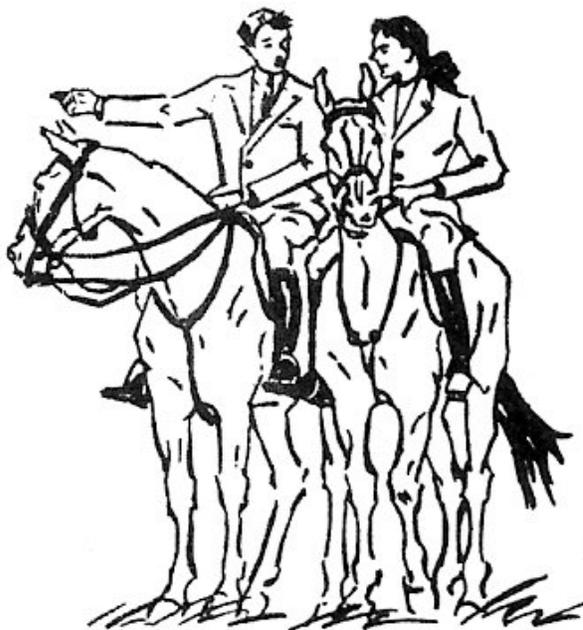
**1640 Main St. York, NY 14592. Corner of routes 20 & 36**

**Open M-F 8am-5pm Saturday 8:30am-1:30pm**

**Open until 7pm on Thursdays**

**[www.davistrailerworld.com](http://www.davistrailerworld.com)**

**585-538-6640**



## **Landsman Kill Trail Association's 2026 SCHEDULE**

### **EVENTS**

- 3/22/26 Annual Dinner**
- 5/17/26 Spring Hunter Pace**
- 6/14/26 Spring Trail Ride**
- 9/20/26 Fall Trail Ride**
- 10/11/26 Fall Hunter Pace**

**Located in beautiful Rhinebeck, NY**

**For more information email [president@lkta.org](mailto:president@lkta.org)  
or go to [lkta.org](http://lkta.org)**



*Alfred University Equestrian's Annual*  
**EQUESTFEST**

Admission is free and this is open to everyone, rain or shine!

Come enjoy our vendor fair and tack swap in our heated Equestrian Center! There are also pony rides, live music, events for kids, and more!

*Email: [warrenl@alfred.edu](mailto:warrenl@alfred.edu) to register for a booth.*

**Location:**

**Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center  
5174 Lake Rd.  
Alfred Station, NY 14803**

**Date:**

**March 28, 2026**

**Time:**

**10:00AM to 2:00PM**

