

Equine Science Center Stakeholder Meeting

Key Identified Issues

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Rick's Saddle Shop, Cream Ridge, NJ

The Equine Science Center's Stakeholder Meeting was a tremendous success as horse owners and farmers, businessmen, breeders, and equine enthusiasts gathered to address issues within the equine industry in New Jersey. The annual event was well attended with more than 40 stakeholders focusing their attention on horse health, integrity of equestrian sport, land use and environmental stewardship, the future of the equine industry and other areas of concern. The Center tried a new format and venue for this annual meeting, holding it in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Equine Advisory Board meeting at Rick's Saddle Shop.

Horse Health

- Horse Management Seminar – Saturday, February 4
 - Topic to be determined
 - Visit Equine Science Center website for additional details

- Request for educational information on mandatory tests & vaccinations
 - Division of Animal Health to focus on horses that are not currently tested for Equine Infectious Anemia
 - Current regulations stipulate that horses be tested for EIA when ownership changes; non-competitive horses that do not leave the farm premises regularly should be tested more frequently
 - With the new rescue initiatives, health regulations need to be tightened
 - Department of Ag will send the Equine Science Center the current horse health regulations to be posted on its website
 - Additional information available on the Responsible Horse Ownership page of the Center's website

- Equine Piroplasmiasis
 - Found in horses shipped from Texas to New Jersey approximately two years ago
 - New testing initiatives have been checking for positive horses; few cases have been found in New Jersey
 - Center should continue to post information about horse health on the Health Notices page of its website

- Parasite resistance to wormers
 - The Center will have a presentation on the impact of anthelmintics

on horse manure and soil during the annual Equine Science Update on Thursday, December 8. Additional information about the Equine Science Update will be available on the Center's website

- Extreme weather situations
 - Updates available on Center website and Facebook page
 - Center will explore other social media to quickly disseminate time-sensitive information
- Rescue horses
 - Checklist for proper health care and management in development by Sarah Ralston
 - Consider establishing a Mentor list to assist and guide new and potential horse owners; ideal project for the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board members

Integrity of Equestrian Sport

- Provide educational information on the sharing of needles

Land Use and Environmental Stewardship

- Educational videos on Farm and Pasture Management are available from the Equine Science Center and NJAES websites
- An interactive mobile phone application is in development for the Ryders Lane farm tour
- Center faculty and staff to provide Fact Sheets on animal waste management and environmental stewardship
- Anaerobic collection technology to be tested on horse farms
- Promote awareness of the Animal Waste Management plan
 - Department of Environmental Protection will have enforcement authority
 - Concern for smaller farms – what to do with the waste?
 - Present various types of storage options at planned demonstrations
 - Potential program to link manure producers with organic growers
 - Present various types of storage options at planned demonstrations
 - Centralized composting facilities (within township, county, etc.)
 - Manure pick-up program

- Taxation
 - Educate business owners on tax laws
 - Horse-Keeping Businesses and New Jersey Sales & Use Tax information guide is available on the Center website

Future of the Industry

- Reduction of racing days at Monmouth Park and the Meadowlands Racetrack in 2012
 - Negotiations and resolutions should be reached by the end of 2012
- Developing Future Leaders for the Equine Industry Leadership Class
Tuesday, January 10 & Thursday, January 12, 2012 at Showplace Farms
 - HS diploma is required
 - \$150 for non-matriculated students
- Equine Business Courses
 - Carey Williams and Laura Gladney applied for grants to develop courses
- Farm economist to become engaged in equine activities at the Center
- Continue to be advocates for the racing industry
- Responsible Horse Ownership Fund
 - Emphasize financial support