



NEWSLETTER

October 2013

MISSION:

Through an energized, broad based, grassroots coalition representing all facets of the equine industry, the Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP) is committed to increasing the awareness and support, influencing public policy to strengthen the industry, and heightening recognition of the economic opportunities and value of the Michigan equine industry.

VISION:

A leader, partner and the voice of the Michigan equine industry.

PHILOSOPHY:

Provide leadership through commitment, empowerment and accountability. Build partnerships with respect, trust, cooperation and respond to the needs of the equine industry with information, assessment, innovation, communication and coordination of services.

VALUE:

A proud non-profit organization of advocacy through integrity, collaboration and member driven cooperative spirit.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

BY JULIAN VAIL, LLC

Equine Liability Act

HB 4126 Sponsored by Representative Joel Johnson

Please call your Senator and ask he/she to support HB 4126. You can connect to your legislators through the MEP website at www.miequine.com

HB 4126 amends the Equine Liability Act, implementing language that is standard across a majority of other states. The bill passed the House of Representatives and was sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Rick Jones - Chairman. Testimony was presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 and Julie Fershtman, MEP member and Equine Attorney, testified on the Equine Liability Act and the need for change, eliminating reference to a negligent act and instead, replace it with a reference to an act or omission that constitutes a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant that constitutes a proximate cause of the injury.

MEP representatives, Val Vail-Shirey and Larry Julian, will work with committee members to answer their questions and find a solution that will allow us to move the HB 4126 forward.

For complete information of the bill you can visit [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(52le1m45jy51cnfwyqlm2r45\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2013-HB-4126](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(52le1m45jy51cnfwyqlm2r45))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2013-HB-4126)

Horse Racing

Anticipated Introduction by Representative Kevin Daley

The Horse Racing industry has worked to find an agreement that tracks, horsemen, breeders, etc., along with the legislature and Governor can embrace that will keep the tracks and horsemen viable as an industry in Michigan. Should a final agreement be reached, the Horse Racing Industry will ask MEP members to assist in their legislative effort.

Sale of Agricultural Property

SB 372 Senator Caswell, sponsor. Property tax; assessments; sale of certain agricultural property; exclude from sales ratio studies under certain circumstances.

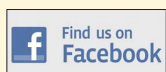
The Caswell bill will allow agricultural land that is sold for continued use as agriculture land to be used in the sale price considerations for assessors to evaluate the value for agriculture land on tax assessments. If agricultural land is purchased to be developed, the land sale will not be used in the compilation. This change will benefit farmers and owners of agriculture land. SB 371 passed the full Senate on October 3 and the House Agriculture Committee on October 23 and will now go to the full House of Representatives. For complete information visit [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(3w1011bj4gxekm45u44cayii\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2013-SB-0372](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(3w1011bj4gxekm45u44cayii))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2013-SB-0372).

FOUNDING MEMBERS

- ✧ MGLI-International Draft Horse Association
- ✧ M.T.O.B.A.
- ✧ Campbell Farms
Jerry and Lisa Campbell
- ✧ Tom Cole
- ✧ Larry Julian
- ✧ Mast Thoroughbreds
Henry Mast
- ✧ Val Vail-Shirey
- ✧ Horsemen's Benevolence & Protective Association
- ✧ C.A.N.T.E.R.
- ✧ Equine World Insurance
- ✧ Great Lakes Downs,
Muskegon

BOARD MEMBERS

- ✧ Aaron Rice - President
- ✧ Kristina Goulet - Vice-President
- ✧ Clay Frey - Treasurer
- ✧ Claudia Cary Davidson-Secretary
- ✧ Susie Baumgartner
- ✧ Ernie Birchmeier
- ✧ Tara East
- ✧ William "Dutch" Guthrie
- ✧ Stephanie Likens
- ✧ Michelle Lutz
- ✧ Marie Seddon
- ✧ Tom Tyler
- ✧ Pat Hooker



MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP)

U.S. National Champion Clydesdale mare's farm, near Spruce in Alcona County, is now MAEAP verified.

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a voluntary, pro-active program designed by a coalition of farmers, agricultural commodity groups, state and federal agencies, and conservation and environmental groups to reduce producers' legal and environmental risks. It teaches effective land stewardship practices that comply with state and federal regulations and shows producers how to identify and prevent agricultural pollution risks on their farms. MAEAP was created in 1998 by a coalition of agricultural, environmental and conservation groups to assist farmers in taking a voluntary, proactive approach to reducing agricultural pollution while keeping their business operations sustainable.

The U.S. National Champion Clydesdale mare's farm, near Spruce in Alcona County, is now verified. Also, MDARD MAEAP staff has had positive response to discussion about verifying horse facilities and associated farms on Mackinac Island.

Through MAEAP, Michigan farmers and agricultural stakeholders have taken a proactive approach to guarantee their farms are both sustainable and environmentally-friendly. As one of the most agriculturally diverse states, the one-size-fits-all approach to environmental protection simply does not work on all Michigan farms. MAEAP effectively overcomes this challenge by using a systems approach including a site and crop specific focus that involves education, risk assessments and third party audit inspections to address all soil and water resource concerns.

For more information click on this link <http://www.maeap.org/>

FROM THE STATE VET'S OFFICE

A horse tested positive for Leptospirosis this year in Macomb County. Leptospirosis in horses is interesting. Like other species, they get it from contact with the urine from infected animals (wildlife, dogs, livestock, etc.) and they could go on to infect other animals and people. Horses with Lepto often have eye problems as the primary sign (tearing, light sensitivity, constricted pupil, cataracts, blindness, etc.) although they can appear lethargic, have a fever, go off feed, have abortions or still births (mares), and be jaundice. There is no vaccine for horses. If you observe these symptoms in your horses (horse), you should contact your veterinarian.

RABIES STILL A CONCERN IN MICHIGAN

REPORT ANIMAL BITES TO LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITHIN 24 HOURS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Bridget Patrick, MDARD: (517) 284-5661 or patrickb@michigan.gov

October 14, 2013

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) State Veterinarian Dr. James Averill urged Michiganders to adopt practices that help protect their families, pets, and livestock from rabies, one of the deadliest diseases known to man. According to the World Health Organization, rabies is responsible for the deaths of 55,000 people worldwide.

All mammals are susceptible to rabies. Rabies virus is usually transmitted via the bite of an infected animal. The virus can also be transmitted in the saliva of an infected animal into an open wound or onto mucous membranes such as the eyes, nose, or mouth.

“Michigan has rabies laws and programs that help protect citizens. Animal bites are reportable, and the State of Michigan requires dogs and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies,” said Averill.

Protect dogs, cats, ferrets, horses, and select livestock by keeping them vaccinated against rabies.

If a person suspects their pet or livestock may have had contact with a potentially rabid animal, they should immediately contact their local animal control agency and veterinarian.

“You cannot always know if an animal has rabies, but if your pet or livestock behave aggressively and this is not normal behavior, you should consider rabies as a possible cause, and take appropriate precautions,” Averill said. “If a person is bitten by an animal, they should immediately wash the wound, seek medical attention, and report the bite to the local health department.”

Signs of rabies in animals can include lethargy, depression, aggression, seizures, a change in behavior, difficulty swallowing, excessive salivation, difficulty walking, and eventual death. Because many illnesses can cause these signs, without the laboratory tests rabies cannot be diagnosed. It is not possible to test live animals for rabies. In order to determine if an animal has the disease, a necropsy must be done and the brain tissue must be examined for the presence of characteristic lesions.

To date, for 2013, there have been 35 cases of rabid Michigan bats in the following counties: Berrien (2), Clinton (1), Emmet (1), Genesee (2), Ingham (6), Ionia (1), Jackson (2), Kalamazoo (1), Leelanau (1), Livingston (2), Mackinac (1), Macomb (2), Manistee (1), Mecosta (1), Missaukee (1), Monroe (1), Oakland (2), Ogemaw (1), St Clair (1), Tuscola (1) Washtenaw (3), and Wayne (1).

For more information, please visit: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/emergingdiseases/Rabies_Map_2013_407912_7.pdf

Congratulations MGLI on a Fantastic Show!

October 17-20, 2013



MDARD Director Jamie Clover-Adams all smiles after completing her ride with the winning six-horse hitch



Jody Pollok-Newsom of Michigan Farm & Garden interviewing one of the participants



Lookin' Good!

CONGRATULATIONS
WINNERS OF
MEP DRAWING!

One Year Membership

Ken McLellan

Port Huron, MI

Basket of Horse Goodies

Marilyn Letts

Marshall, MI

Michigan Equine Partnership

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