



# NEWSLETTER

May 2016

## 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.*

Hello Greetings!,

On behalf of the Michigan Equine Partnership, I invite you to the Thursday, June 16, 2016 Annual Meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. at Albion College. We will discuss issues affecting the equine industry that could impact your business and livelihood. Albion College will make a presentation regarding their equine facility. MEP may have the opportunity to work with Albion College to bring an International Equine Facility to Michigan. We have more information about the proposed international horse park in this newsletter.



Last year's amendments to the Michigan Equine Activity Liability Act were accepted and the Governor recently signed the updated legislation into law. We have more information on the updated Act below.

MEP legislative priorities also include working with the Racing industry. All Michigan equine industries benefit from a successful racing industry. MEP keeps watch for proposals that may be detrimental to the industry or have unintended consequences. If such legislation is identified, MEP is at the table to explain the issues and fight for equine interests.

I want to encourage you to attend our annual meeting on Thursday, June 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Albion College Equestrian Center. Please let us know you are coming (so we can be sure to put a chair out for you) by calling 517-372-1500.

## 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

Plan to attend the...

**MEP**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 16**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Nancy G. Held Equestrian  
Center at Albion College**  
**11039 29 Mile Road South**  
**Albion, MI 49224**  
[Registration Form](#)



And as always, we must be diligent about preventative health care for our equine friends. Vaccinations against Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus are imperative, and practicing good bio-security is a must for healthy animals and offspring.

Sincerely,

Aaron Rice

President  
Michigan Equine Partnership

## MDARD Offers Free West Nile Testing for suspected horses.

In partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Michigan State University's Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently offering to pay for West Nile Virus testing for equine which have developed a sudden onset of neurologic signs. Neurologic signs can include stumbling, inability to rise, difficulties urinating and/or defecating, blindness, seizures, and/or having a droopy lip and/or eyelids. Testing involves either a sample of blood if the animal is alive or if the animal is deceased, collection of the brain/head. If the brain/head is collected, the animal will also be tested for rabies and eastern equine encephalitis at no expense to the owner. Equine owners with equine, with a sudden onset of neurologic disease or prior to death were showing signs of neurologic disease, interested in testing are advised to contact their veterinarian. Testing is completely voluntary and must be done through a licensed veterinarian. As a reminder, WNV, which is transmitted through mosquito bites, is commonly found in Michigan and there is a highly effective vaccine available for horses. WNV is a reportable disease; to report a case of WNV in an animal, contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (for after-hours emergencies). For more information on WNV, visit [www.michigan.gov/equinediseases](http://www.michigan.gov/equinediseases).

## EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY: *Signed by the Governor*

Governor Rick Snyder signed PA 87 of 2015, the Michigan Equine Liability Act on October 6, 2015, effectively protecting those hosting equine activities from law suits if an accident occurs, unless there is willful neglect. Until this Act, a riding stable, racetrack, park, or horse farm owner was liable even for natural occurrences that could cause an accident, such as downed trees, a rodent hole or bee's nest. The act is retroactive to September 21, 2015, and now provides more protection for 35,000 Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP) members and equine operations in Michigan.



"Our MEP members, including Attorney Julie Fershtman, have worked diligently with State Representative Joel Johnson for this change," said MEP President Aaron Rice.



"Michigan's 155,000 horses are estimated to be worth \$531 million - we need to encourage outdoor activities and growth in this industry, and this Act is a step in the right direction."

Michigan horse people have \$4.35 billion equine related assets, and the economy sees about \$460 million in equine related expenditures annually, with approximately \$150 million generated in annual income.\*

"This change now brings Michigan in line with 38 other states for liability protection for equine enthusiasts," said Rice. "This support from Michigan's legislature and Governor Snyder strengthens and protects the equine industry in Michigan. People can now re-invest in their operations and enjoy horse related activities without constant worries about losing their farms because a horse steps in a ground-hog hole."

\*National Agriculture Statistics Services 2007

### Michigan International Horse Park Interest Revived

There is untold value in a Michigan Horse Park for all breeds of equine and all types of activities. A Horse Park for equine enthusiasts will add to the economic recovery of Michigan through job creation in the region where it is established. Increased economic activity associated with the equine industry will provide an economic boost to the entire state. See Michigan Farm News Article [here](#).



MEP Board of Directors, L-R: Kristina Goulet, Clay Frey, Representative Joel Johnson, Claudia Cary-Davidson, Governor Snyder, Aaron Rice, Larry Julian, Julie Fershtman

House Bill 4175 amended Section 5 of the Equine Activity Liability Act. That section lists circumstances when Section 3 does not apply and when an equine activity sponsor, equine professional, or other person remains liable. (See Background Information.) Equine activity sponsors include both for-profit and nonprofit organizations, including a pony club; 4-H club; hunt club; riding club; school- or college-sponsored class, program, or activity; therapeutic riding program; stable or farm owner; and operator, instructor, or promoter of an equine facility including, but not limited to, a stable, clubhouse, pony ride string, fair, or arena at which equine activity is held.

The bill reworded Section 5(d) to the following:

... a person who "Commits an act or omission that constitutes a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant, and that is a proximate cause of the injury, death, or damage."

### Horse Racing

The Horse Racing industry continues to work toward an agreement that tracks, horsemen, breeders, etc., along with the legislature and Governor can embrace that will keep live racing a viable industry in Michigan. There currently are two bills introduced in the legislature and work groups continue to reach consensus on the issues so that we may move forward together.

### 2016 EQUINE LEGISLATIVE GOALS

#### Create an Equine Education and Marketing Program

- \$5.00(+/-) per ton of feed manufactured. Funds will be placed in Equine Development Fund at Michigan Department of Agriculture. Applied at point of manufacturing - not feed store/elevators. Consumers pay approximately .13 cents per 50 pound bag. A Governor appointed committee would oversee the program. Approximately \$400,000 will be generated for the program.

#### Appropriate funds for Fairs & Expositions





### Save Michigan Horseracing Industry

The package to include:

- Amend the Michigan Horse Racing Act, 1995 to allow for other forms of pari-mutuel racing
- Allow for Advanced Deposit Wagering
- Negotiate the Gaming Compact with Native American Casinos with impact fee to Equine Development Fund
- Industry preference - Regulated by MDARD with Racing Commissioner



Would you like to advertise in this quarterly Newsletter?

For more information contact:

Larry Julian or Val Vail-Shirey \* 235 N. Pine St., Lansing, MI 48933 \* 517-372-1500



This e-newsletter is read by 2,000 horse enthusiasts and is placed on the MEP website. Contact [Val@julianvail.com](mailto:Val@julianvail.com) for information.

"I discovered that the horse is life itself, a metaphor but also an example of life's mystery and unpredictability, of life's generosity and beauty, a worthy object of repeated and ever changing contemplation."



*Jane Smiley*

### Horse-Drawn Vehicle registration

Representative Joel Johnson has introduced HB 4042, which will require registration fees on horse-drawn vehicles. This bill will allow counties to levy and earmark the funds from this legislation. The bill has been assigned to the House Transportation committee. The following is the bill in its entirety for your review:



A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "Michigan vehicle code," (MCL 257.1 to 257.923) by adding section 801k.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT: SEC. 801K. (1) A COUNTY, BY ORDINANCE, MAY CHARGE A FEE NOT TO EXCEED \$50.00 FOR REGISTRATION OF A HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLE WITHIN THAT COUNTY. A COUNTY MAY CHARGE THE FEE AUTHORIZED IN THIS SUBSECTION ONLY UPON THE APPROVAL OF A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTORS IN THAT COUNTY VOTING ON THE QUESTION AT AN ELECTION HELD ON A REGULAR ELECTION**

date as provided in section 641 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.641.

(2) A fee charged under this section shall be used only for road repair as determined by the county.

(3) As used in this section, "horse-drawn vehicle" means a nonmotorized vehicle powered by an animal within the equine family.

This legislation is not yet scheduled for a committee hearing. Representative Johnson continues to pursue having a hearing on the merits of the bill.

## Feeding the Foal and Lactating Mare

Eleanor Kellon, VMD

Staff Veterinary, Uckele Health & Nutrition



***Providing adequate nutrition is important to maintaining a healthy mare and growing foal.***

Milk is the sole nutrition for the first 2 to 3 months of the foal's life. By 4 months of age the foal is over 40% of its final adult size. That requires calories to support growth, protein to build the framework for all tissues, and vitamins and minerals to support cell division, bone, enzyme systems and blood building.

***A foal's health is dependent on the mare's nutrition***

Mares who receive inadequate calories and/or protein can show a very dramatic weight loss after foaling, which indicates a significant nutritional deficit. When this happens, the mare's body breaks down her body tissues to supply calories and protein.

Bone and tissue stores of mineral stores are depleted to supply the milk, compounding her nutritional challenges. If the mare has poor body stores of minerals like Copper and Zinc, the foal will not receive adequate nutrition.

Compared to her baseline adult needs, a wide range of the lactating mare's nutrients require escalation, including a protein increase of 144% and a Calcium and Phosphorus increase of 300%.

***Increasing nutrient density to meet lactation needs***

Because of the large discrepancy between calorie needs vs. protein, minerals and vitamins, simply feeding more to meet calorie needs won't get the job done.

To cover her protein and mineral requirements, add another 1 to 1.25 pounds of a 40 to 45% protein supplement and 1 to 1.5 additional doses of her usual mineral supplement, or 2 pounds per day of a combined 25% protein and mineral supplement.

***What's good for the mare, is good for the weanling***

Getting input from an equine nutritional expert will help ensure a healthy mare and foal. As an additional incentive, this lactating mare diet also works to account for the identical, high nutritional needs of weanlings, just adjusting for amounts fed.

For example, a weanling at six months of age will need to eat about half as much as his dam did while she was nursing. Use the same diet she was fed cut in half, and you also have an ideal diet for your young horses.

*Note: If you are not sure if your mare has received adequate protein you can help support production of adequate quality colostrum by supplementing her with high quality protein like whey and proven, safe natural immune supporting digestive ingredients like Arabinogalactan, Mannanoligosaccharides and Fructooligosaccharides.*

*About Uckele Health & Nutrition*

*Uckele Health & Nutrition, maker of CocoSoya®, is an innovation-driven health company committed to being on the leading edge of nutritional science and technology for over 50 years. Uckele takes pride in formulating and manufacturing a full spectrum of quality nutritional supplements for equine athletes and companion animals for optimal health at the highest level. [www.uckele.com](http://www.uckele.com)*

*Dr. Eleanor Kellon is an established authority in the field of equine nutrition for over 30 years, and leader of the Equine Cushings and Insulin Resistance (ECIR) group,*

whose mission is to improve the welfare of horses with metabolic disorders via integration of research and real-life clinical experience. Prevention of laminitis is the ultimate goal.

## 2016 Membership Application



You know you want to be an active participant in the Michigan Equine Partnership.

Be sure to [Click Here](#) for the membership application!

# WANTED

Photos wanted!

Do you have any horse related photos you would like to share with MEP? We are always looking for new photos to use in newsletters, on the website and in other MEP projects. What would be better than to use photos from our very own Michigan horse family!

**If you have any photos you would like to share with us please send them to [kristinag43@gmail.com](mailto:kristinag43@gmail.com) with "Horse Photos" in the subject line.**