



# NEWSLETTER

September 2017

## 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!,

Thank you for your Michigan Equine Partnership membership and your continued support of the equine industry. Exciting times are ahead and your 2018 membership dues will support our united aspirations to enhance economic opportunity and the value of the equine industry in Michigan.

We have had many legislative successes over the past years and we couldn't have done any of this without your support! We look forward to keeping you up to date on legislation in 2018 and a re-cap of the 2017 legislative activity. We also continue efforts to build the Michigan International Horse Park. Input from members is always welcome. Call us to participate, or for more details on issues.

We welcome new enterprises, so if you know of someone who would like to be a part of this partnership; please let us know.

Sincerely,

Aaron Rice  
President  
Michigan Equine Partnership

## 2018 Membership Renewal



MEP would like to thank our current members! Without members like you, MEP would not be the voice for the Michigan Equine industry. Now is the time to join MEP!

[Click Here](#) for the membership renewal/membership form!

**Provided by Dr. James Averill, Michigan State Veterinarian  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

As equestrians travel to shows and trail rides, a sometimes-overlooked step is contacting your veterinarian about vaccinations. Your veterinarian plays a key role, and can help assess your animal's risk and give advice on how to reduce the possibility of your horse becoming ill.

There are several diseases which can be prevented by vaccination like West Nile virus, eastern equine encephalitis, equine herpes virus, and rabies to name a few. Each of these diseases has different ways the disease is transmitted and seasonality and what you do with your horse needs to be considered when evaluating the risk for disease.

Some diseases, like WNV and EEE, are transmitted by mosquitos (arboviruses). West Nile Virus and EEE are commonly seen in Michigan. Depending on weather, cases are typically seen between July and October each year. In addition to vaccination, horse owners should protect their horses against mosquitoes by applying repellent, eliminating standing water and bringing horses and indoors from early evening until after sunrise when mosquitoes are out in full force.

Other diseases can be spread by contact, like EHV and rabies. Equine herpes virus occurs when infected horses come into direct or indirect (through people, equipment or vehicles) contact with healthy horses. Other diseases like rabies are spread when horses have contact with wildlife. Horse owners can work to eliminate wildlife from their farms, but it's impossible to intervene and prevent all wildlife and horse interactions, making vaccination especially crucial.

Regardless of what disease may be of concern, it is always important for horse owners to practice proper biosecurity. Key biosecurity principles to keep in mind are:

- Keep your distance: It's important to restrict animal access to people, wildlife and other domestic animals that could potentially be carrying disease. Any time new animals are added to a farm, there should always be a period of time when they are separated from other animals to ensure they are healthy before introducing them to the established animals.
- Keep it clean: Washing your hands, clothes and footwear thoroughly before and after working with animals and regularly cleaning and disinfecting your equipment are essential to the prevention of disease on any farm.
- Don't bring in disease: It's important to think twice before sharing equipment or supplies with neighbors. If you decide to share equipment, always clean and disinfect it before and after sharing. It's



Would you like to advertise  
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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.





also important to disinfect boots, vehicle and other items after returning from another farm or show/event.

- Recognize a sick animal: Early detection of unhealthy animals helps prevent the spread of the disease. It is always wise to consult with your local, licensed veterinarian.

As livestock and horse owners, we have a responsibility to do our best to prevent disease through vaccination and other methods like proper biosecurity and insect repellent. Owners should consult their veterinarians on what vaccines may be the best for their animals. For more information on equine diseases, visit MDARD's website at [www.michigan.gov/equinediseases](http://www.michigan.gov/equinediseases).

### How to stay abreast of Equine Disease Outbreaks

**MDARD reports confirmation of equine diseases and you can monitor this information at Equine Disease Communication Center and MDARD Facebook page**

#### EDCC and Facebook:

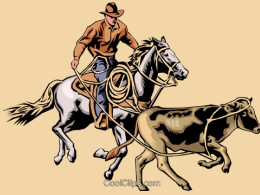
**The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has received confirmation of Michigan's first Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) case for 2017 in late August. The one-year-old Standardbred colt from Wexford County developed a fever and was unable to rise. The colt was not vaccinated against EEE and did die. No quarantine was issued.**

**There is an effective EEE vaccine for horses, and horse owners should work with their veterinarian to make sure their horse is properly vaccinated. More information on EEE can be found at the Equine Disease Communication Center's website, [www.equinediseasecc.org/disease-information](http://www.equinediseasecc.org/disease-information).**

## Membership Drive

### VALUE!

Being a part of the Equine Community  
 As a member of the Michigan Equine Partnership you will begin receiving the MEP Newsletter, Issue Alerts, a Membership Pin and other benefits like discounts on insurance and more.  
 You also become an active part of the equine community and industry, an important and vital part of Michigan.  
 Michigan Equine Partnership is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization.



### Horse rescue organization wins \$4,800 Jackson Community Foundation grant



**B Y KARY ASKEW**

**Source: M-Live.com 6/13/17**

PLEASANT LAKE, MI -- Reality's Chance Rescue and Sanctuary has received a \$4,800 grant from the Community Needs Endowment fund at the Jackson Community Foundation.

Reality's Chance is an organization that rescues horses in need and educates the community about issues facing the American Mustang. These horses are then re-homed and are also involved in programs to help the special needs community.

The grant funding goes to the "Horses as Healers" program. This program gives people with special needs the opportunity to experience the connection and healing that bonding with a horse can provide.

"Working with these amazing animals has opened our eyes to their many healing qualities, and to be able to expand our knowledge base and share this experience with the special needs community is truly humbling," Founder Laura Hauenstein said in a press release.

More information about Reality's Chance and the Jackson Community Foundation can be found at [realitychance.org](http://realitychance.org) and [jacksoncf.org](http://jacksoncf.org).

United States Department of Agriculture  
 This notice is to alert you to changes in the [Animal Product Manual](#).

The following changes have been made to reflect up-to-date information and corrections. Links contained throughout the manual in the Table of Contents, List of Figures, List of Tables, as well as internal and external cross-references and hyperlinks have all been updated as necessary.

## Great Lakes Leadership Academy

It is time to actively recruit for the next round of Great Lakes Leadership Academy cohorts. They are looking for applicants who:

- Are involved in production agriculture or a career closely tied to agriculture;
- Are open to learning from others very different from themselves, considering different ideas and perspectives, and working effectively with others to set and meet goals;
- Have a sincere interest in developing their leadership dispositions, abilities, and knowledge and are open minded enough to pursue deep self-exploration;
- Have the level of maturity and self-awareness necessary to take full advantage of the learning opportunity and apply the lessons to his/her life;
- Have demonstrated the appropriate level of leadership, interest and participation in service to the agricultural industry for his/her career status and age; and
- Have a significant pattern of commitment to agriculture evidenced by family history, education, and involvement in agricultural related organizations;
- Have the necessary support from their employer or has the capacity within their business to participate fully in the program; and
- Ultimately, you feel the agricultural industry will benefit as a result of the applicant's participation in GLLA.

If you are interested in applying for the 2018 Emerging Leader Program or the 2018-2019 Leadership Advancement Program or if you would like more information please visit [www.glla.msu.edu](http://www.glla.msu.edu)

Application deadline for Leadership Advancement Program 2018-2019 is November 1, 2017.

Application deadline for Emerging Leader Program 2018 is January 1, 2018.

We are happy to come out and talk to individuals or your organization about GLLA. If you are willing to set something up please contact Christy to work out the details at [romanch4@anr.msu.edu](mailto:romanch4@anr.msu.edu) or 517-353-6472.

Thank you for helping us develop the next generation of leaders for Michigan.

From the American Horse Council

In 2017, the AHC Foundation will be updating its National and State Economic Impact Studies!

We officially closed the survey to take to update the economic impact study on September 4th! Our consultants are in the process of analyzing the data, and we hope to have preliminary results by the beginning of October. What is an Economic Impact study?

An economic Impact Study examines the effect an event or industry has on the economy. It usually measures business revenue, business profits, personal wages, and/or jobs. A study of the horse industry will document the economic effects of the racing, showing, recreation and other segments of the horse industry on the state and national economy. It will also provide invaluable demographic data, and insights into professions and related industries that are impacted by equine ownership.

Why does the horse industry need a study?

Anecdotes have their place, but when it comes to proving our economic impact, we need credible proof. An Economic Impact Study will put data behind the economic and social benefits of the industry.

How can findings be used?

The Study will enable the horse industry to educate the public, the media and elected officials in Congress and state legislatures regarding the industry's economic size, impact and importance. The study will also be helpful in a number of other ways:

- Help members of Congress and the public fully understand the impact of government action on the economy and the industry;
- Examine the consequences and impacts of economic development projects and efforts, such as real estate development (competition grounds), business openings and closures, and site selection projects. The analyses can also help increase community support for these projects, as well as help obtain grants, and tax incentives.
- Economic Impact Studies are used frequently in planning and decision making regarding product development and to aid in development of marketing strategies.

For more information go to [American Horse Council](#)



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.**