



NEWSLETTER

April 2018

Thank you for your continued support of the Michigan Equine Partnership and the equine industry. With your 2018 membership dues we are able to introduce and move legislation on the state and national levels. Michigan Equine Partnership continues to work on developing an International Equine Facility in Michigan and welcomes industry ideas, comments, thoughts and investment. Please reach out to MEP with your thoughts.

We look forward to working to promoting Michigan's equine industry in 2018!

Please renew your membership today.

[Membership Application.pdf](#)

2018 Equine Legislative Watch List

Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP) is proactive to introduce and move legislation that is good for the entire equine industry and monitor bills that could be detrimental to the industry or have unintended consequences. If such legislation is identified, MEP will be at the table to explain the issues to legislators and fight for equine interests.

State Level:

House Bill 4611 - Horse Racing

The Horse Racing industry continues to work towards an agreement that will benefit tracks, horsemen, breeders, etc. We have high hopes the legislature and Governor will embrace legislation that will keep live racing a viable industry in Michigan. Currently House Bill 4611 is waiting for a vote on the Senate floor.

National Level:

In 2016 MEP and Michigan Great Lakes International (MGLI) worked with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to include drug testing for draft horses in event and pulling activities.

http://dmbinternet.state.mi.us/DMB/ORRDocs/AdminCode/1617_2016-010AC_AdminCode.pdf

(d) "Event" means a congregation, gathering or collection of horses that are presented or exposed to public view for show, display, swap, exchange, entertainment, educational event, instruction, advertising, or competition.

MEP and MGLI are now working with multiple states for a voluntary state rule/law adoption to reflect the rules Michigan has adopted. Although this is a large undertaking, the cooperation with the multiple states is smooth and an approved drug testing rule/law is anticipated.

Updates to Michigan's Equine Reportable Diseases

The State Veterinarian is responsible for maintaining a list of reportable diseases, that, by law, must be reported by anyone who suspects or confirms them. This includes the animal owner, the veterinarian who diagnoses the disease, and the laboratory that conducts the test. To convey the urgency of some diseases and increase transparency of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Animal Industry Division's (AID) expected response,

the [Reportable Animal Diseases in Michigan](#) list has been re-formatted with new disease categories. There are now three categories in which a disease may be placed, based on how AID responds: emergency, regulated and monitored.

Emergency diseases are generally Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs), meaning they are diseases not typically found in the U.S. FADs like Hendra or Venezuelan equine encephalitis pose a significant risk to animal health, the economy, and potentially public health. FADs significantly disrupt international and interstate trade and trigger costly response programs. These diseases are extremely urgent and should be reported immediately.

There is also a "regulated" category, into which most of the diseases are placed. The response can range from minimum [e.g., reporting the disease to the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC)] to a more extensive response (e.g., farm visits and quarantine). For example, if equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM) is reported, MDARD veterinarians would quarantine the facility and determine possible avenues of spread. For a disease like strangles, which was added this year, MDARD will report it to EDCC, which is primarily looking for trends. However, by being regulated, this gives AID the flexibility to upscale the response based on risk. Regulated diseases should be reported within 24 hours.

Lastly are monitored diseases, which are only tracked and monitored for trends. Monitored diseases should be reported to MDARD within 30 days.

The assistance of animal owners and veterinarians in identifying reportable diseases is crucial in helping AID respond quickly and effectively, minimizing the potential impact to Michigan's citizens. If you suspect or confirm any reportable disease, please contact AID at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (emergencies only). The Reportable Animal Diseases in Michigan list can be found on AID's [webpage](#).

Provided by Dr. James Averill, Michigan State Veterinarian

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

[Beginning Farmer Webinar Series 2018](#)

[Animal Product Manual has been updated](#)

Event to bid final farewell to harness horse racing before track destroyed

By Danielle Salisbury Danielle_Salisbury@mlive.com

JACKSON, MI - His first race was in Jackson. His second made him the junior driving champion.

Nearly four decades later, Darrell Wright, still harness horse racing, thinks fondly on a foregone era in Jackson history.

"I had a lot of success here," Wright, 55, said outside what for 60 years and five months was known as the Jackson Harness Raceway.

"The people here always wanted us racing here."

Wright and his daughter Mariah, 25, brought Darrell Wright's 9-year-old standardbred Breakin the Law on Saturday, March 3, to the former track. The horse - who has won about \$500,000 in his career - trotted back and forth along the muddy straightaway, empty of horses for 10 years.

Former Jackson County Commissioner Mike Way hopes Wright will return July 8 for what could be the last harness racing event at the Jackson County Fairgrounds.

Way, long fond of the sport, is hoping to arrange five or six races, complete with beer and hot dogs, before the county acts on plans to destroy the track...

Complete article -

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2018/03/event_to_bid_final_farewell_to.html

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Congratulations to Ron Williams of Cassopolis on winning the MEP Raffle at the MGLI show.

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