

North Carolina Horse Council

Membership Newsletter



Volume 12 Issue 1

www.nchorsecouncil.com

January-February 2011

**NCHC Annual
Board Meeting
Hunt Horse
Complex
March 2nd—7pm**

NCHC Officers:

President: Randy Ratliff

VP: Sammy Jenkins

Treasurer: Tom Bennett

Secretary:

Lucinda Human

Executive Dir: Sue Gray

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Horse Promotion Referendum 2011

On March 15, 2011, the horse owners of our state will have the opportunity to continue to build a better future for our horses, our farms, and our children. Here is what your **YES** vote will assure for the North Carolina horse Community:

- Additional funding for youth programs
- Expansion of adult equine education programs in more counties across the state
- Trails availability and protection of our access to horse trails
- Effective equine research programs
- Better representation for horse welfare interests in local, state, and federal legislative bodies
- Extensive marketing programs to make the public more aware of the benefits of horse ownership and the impact of the horse industry on the North Carolina economy
- Promotion of fair and firm enforcement of laws controlling horse and tack theft, interstate transport of horses, and humane treatment of all equines
- Improved community awareness of Equine Infectious Anemia and other threats to our horses well-being

Not bad for \$1.80! The estimated average cost per horse per year for this voluntary assessment.

The North Carolina Horse Council urges you to

VOTE YES FOR OUR HORSES!

VOTE FOR THE HORSE PROMOTION ASSESSMENT REFERENDUM

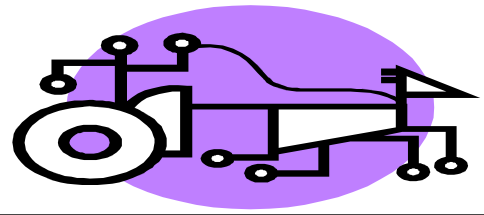
Tuesday—MARCH 15, 2011

At Your Local County Extension Office

To locate your county extension agent, check out the website below:

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=countycenters>

Horsepower.... Thoughts from the Executive Director



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Formation of NCHC Foundation
- Referendum Materials Development
- Completion of Trail Grant Pre-proposal
- NC Animal Agriculture Coalition
- Development of Annual Meeting Materials
- Annual Report

Referendum

The renewal of the equine referendum is also approaching rapidly. A new bulleted list of how the feed dollars benefit the horse community has also been produced. This information will be distributed to all Agricultural Extension Agents as well as promoted via local feed stores and local media outlets.

Trails

Barb Oslund and the Trail Committee identified a potential grant source to work on creating educational programs for the equine community regarding nutrient management and water quality farms. The grant proposes to work within The Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Catawba, and Cape Fear River Basins; Goose Creek Basin, Jordan Lake, Falls Lake, and Randleman Lake watersheds. A pre-proposal was submitted and we are now waiting to see if we are selected for the next step.

The following is a brief description of the grant summary and our requested deliverables:

NC watershed nutrient management regulations, both established and pending, include equine operations in the definition of agriculture and applicability under the law. The regulations do not differentiate among the types of equine operations, which typically include breeding, commercial training and boarding, therapeutic centers, and backyard hobbyists. Applicability thresholds are as low as one head (Neuse River) to five head (Jordan and Falls Lakes). Some regulation states that (all) producers will be eligible to obtain cost-share assistance "from the NC Agricultural Cost Share Program and similar federal programs to contribute to their counties' nutrient reductions" [15A NCAC 02B .0264(2)]. In fact, most equine-only livestock operations are not EQIP-eligible, and equine operations are often not high priorities in state districts. The 2008 NC Equine Industry Survey estimated state population of over 305,000 head, with the highest equine populations concentrated around high human population centers. Equine agricultural land use is observed to be growing in exurban areas, which also are located within the regulated nutrient-sensitive watersheds. There is a demonstrated need for education on nutrient reduction and outreach to equine livestock operations in affected watersheds. Nutrient management BMPs are demonstrated for traditional livestock operations. University researchers, NRCS, SWCD, and others have adapted BMPs to be appropriate for equine operations. Grant-funded BMPs are in use on several equine demonstration facilities, including Black Horse Run in NC, Ryders Lane Farm of Rutgers Equine Science Center, and the Chesapeake Bay Demonstration Farm of the Prince William SWCD. NCHC's project will "transfer" information on BMPs for equine operations in nutrient sensitive watersheds of NC through workshops held once per quarter for three years. Workshops will increase awareness of the regulatory nutrient reduction milestones, provide education on effective nutrient reduction BMPs, and resources for further technical assistance. Criteria for BMP installation will be compliant with established state field-office technical requirements and will include (but not be limited to) composting, forage management, exclusion fencing and alternate water sources, storm water management, and establishment of stream buffers. Workshops will recommend use of NRCS technical guidance and coordination with local SWCDs for possible financial assistance. NCHC will collaborate with state and district NRCS and SWCD resources, agricultural extension, and private contractors like Sustainable Stables to develop educational curriculum, educational materials and handbooks, and plan and teach quarterly workshops. The target watersheds are located across NC, from the western mountain region to the coast, and workshop locations will be representative of these regions and affected watersheds.

NCHC Foundation

After several years of discussion and development, the North Carolina Horse Council Foundation has finally become a reality! The Foundation has been formed to allow us to benefit the Equine Industry by allowing individuals and corporations to make a tax deductible gift to a 501 c 3 organization. The NCHC can remain a 501 c 5 agricultural organization and continue our policy, regulation, and lobbying efforts. Working together we can improve the equine community for all of us. We are currently in the process of creating materials to begin our development campaign for the Foundation.

NC Animal Welfare Coalition

The North Carolina Animal Welfare Coalition continues to meet to discuss how to present our position on live-stock welfare and how best to get our message out to the legislators and the general public. A meeting at the NC Farm Bureau to discuss creating marketing messages, how to create behavior change and potential funding models for the Coalition were discussed. The NCHC will need to consider a financial commitment in 2011.

News from the Trail

Continued from Page 5

Meherrin River Trail Ride – Severn, NC

On the weekend of November 5 through 7 the third Meherrin River Trail Ride was held in Severn, NC, just a few miles south of the Virginia border in the northeastern part of the state. The first trail ride was held in November 2009, and started as conversation with the right people that could make it a reality. Heritage Tourism officers, Sarah Weeks and Kay Thomas started the wheels turning once it was determined there was private land available for trail riding and camping. The ride winds along farm paths through hundreds of acres of peanut and cotton fields, woodlands and creeks. What makes the land even more special is its cultural heritage and importance to the indigenous Meherrin Indian tribe, and the trail ride includes education about the Meherrin natives.

The trail ride's "founding mothers" applied to the North Carolina Horse Council for a grant to promote the trail ride and its cultural significance to the region. The award of the grant allowed the organizers to purchase trail markers and promotional signage, and obtain some basic materials to mark trails and operate the ride. There were also many volunteer hours from horse people "trailbusting", sweating, and "feeding" ticks, redbugs and snakes, though reportedly there was some fun had along the way.

The ride itself is staffed by volunteers from the local Boykins Volunteer Fire Department and is directed by the tireless energy of Brenda Watson from the Murfreesboro Historical Association. The proceeds from the ride benefit both of these organizations. The indirect benefits include the influx of over 400 riders and campers and their local purchases in this rural and remote part of North Carolina. Riders and campers are also treated to a presentation by local members of the Meherrin tribe on Saturday night. These folks are clad in native dress and provide a history of the Meherrin natives, storytelling and dancing around the campfire that everyone is invited to participate in. There are several vendors at the trail ride, including some selling native American crafts.

This is a nice family-oriented trail ride with a unique celebration of the native Americans that had historically hunted and lived on the land. Weekend long primitive camping is available. The next ride is planned for April 8th and 9th, 2011.



2011 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the North Carolina Horse Council is comprised of elected members, representatives from equine association members, and government appointed representative members. The annual meeting of the North Carolina Horse Council was held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at the Hunt Horse Complex in Raleigh. At the meeting, members of the NCHC were elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term which expires January, 2013. These newly elected Directors will serve with Directors previously elected, Association Representatives, and Government Appointed Representatives.

Officers

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| President: | Randy Ratliff (term expires 2013) |
| Vice-President: | Sammy Jenkins (term expires 2013) |
| Secretary: | Lucinda Human (term expires 2012) |
| Treasurer: | Tom Bennett (term expires 2012) |

Term Expires 2012

Dottie Burch
Ray Cloninger
Myra Daniel
Susan Deutermann
Sammy Jenkins
Leslie Kennedy
Ro Mason
Kaye Myers
Rebecca Stinson
Doug Tate
Tom Thomas
Amanda Tucker
Nancy Wilson
Laurie Wood

Term Expires 2013

Casey Armstrong
Tom Bennett
Trent Benton
Phil Blalock
Linda Falls
Gary Faulk
Lucinda Human
Greg Liles
Buck McColl
Gayle Nifong
Randy Ratliff
Bob Sanford
Susan Schneider
Patrick Sullivan
Terry Temple

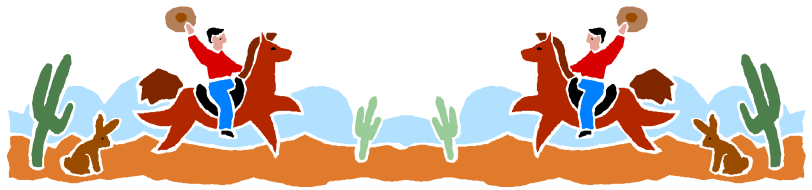
Government Appointments

Matt Buchanan
Callie Fogle
Steve Lathrop
Peggy McElveen
Rusty Miller
Jeannette Moore
Graham Moore
Bob Mowrey
Connie Mull
Durwood Taylor
Tammy Thurston
Will Walls
Mike Yoder

Associations

Foothills Riding Club—Marilyn Yike
Halifax Co Horse Council-Lorraine Searcy
NC Arabian Horse Inc.-Heather Stephenson
Triangle Wide Horseman Assoc—Ronnie Pope
Yadkin Valley Trail Riders-Tracy Wall

News from the Trail



Trails Roundup

- The NCHC Trails Committees held another quarterly conference call on December 9. The next one will be in March, date TBA on the NCHC website. Minutes from the December meeting, an agenda and dial-in instruction will be posted on the NCHC website at least one week in advance, and an e-mail will be sent to those on the circulation list.
- The Eastern Trails committee welcomes participation and news from other Eastern NC trail groups. Anyone interested contact Jim Bell at: kiltedpiper98@hotmail.com
- The Western Trails committee welcomes participation and news from other Western NC trail groups. Anyone interested contact Deirdre Lightsey at: neverest@bellsouth.net
- Guilford County: The Equestrian Trails Alliance continues to work on some trail opportunities t Bryan Park with Parks and Recreation staff. Anyone interested in supporting this group can contact Betsy Rice bluefarm11@yahoo.com, Paula Nelson pasharr@triad.rr.com or check out their Facebook page. South Mountain State Park: Deirdre Lightsey recently visited with the Ranger and there is interest in possibly holding a Leave No Trace workshop there in 2011. Deirdre will also join a Friends of South Mt organization so there is equestrian representation.
- The NCHC made comments on the Chimney Rock Master Plan, which does not include horse trails despite local equestrian interest and participation in planning workshops.
- On a related note, several new and existing NC State Parks are or will soon undergo Master Plan revisions. NCHC will provide information and "trail alerts" so that equestrians can submit comments and make our voice is heard. We also working with State Park staff to get a better understanding how trail decisions are made and to increase equestrian trail riding and driving and driving opportunities
- Uwharrie National Forest: NCHC is soliciting interest from equestrians to form a volunteer group representing riders and discuss ways for better engaging the Uwharrie National Forest staff in discussion about equestrian trails in the Forest. A meeting will be held on a date TBA to provide information on the latest Forest Plan efforts and help users understand the planning process and impacts on equestrian trails. We would like to establish a group of trail riders that will be accurately informed about the Forest Planning process and will collaboratively work with the National Forest staff and other recreational users to resolve conflict. Your contact information will only be used for this purpose. Please e-mail Barb Oslund RICHBQ@mindspring.com if you are interested.
- Hoke County Community Forest: The Conservation Fund has received We just received our executed grant agreement from the Recreational Trail Program and plan begin with the parking lot and restrooms. After that key infrastructure is in place the system will being to be open to the public. They have consulted with the Walthour-Moss Foundation on the basics of providing horse trails, and liability and safety issues. They have used GPS to map all of the current trails, and will next decide how to improve the trails (mechanically and with volunteer labor). Area Boy Scouts have helped and the Conservation Fund will be soon looking for similar support for other portions of the trail system. They are also contacting NCDENR about extending trails into an adjacent landfill buffer.
- Fort Bragg: NCHC is in preliminary discussion with Fort Bragg recreation planners to host a trail riding/driving "warriors weekend" for paratroopers on leave.

Western Trails Report

Respectfully submitted by Deirdre Lightsey

Barb Oslund, the Trails Consultant for the NC Horse Council, made a trip to the Western part of the State where we visited the Pisgah National Forest. We were able to see the rutted road to the trail head near Turkey Pen Road. We discussed different ideas for addressing this problem for trailering horses to this location. Next, we headed into the Brevard area around Hwy 276 to see the map of the Forest area. Next, we headed to Wolf Ford Horse Camp to see the crush and run gravel installed on top of the campsites. This improvement was made possible with a grant from the NCHC. Finally, we headed back towards N. Mills River and Chimney Rock. The trip gave Barb a better feel for the area to help make some assessment comments on these areas, including the Chimney Rock Master Plan.

2010 Annual Report

January—Change was the theme for the NCHC in January of 2010. A new Educational Needs Survey was reviewed and plans on how to implement new programs were discussed. In general the need to promote both hands on programs and web based programs was made clear via the survey respondents. During this month the NCHC also participated in the Carolina Equine Summit and worked the South Carolina Department of Agriculture on development of equine programs. Highlights included the continued involvement of the NCHC in discussions on Soil and Water Conservation and the role of horse farms in preserving our farmlands and open space. Along with program changes, the NCHC website was redesigned and we welcomed friends on FACEBOOK!

February—The NCHC was actively engaged with local equestrians regarding multiple trail issues. These included a national thread of emails regarding new or existing scientific information which shows that horses are not a significant or primary source of invasive species on trails.

Water and Nutrient Regulations remained an important issue for the equestrian community. This month involved the preparation of a grant with the State Department of Water Quality and several local Division of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to study equine farm best management practices and potentially provide financial resources to equine farms to add clean water practices on their farm. Unfortunately we were not selected for funding but will try again in 2011!

The NCHC Board also developed in February a new PowerPoint presentation to help us recruit new members and answer the question: "What's in it for me?"

The month was heavily occupied by the second meeting of the NCHC Regional Caucuses. The NCHC returned to Lumberton, Williamston, Fletcher, Rockingham County and Raleigh Hunt Horse Complex to begin to develop regional plans. One exciting point at each meeting was the attendance of our new Board members! Each region discussed various concerns and possible directions for development of the equine industry.

March—Star H Insurance assisted the NCHC by reviewing our insurance policies and helping us negotiate better rates. Big thanks to Butch and Lucinda Human for offering this assistance in an effort to hold down our costs in 2010!

Plans to conduct an Unwanted Horse Symposium began during this month. The intent of the symposium was to help identify the extent of the problem in NC and to help establish possible solutions.

Discussions were held with representatives of the Wake County Travel and Tourism Office and the NCHC to discuss marketing and promotion of Equine Events at the Hunt Horse Complex and surrounding Wake County. This group receives a percentage of the Hotel and Restaurant tax in Wake County. Their services are at no additional expense to our industry and they agreed to link to our events calendar.

April—The April NCHC Caucuses kicked off in Reidsville on April 12th. The meeting was held on the same evening as a County Board of Commissioner's meeting which limited our attendance. However, representatives from the Horse Park of the South did present an update on the Park's development along with a discussion on future funding raising efforts. Those in attendance strongly supported the continued development of this project. In addition, representatives from NC A&T were present to promote the importance of this project to their equine program. The trail community also attended to discuss unique trail ideas. The Williamston Caucus was held on April 15th and was attended by local Martin Community College Students, local horsemen and equine show promoters. Our discussions continue to center around establishing an internship between the NCHC and Martin Community College and looking at opportunities to promote the Bob Martin Agricultural Center for Equine Events. The concept of trying to establish a single source listing for all equine events in North Carolina was discussed. The Lumberton Caucus and a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Multi-Purpose Facility at the Southeastern Agricultural center were held on April 20th. The groundbreaking for this facility represents a twenty plus year effort on behalf of many local equestrians who have worked diligently to provide a unique show facility for the southeastern part of our state. In attendance were the State Commissioner of Agriculture, representatives from our NCHC Caucus, local elected officials, state elected officials, members of the Board of Agriculture and other local horsemen. The NCHC Caucus was held that evening at the Lumber River Campground. Members present discussed on-going plans for the new facility as well as identifying other equine issues for the region. Watershed issues were also mentioned and a discussion on Best Management Practices for equine farms and facilities included fencing, development of buffers and proper water run-off management.

Finally the group talked about trail riding safety issues and expressed a need for educating both riders and law enforcement personnel on the laws and regulations governing riding horse on or near roadways. The Western Caucus was held at the Polk County Isothermal Campus. Discussions at the Caucus centered around the many equine facilities serving the area and the need to work together on planning and funding show facilities across the state. In addition, the group discussed the Federal and State Right to Ride legislation. Many states have passed state legislation concerning the historical right to ride on state owned properties. Back Country Horsemen have been working on this for quite some time. Land conservation and preserving land to ride on was also discussed. The final issue that the group brought forth was the need to look at "recruiting" young people into the industry. Several action items were generated including bringing facility managers together to discuss a statewide strategic plan, developing an equine economics "road show" to present the importance of the equine industry to growing jobs throughout the state and in the local counties, researching state right to ride legislation and forming a committee to look at strategies to bring young people into the industry.

The Jordan Lake Regulatory Committee met to develop the strategies in implementing the new rules. The committee discussed baseline calculations to be utilized in establishing district data collection. They also worked on definitions of agricultural operations pertaining to the rule. Nitrogen reduction reports were approved utilizing NLEW for cropland. Further areas of interest were pasture-based accounting and outreach to affected parties for agricultural and Fertilizer management rules. Outreach, education and BMP's are needed for horse operations with five or more horse.

A new NC Animal Ag Coalition or Animal Welfare Coalition was formed. The NC Farm Bureau held a Strategic Planning meeting on April 16th to develop the structure for the Coalition. Those in attendance included the NCHC, Pork Council, Beef Council, Poultry Federation, Egg Council, The Grange, Corn, Soybean and Cotton Commodity Leaders, North Carolina State, Dr. Todd See, North Carolina A&T representative and representatives from the NCAD&CS. Mr. Charlie Arnot from the Center for Food Integrity with funding from the United Soybean Board facilitated the meeting. The short term objectives for the group will be to build internal support for the existence of the Coalition, develop a communication plan, conduct a "coming out Party" and reach out to other allied groups. In addition, we need to inventory the public's attitude on Animal Welfare and develop a consistent message.

May—The Jordan Lake Regulatory Committee met this month to continue discussions of how we are going to implement the new rules. The following is a brief outline of what we have discussed.

- Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance Update: All eight of the soil and water conservation districts will be assisting with agricultural data collection and reporting to help develop the baseline report and one annual report to comply with the requirements in the agriculture rule.
- Website updates: The watershed oversight committee will have a website hosted on the Division of Soil and Water Conservation website.
- Outreach to affected parties for Ag and Fertilizer Management Rules: Anne Coan distributed a draft article summarizing the pesticide rule. This article may be used in county or organizational newsletters (districts, Farm Service Agency, Cattlemen's Association, Horse Council, Haw River Assembly, etc.) to help the affected public learn about this rule and the training requirement for those who apply fertilizers. The Division of Water Quality is defining who has to take training, or has to have a nutrient management plan. NCSU Cooperative Extension Service will provide the training in late 2011 or early 2012.
- Phosphorus accounting and reporting: Deanna Osmond provided a summary of the report *Accounting Method for Tracking Relative Changes in Agricultural Phosphorus Loading to the Tar-Pamlico River*. The group discussed how phosphorus is tracked and reported in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. The group would like to propose that the Jordan Lake Watershed follow this methodology for reporting phosphorus, with some minor changes to reflect the watershed. The group would propose the following items be reported: tobacco acres, human waste applied, and remove water control structures from the reporting. The WOC will request the review and concurrence of the Jordan Lake Phosphorus reporting methodology by the Phosphorus Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC).
- Pasture accounting (including data from Soil and Water Conservation Districts): All eight districts provided data on the pasture operations in their county. The data included the number of animals and the average number of animals per acre. Please refer to the table below for additional information. Each county provided data only for their portion of the watershed. This data showed that WOC won't be able to use farm tax use records for reporting purposes, since not everyone participates in the program. A separate workgroup will be created to study the associated water quality benefits of pasture best management practices, specifically if percent reductions of nitrogen and phosphorus reduction can be calculated, and what those percentages will be.

Outreach, education and BMPs needed for horse operations with 5 or more horses: The group briefly reviewed the methods to reach horse owners that were generated at the last meeting. The pesticide article will be the first information distributed to this group.

The NCHC was invited to exhibit at two major equine events during May, the Regional Quarter Horse Show at the Hunt Horse Complex and the Tanglewood Steeplechase. These events were successful in promoting awareness of the council.

June-July—Watershed issues continued to be of major concern to the Equine Industry. Hearings were held regarding regulation of Falls Lake with the NCHC preparing comments to be submitted in August.

This year's American Horse Council's National Issues Forum focused on infectious equine diseases and the impact those diseases have on our horses' welfare and our industry's health. The annual meeting was held from June 20 to 23 and also included a Trails Forum, the annual Congressional Ride-In, AHC committee meetings, and a Congressional Reception.

The State Horse Council Committee met for one full day during the AHC Annual meeting. During that time, the state horse councils once again discussed the need to establish an identity and recruit other horse councils to join our efforts. Towards that end, a name change was suggested to allow us to build a unique identity. The name of "Coalition of State Horse Councils" was presented to the AHC Board of Directors and approved by the Board. This is a positive step forward to bring all state horse council together for furthering our industry. Several new committees were identified within this structure including: Structure and Organization, Marketing, Mentoring and Membership and Financial.

The NCHC participated for the first time in a Livestock Appreciation Day at our State Legislature. The day included a breakfast hosted by the Pork Council and a lunch hosted by the Cattleman's association. There was also a milk chugging contest! It was a welcome site to be included in this day's activities as the Horse is Livestock and we need every opportunity to let our legislators understand our industry.

Legislatively June and July were very busy. We once again were unable to pass our specialty License Plate Bill as this issue continues to be discussed by our legislators. We were successful in addressing a proposed 3% leasing fee added to all of the State run Agricultural Facilities. These fees were proposed to help fund legislated ethics rules. The issue of this being unfair to the agricultural population influenced our state legislators to go back to the drawing board. Finally, we were successful in turning back the decision to remove \$1,000,000 from the State Fair Surplus Fund. Dollars from this account are being used to help us update and improve our State run Equine Facilities!

August—The month began with a special meeting held at the North Carolina Rural Development Center. This meeting was to present The Family Farm Innovation Fund to the agricultural community. This is good news for the equine community as we are eligible to apply for these dollars. Five state and federal programs are partnering to make \$18.4 million in assistance available to NC farmers over the next year. These programs are to help farmers...yes even equine farmers:

- Lower energy costs or implement renewable energy projects
- Develop and implement value-added production
- Develop other new sources of farm income

Together the programs are expected to provide grants for up to 1,500 farmers and assist another 2,400 farmers with training on energy efficiency. The programs are operated by the US Department of Agriculture, Office of Rural Development, the NC Farm Bureau, the Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA and NC Market Ready.

The Farm Bureau Policy Development Day reviewed all of the existing policies regarding equine. These policies include supporting the education of the public concerning proper care and management of equine to policies addressing statewide and national issues such as land preservation for trail use and a statewide right to ride bill. Also included in our discussions at the Farm Bureau was the need for all farmers to contact their congressmen and senator and encourage them to put forth reform of the Estate Tax, better known as the Death Tax. Without a new bill in January of 2011, this tax will revert back to a one million dollar exemption and a 55% tax on the remaining estate. This will be devastating to many of our North Carolina Farmers including Equine Farms!

The Horse Council submitted possible solutions to this issue to be used as discussion leading questions during the meeting. These included the following ideas.

The North Carolina Agribusiness council conducted a new two day conference in conjunction with their annual leadership banquet. This meeting afforded the Horse Council access to all of our congressional candidates and a unique opportunity to ask each candidate their views on issues important to the equine community.

During the summer months of 2010 many towns and municipalities have been considering ordinances which impact the equine industry and horse owners within those communities. A letter was drafted and sent to all county managers describing to them the role of the North Carolina Horse Council and how we can help them in determining what is appropriate and fair to the equine industry.

September—September began with the preparation of materials for our annual financial review. We meet with representatives from Madison and Caison to go over financial documents and materials to complete the review process.

By-law revisions were prepared and discussed during September. They were prepared during this month to be disseminated and brought to a vote at the November Board of Directors Meeting.

The Mountain State Fair was a huge success this year. The booth was staffed by members of the Pisgah Trailblazers and the NC Back County Horsemen as well as NCHC staff. This year's display was centered on trail issues and the need for a "State Right to Ride" bill. Jackson's Western Store donated "Arthur", a life size mule, on which we were able to display a working pack. This was a show stopper!

Plans for the Southern Horse Festival are on-going. Wrangler was added as a new sponsor along with Star H Insurance. Wrangler will be providing the first place award for each class along with 25 gift certificates for a new pair of jeans. Richard Stead is providing the funds for the class ribbon awards. In addition, all Board members were asked to send a \$20 individual class sponsorship, with a goal of having every class sponsored.

The Unwanted Horse Symposium was held in Iredell County. The symposium not only discussed the perceived level of the problem, but also provided data from our NCDA&CS staff. The data was principally derived from our registered horse auctions conducted across the state. Several veterinarians also shared information from their practices which tend to show trends of potential unwanted horses. Animal control officers expressed their frustration in not having enough resources to attend to animal cruelty and neglect reports. Finally, a representative from the NCSU School of Veterinary Medicine presented information on donated horses. All of this information was discussed during the afternoon sessions in order to begin to develop possible solutions to the problem of Unwanted Horses.

October—An initial draft 2011 budget was prepared for review by the Executive Committee. Taking into account the trends of the past two years and declining referendum dollars, a bare bones budget looking at "staying the course" and developing secondary revenue streams was considered. Developing Memorandum of Agreements with multiple trail and equine associations was an initial strategy to increase revenue and influence. Two large trail associations were approached during October to initiate this process.

The grant program was also reviewed during this month. Looking at trends and who have received dollars from the NCHC, a new paradigm may need to be addressed.

A sub-committee from the NCSU Equine Husbandry Committee met to discuss strategies to lobby for increased support of the Equine Educational Unit. The following is a synopsis of that meeting.

- It was agreed that there is a significant need for NCSU to provide both academic and applied experiences for our animal science students.
- It was agreed that the equine industry is an important economic agricultural commodity within the state and that we need to develop a stronger relationship between the University and the NCHC.
- The sub-committee discussed some of the major financial and program needs for the Equine Educational Unit including needed physical improvements as well as how the unit is perceived within the equine community.
- It was suggested that a one-time donation of approximately \$50,000 to improve the fencing at the unit, might attract members of the breeding and general equine community to utilize and grow the programs and research at the unit.
- The need to provide open house opportunities to the equine community was discussed as a potential marketing tool to engage the equine community in its support of the unit.
- How to lobby the state legislators and University decision makers was discussed. Two distinct approaches will be necessary. Legislators need to understand the depth and diversity of the equine community and the unique role of our state land grant Institutions. University personnel need to be directed to the importance of the teaching labs and the role they play to the broader agricultural community.
- The need for a Memorandum of Understanding between NCSU and NCHC was accepted for future development.
- The need to involve students in our development and improvement of the equine field lab was agreed upon.

The Western Caucus was held this month. A review of past meetings and a general discussion of legislative efforts for 2011 were debated. Overall the Caucus members support as a top priority the passage of a "State Right to Ride Bill". Several Caucus members volunteered to place significant effort for this bill. Education and involvement of our youth was also a topic of discussion. The need to provide more unique and "hands on" or lab type experiences was generally agreed upon. The Unwanted Horse Issue was addressed by the Caucus arriving at a general agreement that the need for networking among rescue groups was critical.



November—The month began with a public meeting on the proposed Yadkin River Greenway. The new proposal would include equestrian trails on the South side of the river. It was suggested that the planning group also consider adding a trailer head on the Lewisburg end of the greenway and that additional trails be added on the North side of the river. Unlike some other trail issues equestrian use has been considered from the beginning of this process.

Concerned equestrians' in Warren County contacted the Horse Council about potential zoning issues in their county and an upcoming public meeting. Warren County remains one of the few NC counties without county wide zoning. The discussion was an opportunity for citizens to weigh-in on the potential for zoning and the meaning of several new categories. Concern remains that land once zoned as residential/agricultural would become lakeside residential or just residential and exclude livestock. Several horse farms would be impacted by this decision.

The Southern Horse Festival was held in Williamston, NC again this year. Thanks to many volunteers and a lot of wonderful participants, the show was a great success! Bob Keen and Laura Montross served as excellent judges along with Pat Benton who served as our ring steward on Saturday. The Halifax County Horse Council hosted the new Trail Horse Challenge and Barb Oslund assisted as the scribe. The show grew this year and the new open show class list appears to have added more horses in each class. We also had increased corporate sponsorship and individual class sponsors.

Two Caucuses were held during November. The Williamston Caucus was held prior to the Southern Horse Festival at the Bob Martin Agricultural Center. What a great turn-out, as over 30 Martin Community College Students attended the Caucus. A lively discussion followed on how to develop the equine industry and have jobs available for these wonderful students. The use and preservation of our wonderful state owned equine facilities was a topic of major concern. Some caucus members present felt that certain aspects of our equine industry were not being considered when open horse shows were held. This included some of our working cow and other gaming aspects of the industry. The students have been challenged to submit the best two day show schedule to include all aspects of the industry and to submit these to the NCHC office for consideration at next year's Southern Horse Festival.

The Rockingham County Caucus met at the NC Ag-extension Office. The discussion included the need to address agricultural present use value for equine farmers. In addition, the issue of zoning and regulating the number of horses or other livestock someone can house within certain zoned areas was of equal concern to the caucus members present. Further discussion on equine facilities and the need for managers of all such facilities to come together to discuss utilization and growth of shows was identified as a priority.

The final narrative for the new North Carolina Horse Council Foundation was submitted this month. It is anticipated that our IRS request will take from 3 weeks at the earliest to 6 months at the worst. However, once the official paperwork has been filed with the NC Secretary of State, we can begin operating as a 501 c 3 and must complete the final IRS process within 27 months.

The first Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated with the BCHNC. More MOU are currently being discussed with other equine associations.

Great things are happening within the Equine Industry. As we continue to grow our \$1.9 Billion NC Industry, several local trainers and business stepped up to help in November. Pat and Trent Benton are now offering to all of their new clients a free membership to the NCHC. Also offering a free NCHC membership to all of their new clients is Equine IR Carolina.

December—After several years of discussion and development, the North Carolina Horse Council Foundation finally becomes a reality! The Foundation was formed to allow us to benefit the Equine Industry by allowing individuals and corporations to make a tax deductible gift to a 501 c 3 organization. The NCHC can remain a 501 c 5 agricultural organization and continue our policy, regulation, and lobbying efforts. Working together we can improve the equine community for all of us. We are currently in the process of creating materials to begin our development campaign for the Foundation.

Barb Oslund and the Trail Committee identified a potential grant source to work on creating educational programs for the equine community regarding nutrient management and water quality farms. The grant proposes to work within The Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Catawba, and Cape Fear River Basins; Goose Creek Basin, Jordan Lake, Falls Lake, and Randleman Lake watersheds. A pre-proposal was submitted and we are now waiting to see if we are selected for the next step.

The North Carolina Animal Welfare Coalition continued to meet to discuss how to present our position on livestock welfare and how best to get our message out to the legislators and the general public. A meeting at the NC Farm Bureau to discuss creating marketing messages, how to create behavior change and potential funding models for the Coalition were discussed. The NCHC will need to consider a financial commitment in 2011.



NCHC Member # _____

Invoice 2011 Membership

January 1—December 31, 2011



North Carolina Horse Council

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Membership Options for 2011

Check the type of NCHC 2011 membership you are joining under:

- Lifetime Membership (includes "in-excess" insurance coverage 1st year only)..... \$360
- Individual Membership (includes "in-excess" insurance coverage)*** \$37
- Individual Membership (no insurance coverage)..... \$12
- Student/Junior Membership (individuals under 18 years old)..... \$6
- Riding Club/Breed Association (more than 100 members)..... \$100
- Riding Club/Breed Association (less than 100 members)..... \$50
- In-excess Insurance Coverage for Lifetime Members..... \$25

If you choose "in-excess" insurance, coverage begins January 1, 2011

Your membership joins with others across North Carolina to promote everything horse. Legislators are influenced by numbers, so join the herd and BE heard! Some things to ponder:

- Only members of NCHC can vote in the annual Board meeting held in January.
- Riding Clubs/Breed Associations who join can appoint a representative to the Board.
- You can make a difference for as little as \$12.
- Volunteer opportunities are available.
- NCHC is the only statewide organization that works to serve the needs of the entire horse industry, regardless of breed preference, riding style, or activity.

North Carolina Horse Council, 4904 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 290, Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 854-1990 or Toll Free at 800-529-9206 www.nchorsecouncil.com

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Join a Committee Today!

The North Carolina Horse Council is currently forming committees for 2011. If you are interested in joining one of the committees, please contact the office. Committees meet several times during the year, sometimes in person and other times via telephone. Get involved in the NCHC, check out the committees below:

- Education
- Equine Health & Welfare
- Facilities
- Legislative & Regulatory
- Marketing & Promotion
- Membership & Development
- Trail
- Finance

Correction: Please note a correction to the November/December 2010 issue of the Newsletter, Page 3, Trainers and Business Help NCHC. EquineIR Carolina is affiliated with the worldwide network that is EquineIR. Also, they are providing a NCHC membership as a part of their 28 point whole horse scan, not for all of their equine work.

Membership News

Lifetime Members—In-excess Liability Insurance—If you are a Lifetime member and interested in the in-excess liability insurance coverage for 2011, be sure to send in a check in the amount of \$25 to the NCHC Office. You can also acquire this coverage on-line at www.nchorsecouncil.com.

Insurance Certificates—For the 2011 members who choose to purchase the insurance coverage with their membership, a certificate will be mailed to you when your membership is processed by the office.