

## New Mexico Horse Council P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184



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## SPRING INTO SUMMER 2014 THE YEAR OF THE HORSE

"Eclipse was first owned by a duke, then bought by a sheep farmer unable to handle him – the farmer, in fact, gave serious thought to gelding him. At the age of five Eclipse was leased to an Irish-born army captain named Dennis O'Kelly and only then did his racing career begin. His first race was at Epsom, where he easily won the first of his two four-mile heats. Emboldened by beer at a local inn, O'Kelly boasted he could predict the order of finish for the next day's four-horse heat. When someone called his bluff, he wrote a note and asked that it be read aloud after the race. Eclipse won the next day by a quarter of a mile and O'Kelly's words earned a place in the lore of racing. 'Eclipse first', he had written, 'and the rest nowhere'." Wild About Horses, Lawrence Scanlan, HarperCollins Publishers, 1998.

#### Calendar

May 5: NMHC Board Meeting, 66 Diner, Albuquerque, 7:00 PM. Winning ticket drawn for Curtis Fort sculpture raffle.

June 2: NMHC Board Meeting via Skype, 7:00 PM.

June 7: National Trails Day.

June 21: Santa Fe County Horse Coalition Expo and Tack Swap – NMHC members needed.

June 22-25: American Horse Council Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum, Washington, D.C. "Where Have All The Horses Gone...." Includes Coalition of State Horse Councils semi-annual meeting.

July 7, August 4, NMHC Board Meetings.
September NMHC Board Meeting Date TBA.

Sept. 10-21: New Mexico State Fair. Horse shows every day; rodeo; horse racing; NM Horse Council booth and tent.

October 25: NMHC Trail Ride, San Lorenzo Canyon, San Acacia.

Oct. 31- Nov. 2 Coalition of State Horse Councils Fall Meeting, Grafton, IL, hosted by Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

The "Year of the Horse" continues. Directors (including newly appointed director Ralph Abeyta) and officers are working hard on horse

council issues. Always on our list: Expo New Mexico and the State Fair; communications with officials at the local, city and state level; keeping all our members informed on national, state and American Horse Council concerns. Our work includes lobbying by members as necessary. (NM elections: Nov. 4 - the Governor, other state officials, all members of the NM House of Representatives; no state senators but one US senator). 2015 New Mexico legislative session begins Jan. 20. One director maintains our FaceBook page; another is the website manager; a third produces the newsletter. Directors are listed with email contacts on our website. Except for directors, no information is released on Club and commercial individual members. members get a mention in this newsletter (or later if they join later) and can be found at www.nmhorsecouncil.org, with all contacts and a link to their own websites.

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# Horses In the Roundhouse Cause for Concern?

By Dr. Jason Turner, NM State University Extension Horse Specialist, Department of Extension Animal Sciences & Natural Resources. ilturner@nmsu.edu; website: horses.nmsu.edu.

In the 2014 New Mexico Legislature, nine or more bills directly related to horses/equines. Of those, House Bill 120¹ dealt with removing equines from the traditional legal definition of livestock. Some animal rights activists have previously used this tactic in an attempt to prevent the processing of equines for meat.² Whether this bill intentionally sought to reclassify equines as non-livestock or not, actions such as this should be cause for concern among the NM equine industry as well as the entire livestock industry within the state.

According to the American Horse Council<sup>3</sup>, the equine industry has a \$759 million impact on the NM economy, and it is responsible for the employment of over 45,000 people. Furthermore, many of NM's "claims to fame" are due to the rich tradition of accomplishments by renowned horsemen and women and the equines they raised, cared for and trained. New Mexico has always been "horse country", and equine ownership is an important part of many New Mexicans' lives. Simply put, the equine industry is a vital part of our State's economy and culture.

"Is a Horse More Like a Cow than Like a Dog?" is the focus of a lesson for youth prepared by the Animal Welfare Council<sup>4</sup>. The lesson material is suitable for engaging adults to think more deeply on the question, and to understand why equines are livestock and not pets. Merriam-Webster<sup>5</sup> defines livestock as "farm animals that are kept, raised, and used by people" and pet as "a domestic animal kept for pleasure rather than utility". There is no doubt that some owners may treat their horse (or pig or chicken) like a pet rather than livestock; however, changing the legal definition from livestock to non-livestock would have severe and devastating consequences for all New Mexicans.

Many services indispensable to protecting the health and welfare of equines is a direct result of their classification as livestock. classification of equines as non-livestock would mean the loss of state and federal resources that benefit the livestock industry and owners. Examples of these valuable resources include: funding to conduct research to treat or cure diseases, promote animal well-being, and improve management practices; professionally trained animal care staff, veterinarians, laboratories, and law enforcement officers and regulations that provide for disease surveillance in livestock and the means to quarantine suspected carriers at the state and federal level; and qualification for federal loans and other assistance for livestock owners that experience a financial loss as the result of a natural disaster. As an agricultural enterprise, equine stables, farms and other similar operations are provided certain protections under NM's Right to Farm Act that are not extended to companion animal species. Fortunately, in New Mexico, equines fall under the statewide jurisdiction of the NM Livestock Board to investigate allegations of and enforce laws concerning animal cruelty and neglect for livestock. The NM Department of Agriculture also provides essential services to livestock through the Diagnostic Laboratory and the Division of Agricultural and Environmental Services.

Without consideration of the aforementioned impacts, redefining equines as non-livestock could shift the burden of providing essential services from the state and federal level to the local municipality or county government level. In many instances, these governmental units do not have the trained staff or financial resources necessary to ensure the welfare of equines in their jurisdiction. Furthermore, without statewide standards and protections, local ordinances could provide "roadblocks" hindering equine ownership and equine activities which would diminish the economic value of the equine industry within NM. Since several diseases may commonly occur among livestock species, the loss of resources to test, monitor, and restrict the movement of diseased equines could put NM's







food animal (primarily beef, dairy and sheep) industries at risk for diseases that could result in trade sanctions from other states/countries.

In closing, the classification of equines as livestock in NM is an essential requirement for many owners. This classification provides access to necessary services, financial resources, and certain legal protections that would not be guaranteed if equines are reclassified as non-Changing the legal definition of livestock. equines from livestock to some other class of animal should not be taken lightly or decided without full consideration of all the potential consequences of that action. The equine industry in New Mexico is diverse, vibrant, and economically important. Future efforts to reclassify equines to something other than livestock would significantly change that for the worse.

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup>http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/billfinder/bill\_finder.aspx
- <sup>2</sup> http://www.thehorse.com/articles/12697/Coloradobraces-for-reclassification
- <sup>3</sup> http://www.horsecouncil.org/national-economic-impactus-horse-industry
- http://animalwelfarecouncil.com/wpcontent/uploads/2012/02/UHLesson-1-ONE-JULY-29-2012.pdf
- 5 http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary

(For our out of state readers: New Mexico's state capitol building, known as the "Roundhouse", is the only round capitol building in the country. It was designed by Willard C. Kruger, whose widow, Helen, is a long time member of the Horse Council and Joint MFH of the Juan Tomas Hounds.)

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#### **Updates from Previous NMHC Newsletter**

 HB 51. The one bill we were tracking from the "short" 2014 legislative session to pass both the House and the Senate: AMENDING THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT TO PREVENT CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS OR FACILITIES TO BE FOUND TO BE A NUISANCE. It was signed by Governor Martinez on March 6.

- Curtis Fort Sculpture Raffle. The winning ticket for "Night Horse" was drawn at the May 5 NMHC Board meeting. The proud new owner, Pat Harrington of Los Ranchos, says the horse fits in a nicho in her old house as if made for it while she rides her Icelandic horse on the Corrales trails. Many thanks to all who bought tickets and thereby supported NMHC projects.
- State Veterinarian. Dr. Leroy Martinez, recently appointed to the position of State Veterinarian at the New Mexico Livestock Board, has resigned. NMLB is reopening the nationwide search.
- 50 to 1. The movie about Mine That Bird, his New Mexico owners and trainer, and their quest for an unlikely Kentucky Derby win had its premiere in Albuquerque on March 19. An enthusiastic, invitation-only crowd admired and had their pictures taken with the "The Bird" outside the KiMo theater, then enjoyed the movie and all its stars, plus director Jim Wilson. All cheered when "The Bird" won the Kentucky Derby in the movie too.

According to Wilson, though most new movies have a "shelf life" of a month or less, "50 to 1" is beating those odds, too, and spending a ninth week playing to crowds at the High Ridge in Albuquerque. "This is a New Mexico story and New Mexicans have shown up to see it", said Wilson. "We have also moved forward with opening more screens across the country. As long as it continues to grow, we will screen it." After the theater runs finish in Albuquerque and other cities, the film will be released to DVD and video on demand.

Mine That Bird, meanwhile, journeyed to the **Kentucky Derby Museum** at Churchill Downs to assist with festivities at the 2014 Derby.

• New York City carriages: While Mayor Bill de Blasio still intends to ban horse-drawn carriages from the City streets and Central Park, sending the horses "to a farm upstate" and shifting the drivers to antique cars, an online petition with over 30,000 signatures wants the carriages to stay. Actor Liam Neeson, friend to many of the drivers, has narrated a short film about New York's history with horses, celebrating the centuries-old bond







between humans and horses, and showing the link between the city and the animals that helped construct it. New York Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow has introduced legislation, Bill # 9385, preventing any municipality in the state from limiting or eliminating permits issued to horse-drawn carriage service operators. And the prestigious Rutgers University Equine Science Center has posted a research article about "carriage horse and mule welfare in Charleston, South Carolina", currently in press production for the Journal of Equine Veterinary Science. Rutgers, which prides itself as a "credible primary resource for science-based information on equine-related topics", suggests actual research is needed on stress.

#### **NMHC Partners Alliance**

The Horse Council Committee headed by John and Cat Parks of the Trinity Ranch is moving ahead with the NMHC Partners Alliance; the last page of this newsletter shows some logos. Be looking soon for Taos Tack and Pet Supply (taostack@taosnet.com) and others. The point? Increase opportunities for the entire equine community by providing discounts to NMHC members (and members of our member clubs) and increase visibility for our partners, national corporations and the New Mexico small businesses that support our horse industry. To make this connection, contact NMHC Vice President John Parks: <a href="mailto:trinityranch@gmail.com">trinityranch@gmail.com</a> or 505-466-3849.

#### **Expo New Mexico/NM State Fair**

State Fair Commission Meeting. April 14. Reports on State Fair Planning, and continued repairs to infrastructure. (With aging facilities, considerable [but invisible] outgo is required just to keep even.) State Fair admission price will rise, but local discounts are available. Commissioner Charles Brown introduced to the audience. Next meeting July 14. <a href="https://www.exponm.com">www.exponm.com</a>.

**Horse Shows.** schedules, staffing almost complete; details on the Expo website. No carriage driving scheduled at this time.

**Rodeo. PRCA Rodeo** Sept. 12, 13, 16, 18, 19; Mexican Rodeo extravaganza 9/14; Cinch shootout Rodeo 9/20; PRCA Extreme Bulls 9/21.

**State Fair Parade.** Sat. Sept. 13 beginning at 8:30, proceeding from Fairgrounds along Central east, disbanding prior to Eubank intersection.

**NM Horse Council Booth and Tent.** Every day during the Fair, **living! equine! magnet!**, and its people in front of the Horse Arena. To schedule you or your group, call or email Ron Morris, <a href="mailto:lhrramorris@juno.com">lhrramorris@juno.com</a>, 505-417-6167.

While thinking how complicated and difficult it can be to participate in the Fair, or at the booth, please remember that this is the only chance many New Mexico residents ever have to get close to a horse. Help preserve our livestock and agriculture tradition! Bring that horse!

#### **Land Use and Trails**

**NMHC Trail Ride.** We'll be riding with NMHC director Dacodah Herkenhoff of Acacia Riding Adventures on Saturday, October 25. You can bring your own horse (overnight pens available) or rent one of his; lunch will be available. More soon at <a href="https://www.acaciaridingadventures.com">www.acaciaridingadventures.com</a> and on the NMHC website.

Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument. On May 21, President Obama designated a total of nearly 500,000 acres in five southern New Mexico mountain ranges to establish the second National Monument in the state. Some residents fear increased regulations, particularly involving grazing, while others see an strong economic impact for the area. The land features petroglyphs and lava flows, rare plants and animals, and incredible scenery.

In **Taos County,** members report that up to three thousand properties are losing their special agricultural assessments because, "although horses are livestock, recreational, hobby, or pet horses cannot qualify a property for the Special valuation of land used primarily for agricultural purposes". –Nick Salazar, Taos County Chief Appraiser. Horse owners are united in fighting this change, but it is apparently driven by the State Assessor's demands for more tax revenue.







The case cited by the appraiser is *Alexander v Anderson* (1999), a Bernalillo County case decided by the State Court of Appeals. In the Court's opinion, grazing of recreational horses did not satisfy the statutory presumption of "grazing land" eligible for the special assessment. (Now, the tax code has been used to manipulate social change as long as there have been people to tax and governments needing money. Perhaps the NM legislature could be convinced that horse owners and horse properties are valuable assets to the state and should be rewarded.)

In **Bernalillo County**, a long list of proposed zoning changes concerning community and backyard farms, farmers markets, and greenhouses, had a single phrase zinger at the end: no livestock pen, corral or barn could be within twenty feet of any dwelling on the property <u>or any property line</u>. Preliminary investigation indicates this could be due to one or two complaints. NMHC members have visited the zoning office, asked for a review, and will speak at the June 10 hearing.

Navajo Nation and the Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife ("The Robert Redford/Bill Richardson Group") OK Wild Horse Plan. The agreement calls for adoptions, triages, veterinarian services and sanctuaries as a long term, humane alternative to slaughter for the thousands of wild horses on the reservation. There are no specifics, and there is no funding.

**Fifth Year of Drought = Fires.** Before hitting the trails, consult <a href="www.nmfireinfo.com">www.nmfireinfo.com</a> for full descriptions and daily updates through the state.

#### **Connecticut Supreme Court Decision**

The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled in late March on a 2006 case where a toddler visiting a farm was bitten on the cheek by a horse. Deciding 6-0 to uphold the Appellate Court decision that said a horse "belongs to a species naturally inclined to do mischief or to be vicious", four of the justices nevertheless said that whether any animal is naturally dangerous must be considered individually by the lower court.

The horse industry in the state protested that this was simply not true, and warned that classifying

horses as vicious could make them uninsurable. It urged the legislature to pass HB 5044, which presumes that "if a horse or other equine is domesticated it is not inherently dangerous and does not possess a vicious propensity". The bill, which was supported by Governor Dannel Malloy, passed unanimously in both the House and Senate, and is on his desk. He released a statement saying he plans to sign it, and that "the agriculture sector of Connecticut's economy has been growing significantly over the past couple of years, and we need to ensure that the laws in our state encourage this growth."

#### **NMHC Club and Commercial Members**

Over the next few pages, please note the many NM horse groups and businesses supporting the industry in the state, as well as providing goods and services to their members and customers. We welcome breed groups (Saddlebreds [ASHA of NM], Arabians, PRE [Foundation for the Pure Spanish Horse], Peruvian Pasos [La Estancia Alegre], Paints, Palominos, Pintos, Quarter Horses, Mules and Donkeys, Morgans.) Equine veterinarians (Albuquerque Equine, Meddleton Equine, Los Lunas Animal Clinic.) Clubs and interest groups (Albuquerque Vaulters, Back Country Horsemen of NM, C.H.A.M.P., Enchantment Driving, Juan Tomas Hounds, NM Dressage, NM Hunter/Jumper, NM Horse Breeders [racing], NM Search and Rescue.) Also training, teaching, boarding, buying and selling, or breeding: 4 R Performance Livestock, Bar Lazy J Performance, Dick and Suellen Hensleigh, Double JK Ranch, High Country Performance Horses, HorsePlay New Mexico, Little Hills Ranch, Liz Sanchez Stables, Platinum Performance, Roy-El Morgans, The Trinity Ranch, Vista Hermosa Farm, Sahara Spirit Arabians. Businesses: Acacia Riding Adventures. Dan's Boots. Equine Specialties, FCP Barns, Horsemen's Feed, Manning Florist, Paper Pusher Bookkeeping, Miller Feed, Sandia Trailer Sales, Rio Grande Carriage Works, Paul's Veterinary Supply. The rescues: The Horse Shelter, NM Horse Rescue. And therapy: Listening Horse, Skyline Therapy Services. Team Aspen, difficult to classify. And last but not least, Dover Saddlery, which takes a membership simply to support the Council.







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	-	<u></u>		
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