



Working to keep the ride alive!

FEED CHECK-OFF

In the spring of 2006, all Virginia horse owners over the age of 18 have the opportunity to certify their eligibility and then to vote on an assessment on manufactured equine feed. The purpose of the referendum, which is authorized by the Board of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), is to determine if horse owners approve the collection of an assessment of \$3 per ton or \$0.075 per 50 pound bag of manufactured equine feed sold or imported for sale in Virginia.

Funds collected will be remitted to VDACS and used by the Virginia Horse Industry Board to conduct programs in market development, education, publicity, and promotion of Virginia's equine industry. To be eligible to vote in this referendum, horse owners must file an notarized official affidavit by 5 p.m. on April 14, 2006, with the Director of VDACS' Division of Marketing.

The affidavit form is available on the VDACS' Web site at www.vdac's.virginia.gov, or by calling (804)786-3952. Horse owners may also pick up forms at VDACS' central office located at 102 Governor Street, Richmond, Va. 23219. VDACS will then mail ballots to those certified horse owners on April 28, 2006. Completed ballots must be postmarked or hand delivered to VDACS in an official pre-addressed ballot envelope no later than 5p.m. on May 26, 2006. Judges appointed by VDACS' Commissioner will count the completed ballots and certify the referendum results. The Commissioner will publicly declare the results by June 5, 2006 and certify them to the Governor and th Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

At the statewide level, the feed checkoff referendum is supported by the VA Horse Council, the VA Thoroughbred Association, the VA Horse Shows Association, the VA Quarter Horse Association, the VA Agribusiness Council and the VA Farm Bureau Federation.

For additional information about the equine feed referendum, contact Pat Mullins, VHC president, at 540/872-2523 or Glenn Petty, Virginia Thoroughbred Association Executive Director, at 540/347-4313.

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POINTS OF CONTACT

Newsletter Editor

Janet Werndli, 757-340-4465, jfwerndli@att.net

Officers

President - Patrick Mullins, 540-872-2523, mullins2@ns.gemlink.com

First Vice President - Cathette Plumer, 804-370-8631, Cathette@aol.com

Second Vice President - Heather Heider, 703-753-5175, hheidaer@virginiahorsecouncil.com

Third Vice President - Eugene "Gene" W. Hansen, 757-721-6736, ewhansen@hotmail.com

Secretary - Nancy Frank, 540-544-7471, rfrank@pemtel.net

Treasurer - Sue Alvis, 804-741-1482, whoaliljoe@aol.com

Standing Committees

Communications Chair - Sue Alvis, 804-741-1482, whoaliljoe@aol.com

Educational Advisor - Dr. Mark McCann, 540-544-7010, mmccnn@vt.edu

Issues Chair - Tom Meacham, 540-552-2063, tmeacham@vt.edu

Legislative Issues Chair - Patrick Mullins, 540-872-2523, mullins2@ns.gemlink.com

Legislative Reception Chair - Cathette Plumer, 804-370-8631, Cathette@aol.com

Legislative Trail Ride Chair - Ron Frank, 540-544-7471, rfrank@pemtel.net

Past President - Beryl B. Herzog, 804-449-6243, berylbherzog@aol.com

Trails Development Chair - Sally Aungier, 804-379-9829, saungier@mindspring.com

Youth Chair - Debbie Agnew, 804-550-1303, dagnew@virginiahorsecouncil.org

Marketing Chair - Dr. Julia McCann, 540-7010, jsmccann@vt.edu

Regional Directors

Southeast

Janet Werndli, 757-340-4465, jfwerndli@att.net

Eugene "Gene" W. Hansen, 757-721-6736, ewhansen@hotmail.com

Northeast

Susan Seward, 757-866-8710, boxwoodstables@aol.com

Carol G. Dawson, 804-462-9916, cdawson@rivnet.net

Northern

David Sanders, 703-222-2324, david@thesandersranch.com

Jeff Shoup, 703-754-4981, jshoup@quixnet.net

West Central

Bette Brand, 540-772-0798, Bbrand@AgFirst.com

Sue Hecht, 540-348-5779, vshecht@ntelos.net

East Central

David Lamb, 540-832-2350

Glenn Ritchey, 540-987-8564, glennritchey@aol.com

South West

Dr. Jim Bowen, 540-552-6978, jmbowen@vt.edu

Eugene T. Stone, 276-930-2607, stone_gene@hotmail.com

Ex Officio

Andrea Heid, 804-786-5842, aheid@vdacs.state.va.us

Administrative Assistant

Keli Harold, 888-467-7382, kharold@virginiahorsecouncil.org

VHC ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 17, 2006

The Virginia Horse Council will hold its Annual Meeting Friday, March 17, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Select - Chantilly - Dulles Expo Center, located at 4335 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, Va. 20151. Reception will begin at 6:00pm followed by the Annual Meeting at 6:30pm. The reception will include hors d'oeuvres with a cash bar. The Annual Meeting will feature election of Officers and Board of Directors followed by the annual awards. Following the annual awards, the meeting will feature Clinton Anderson as the guest speaker. There is no charge to attend the Annual Meeting. Current and new members of the Virginia Horse Council are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. New members may register at the event.

In conjunction with the Equine Event East expo in Chantilly, March 17 to March 19, the Virginia Horse Council will also hold special Virginia Horse Council "Breakfast Buffet & Seminar" at the Equine Event East, Saturday, March 18, beginning at 8:00 am. The cost of the Breakfast Buffet is \$17.50. New Commercial Members and new Individual and Family Members to the Virginia Horse Council will receive one free complimentary breakfast buffet for each new Virginia Horse Council membership. Additional buffet tickets can be purchased by new members and current Virginia Horse Council members at a discounted price of \$7.50. In addition, all Virginia Horse Council members, current and new, will receive free Saturday admission to the Equine Event East when attending the "Breakfast Buffet and Seminar" on Saturday morning. The Seminar will begin immediately after the buffet at 9:00am and will feature well known "farm consultant" Reid Folsom. Other than the cost of the breakfast buffet and Virginia Horse Council membership, there is no charge to attend the seminar. Reid will be addressing the Horse Council membership on many of the hot topics facing horse owners today, such as the proposed "National Animal Identification System", and new Virginia water quality regulations affecting small and large horse operations alike.

For up to date information regarding the Virginia Horse Council's Annual Meeting, VHC Seminar & Breakfast Buffet and participation at the Equine Event East expo, March 17 through March 19, visit the Virginia Horse Council website at www.VirginiaHorseCouncil.org or contact the Annual Meeting Coordinator, Jeff Shoup at jshoup@VirginiaHorseCouncil.org or 703-402-3726.

The Virginia Horse Council is the advocate for the expanding Virginia horse industry and the voice of horse owners across the state. The council is a non-profit organization formed by Virginia horsemen for Virginia horsemen. The membership and the Board of Directors represent all breed groups and disciplines in Virginia. The general purpose of the Virginia Horse Council is to promote the common interests of the entire industry. All horse owners and enthusiast across the state, adult, youth, breed groups, related industries, shows, farms, clubs, schools, stables and above all pleasure horse owners are urged to join and support the VHC. Membership is based on a calendar year and is available to businesses, breed and social clubs, individuals and families.

For more information about the Virginia Horse Council



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

visit the VHC website at www.VirginiaHorseCouncil.org



SETC 2006

TRAILS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS RIDING EFFORTS IN SOUTHEAST

ROANOKE, VA - Hundreds of trail riders throughout the Southeast are expected to descend on the city in early August as the annual Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference makes its appearance in Virginia this year.

The conferees will meet and stay August 3-5 at a Roanoke hotel, but the weekend will be all about trails. The theme for this year's conference is "Working Together for Trails in a Changing Environment."

The speakers drawn from a wide range of federal and state management personnel and equine and other trail professionals, will focus on a new management technique called Collaborative Adaptive Management.

This theme, according to conference director and Virginia Horse Council Trails Chairperson, Sally Aungier, focuses on the importance of collaboration and cooperation between trail users, managers and environmental professionals in all phases of trail planning, construction, maintenance, and data gathering, as well as partnerships for the trails.

"Land-use planning, trail sharing, environmental protection, trail design, education and the preservation of the use of horses on our American landscape are topics that will be discussed at the SETC," Aungier said.

Although final speakers and field trips are still in the works, the first day of the conference will include field trips to developed trail systems south of Roanoke, likely including New River State Park and the Mount Rogers National Recreation area. Conferees will get an opportunity to examine trails and their surrounding issues firsthand in these management areas.

The idea of a forum for a meeting of trail minds throughout the Southeast grew several years ago with an initial conference at Clemson University. The SETC now includes 11 states whose horse councils and other equine trail organizations meet to learn from one another as well as agency and professional trail personnel. A wide mix of participants brings to the forefront trail issues at every level, and the event has grown to national importance.

"The purpose of SETC is to bring together people who are concerned about the future of the natural and cultural heritage

of the trail experience from the back of a horse," Aungier said. She added that SETC strives to foster equestrian self evaluation, learning and the development of a conservation force that will influence land-use policies at local, state, regional and national levels.

Conference fees are \$125 for early registration, available in late February; \$150 for latecomers. Host for the conference is the Virginia Horse Council, with support from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Horse Industry Board and the Federal Highway Administration.

Many saddle clubs and local chapters of national organizations such as Back Country Horsemen of America also participate.

More information about the conference can be obtained by calling Aungier at 804-379-9829 or emailing her at saungier@mindspring.com. The conference website can be accessed at www.southeasternequestriantrails.com.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

March 17, 2006 - VHC Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn Select, Chantilly

March 17-19, 2006 - Equine Event East

May 12-14 - 2006 VHC Legislative Trail Ride, Fort Story, Virginia Beach, call Ron & Nancy Frank for more information.

Aug 3-5 Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference, Roanoke, call Sally Aungier at 804-379-9829 or email saungier@mindspring.com



ACROSS THE STATE

WARNER NAMED FRIEND OF VIRGINIA AGRIBUSINESS

Governor Honored for His Accomplishment as He Leaves Office

(Richmond,VA) Governor Mark R. Warner has been named the Distinguished Friend of Virginia Agribusiness for 2006 by the Virginia Agribusiness Council.

Warner accepted the award at the Council's 35th Annual

Appreciation Banquet at Richmond's Arthur Ashe Center on January 12, two days prior to the end of his four-year term as Virginia's Governor.

In presenting the award, Donna Pugh Johnson, president of the Virginia Agribusiness Council, said, "We honor Governor Mark Warner, who in his four short years of office as Virginia's chief executive, has shown himself to be a true friend and advocate for Virginia's agriculture and forestry industries.

He has not only listened to our concerns but has also actively sought our industries' input and counsel. He followed through with his promises and commitments and, in doing so, earned the trust, admiration and respect of Virginia's agribusiness and rural communities."

"Few governors has accomplished so much during their term as has Governor Warner," Johnson added, citing his promotion and support of research programs at Virginia Tech and Virginia State; his promotion of the expansion of the state's food processing industries; his efforts to bring jobs and technology to Southside and Southwest Virginia; and his swift response to challenges such as Avian influenza, West Nile virus and a statewide drought.

Governor Warner was also praised for working with the General Assembly to accomplish one of the longest-standing goals of Virginia's agribusiness community – the creation of the position of Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry which Johnson noted, "gave a well-deserved cabinet level voice to the Commonwealth's #1 industry."

"Governor Warner has been there when it counted," Johnson said, "He leaves a legacy of fulfilling the promises he made to our industry and has helped make the future of Virginia agribusiness brighter."

Since its inception in 1987, the Distinguished Friend of Virginia Agribusiness Award has been presented 23 times by the Virginia Agribusiness Council to a Member of Congress, State Legislator, Governor or other influential Virginia government official. Warner is only the third governor to receive the honor joining the late Governor Mills Godwin in 1978 and the late Governor John Dalton in 1981. In 2005, the recipient was Senator John Chichester of Stafford County.

Newly elected Governor Tim Kaine and recently reappointed Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bob Bloxom also addressed the crowd of nearly 1000 persons at the Council's Annual Appreciation Banquet.

Also attending were Virginia Congressional Representatives Tom Davis, Robert Scott and Randy Forbes, members of the Virginia General Assembly and other distinguished state government officials.

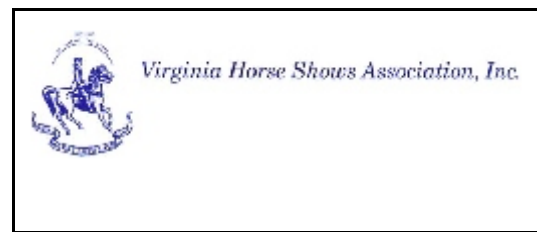
The Virginia Agribusiness Council is a non-profit organization committed to representing the agriculture and forestry industries in the Commonwealth through effective government relations and industry promotion efforts. Its combined membership of over 40,000 includes farmers, foresters and other agricultural-product producers; marketers and processors; industry suppliers; cooperatives; commodity and industry associations.



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT WINS AWARDS

Beryl Herzog, VHC Immediate Past President

was inducted into the Virginia Horse Shows Association's Hall of Fame for work done to promote the horse community. Also Beryl was recognized by the American Morgan Horse Association for promotion of the Morgan Horse.



Barbara Ford Receives NARHA's Highest Honor, the James Brady Professional Achievement Award

DENVER, CO – Barbara Ford of Virginia Beach, VA, has been awarded the James Brady Professional Achievement Award for her contribution to equine assisted activities. The award was presented November 12, 2005 at the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association's (NARHA) Awards Banquet, in Houston, TX.

Barbara was a member and leader of the Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia from the beginning. She has worked tirelessly on the annual state horse show. She is founder, executive director and head instructor at Equi-Kids in Virginia Beach. Barbara also implemented a Mobile Equestrian Outreach Program, a traveling 26 foot trailer with the program's mascot, a miniature horse named Blue Boy. This program is designed to educate the general public about Equi-Kids and the benefits of equine assisted activities in the state of Virginia and since its inception two years ago has hosted over thirty-one thousand visitors. Barbara is also a new member of NARHA's administrative committee.

NARHA established the James Brady Professional Achievement Award in 1988 to recognize outstanding contributions made to the therapeutic riding industry. The award is named after James Brady, former press secretary to President Ronald Reagan. After suffering a head wound in an assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981, Brady participated in therapeutic riding as part of his rehabilitation.

2006 YOUTH ART CONTEST

OBJECTIVE: An opportunity for youth ages 5 to 18 to express their artistic abilities

SUBJECT: Horses, Mules or Donkeys!

MEDIUMS: Your choice of: OIL, PASTEL, PENCIL (INCLUDING COLOR PENCILS), PEN & INK, WATERCOLOR, ACRYLIC AND CHARCOAL

RULES:

ONLY **ONE** ENTRY PER CONTESTANT, **HAVING BEEN COMPLETED BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2005 AND MARCH 31, 2006**

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE EQUINE ORIENTED, DEPICTING POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS OF HORSES AND RELATED SUBJECTS

UN-FRAMED, ANY SIZE BUT NO LARGER THAN 18"X24" OVERALL SIZE (mapping, foam board and shrink wrapping are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN March 31, 2006

NO COD'S

INCLUDE THIS COMPLETED ENTRY FORM WITH ARTWORK

ARTWORK WILL BE RETURNED UPON REQUEST

THROUGH SUBMISSION OF ARTWORK, CONTESTANTS AND THEIR LEGAL GUARDIANS GRANT NONEXCLUSIVE REPRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION RIGHTS TO THE WORKS SUBMITTED

VIRGINIA HORSE COUNCIL ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST OR DAMAGED ARTWORK

WHERE TO SUBMIT ENTRIES: DEBBIE AGNEW

**VIRGINIA HORSE COUNCIL YOUTH DIRECTOR
c/o 7293 HANOVER GREEN DRIVE SUITE 105
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111**

FIRST AND LAST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE: _____

AGE AT TIME ARTWORK WAS COMPLETED: _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____ - _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: ____-____-____