

EQUINE NEWSLETTER

Promoting Health and Management Awareness in the Michigan Horse Industry

<http://www.canr.msu.edu/horseadults>

Michigan State University Department of Animal Science & Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences

Industry Updates



Horse Show Ethics “How Do You Place?”

ANR Week Recap

On Saturday, March 1, 2003, a Horse Show Ethics Workshop was held in conjunction with MSU ANR Week Program. Speakers addressed topics on Ethical Decision Making, Show Horse Welfare, Breed Associations Role in Horse Show Ethics, Youth Sportsmanship, and the Judges role in Horse Show Ethics.

At the conclusion of the program, participants were asked to fill out a survey that would be used to facilitate an in-depth industry workshop the following day. Forty-five surveys were turned in with the following result highlights:

1. From your experience with horse competitions, please list your top 5 ethical concerns:

1) Sportsmanship (70 %)

Example: Unsportsmanlike behavior of children.

2) Horse welfare (64 %)

Example: Owners not taking responsibility to make trainers treat horses humanely.

3) Judging (28 %)

Example: Judge turning head to avoid seeing a rider's error

4) Rules and regulations (23 %)

Example: Drug enhancement/drug use.

5) Parenting (19 %)

Example: Unwillingness of parents to enforce/reward/expect appropriate behavior.

2. Of our respondents, 93% prioritized “good ethics” as “very important” in the horse industry.

3. 49% of our respondents are “not very comfortable” and 11% are “very uncomfortable” with the current state of affairs regarding horse show ethics.

4. Who do you think is most responsible for helping enhance/uphold the ethics of horse competitions?

1st **Competitors**

2nd **Trainers**

3rd **Judges**

4th **Breed Associations**

(Followed by owners, stewards and veterinarians).

5. Do you consider yourself informed and up-to-date on the rules and code of conduct of the governing association under which you show the most often? 78% - yes

6. If you saw an “ethical indiscretion” happening at a horse show, would you know how to report the incident? 80% said yes (and 32% said they were very likely to actually report it, while 57% said they were fairly likely to, depending on the situation).

The survey results reflect a strong desire by the workshop participants for horse shows to provide a fair and enjoyable experience for all, keeping good horse welfare a high priority. Participants are concerned that the youth competitor gains positive life-skills from showing. Survey results acknowledge that parents, trainers and coaches play an important role in ensuring that youth learn good sportsmanship skills.

MSU Extension is committed to working with the Michigan Livestock Industry to promote sportsmanship, ethical decision making and good animal welfare at all competitions. We are currently organizing a winter conference in 2004 to specifically address sportsmanship at youth livestock competitions. We would like to thank all ANR Week participants who took the time to answer and turn in the survey!

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Dr. Richard "Dick" Dunn Remembered

Dr. Dunn passed away on Friday, May 30th, 2003. Dr. Dunn was a Professor and the Horse Extension Specialist at Michigan State University for 23 years. Dr. Dunn was instrumental in developing the

nation's first Horseback Riding for the Disabled Program and the 4-H Standardbred Yearling Program. Dr. Dunn established the strong volunteer program that the Michigan 4-H Horse Program enjoys today. He also spear headed the Horse Short Courses that were held throughout the state. The current MSU Winter Horse Program is modeled after Dr. Dunn's achievements. Dr. Dunn has also been a strong leader in the Michigan Horse industry, holding leadership positions in The Michigan Horse Council and the Michigan Horse Show Association.

Dr. Dunn's presence will be missed at Michigan State University. Although he had retired twelve years ago, Dick continued supporting MSU Horse and Animal Science Programs. Dr.

Dunn was always in the audience at the State Horse Show and Benefit Clinics, and in attendance at the adult horse extension workshops. We always looked forward to his follow up notes congratulating those involved on a job well done.

His calm and deliberate demeanor and caring personality stood out in the hustle and bustle of activities. He was respected, admired and loved by many of his colleagues. We have looked to him as a role model in how we relate to people both professionally and personally. We will miss his presence but his legacy certainly lives on with the MSU Extension Horse Programs. Donations can be given in Dr. Dunn's memory to the Michigan 4-H Horse Program Fund, 400 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing, MI 48823.



2003 Adult Riding Clinic



Participants formulate a lesson plan.....

"Developing Lesson Programs for Youth"



Then, put their plans into action!

It was another successful year for the annual MSU Adult Riding Clinic at the MSU Pavilion! This year's clinic, "Developing Lesson Programs for Youth", was one of our largest ever - with over 40 participants. Auditors and riders improved their instructor communication and lesson planning, learned about liability and safety, discussed equine welfare, and improved their own riding skills.

Participants expressed that there needed to be a network, via the internet, in which they could share ideas and discuss issues. As a result, there has been an internet group established, in which all interested clinicians, instructors, etc. can pool their information. Several of the clinic's participants have already joined. This group can be found at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michiganinstructors>

Save the Date for the 2004 Adult Riding Clinic - Friday June 11th!

MSU ARABIAN HORSE JUDGING WORKSHOP

Saturday October 11, 2003 10 AM - 1 PM

MSU Horse Teaching and Research Center
Collins Road
E. Lansing, MI



Classes:
2 Halter Classes
Western Pleasure
Hunter Pleasure

Cost is \$5.00/student and \$10.00/adult.

All proceeds go to the MSU Horse Judging Team.

This is a great opportunity to work out youth and collegiate judging teams on high quality horses or just learn more about what the judge is looking for at the horse show. Judging will begin promptly at 10 AM. After judging is completed, each class will be critiqued. A collegiate judging team member will give a formal set of reasons on each class. Lunch will be on your own. If you would like an MSU Judging Team representative to work with your group on placings and/or reasons, please give at least one weeks notice to Christine Skelly, MSU Equine Extension Specialist.

Please let us know if you will be attending, how many will be in your group, and if you would like an MSU Judging Team representative to work with your group by contacting:

Dr. Christine Skelly:
OFFICE: 517/432-0383
E-Mail: skellych@msu.edu

This is an approved clinic for MI 4-H Judges

Rotational Grazing Program

“Pastures for Horses”



Rotational grazing is the practice of allowing portions of a pasture to “rest” between grazings. Rotational grazing can nearly double the amount of forage grown in a season compared to continuous grazing. Such pastures can supply enough forage for your horses without the need for additional hay for much of the year.

The university extension services of Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Michigan combined efforts to develop a program specifically for horse owners in the Midwest. *Pastures for Horses* is a CD-ROM that is packed with information to help you successfully implement rotational grazing. The program clearly describes the basic principles, as well as addressing the needs and considerations for your pasture and horses. You will find the tools needed to evaluate the condition of your pasture, to identify the plants (both good and bad), to decide when to move your horses, and more. Links to related material are included allowing you to explore topics in greater detail.

The *Pastures for Horses* program is \$58.00, plus shipping. It is compatible with PC and Macintosh computers and includes Acrobat Reader 5.0. To obtain your copy, contact MSU Equine Specialist Dr. Christine Skelly at (517) 432-0383.

Youth Corner



4-H youth enjoying their horses at the annual 4-H Trail Ride

Summertime = Riding

School is out, and you'll be sure to find Michigan youth enjoying their horses in the barns, on the trails, and at shows.

The Michigan 4-H State Trail Ride kicked off the 4-H Horse Programs summer season on June 13-15th at Goose Creek Trail Camp, near Grayling. Over 230 youth, leaders, and family members enjoyed the weekend. The participants rode over miles of scenic northern trails,

enjoyed delicious camp style cooking, participated in horsey arts and crafts, cheered on the annual bug race contestants, and relaxed around the campfire with friends and family.

The following week, over 3,000 youth participated at Explorations Days, a three day event held at MSU campus, which offers more than 180 hands-on learning sessions, field trips, and fun filled events. Equine related sessions included: Starting the Young Horse, Exploring Careers in the Equine Industry, You Be the Judge – Reining, and So You Want to Be a Horse Vet. Additionally, 12 very talented equine youth competed in the State 4-H Awards Program. Delegates advanced through the county and regional levels by submitting portfolios detailing their equine and 4-H experiences. Finalists were then interviewed by equine professionals at the State Contest. Angela Leiphart, from Menominee County, was named the 2003 MI 4-H State Horse Award Winner and

Kimberley Adams, from Alpena County, was the first runner-up.

Fast approaching is the State 4-H Horse Show held at the MSU Pavilion on August 8-10. Over 250 delegate that have qualified at the county level will compete in gymkhana, hunt seat, western, saddle seat, and dressage events to vie for a State Champion title. In addition to riding classes, youth will also be able to enter educational posters, creative writing, and participate in mock interviews. The show would not be possible without the generous sponsorships from Michigan businesses and the support of youth and adult volunteers. For more information about the State 4-H Horse Show, contact your County MSU Extension Office or visit www.canr.msu.edu/horsekids.

For information on the 4-H Horse and Pony Program, contact the MI Youth Equine Extension Specialist, Karen Waite, at 517/353-1748, by e-mail at kwaite@msu.edu.



MSU Horse Programs 2003 Calendar of Events



August

2-3	Appaloosa State Show	MSU Pavilion
8-10	State 4-H Horse Show	MSU Pavilion
14-17	National Haflinger Show	MSU Pavilion
23-24	Appaloosa Classic Horse Show	MSU Pavilion
30-31	Buckskin Horse Show	MSU Pavilion - South Barn

September

5-6	Walking Horse Charity Classic	MSU Pavilion - South Barn
6-7	Great Lakes Standardbred Sale	MSU Pavilion
13-14	Apple Blossom Open Horse Show	MSU Pavilion
18-21	MQHA Futurity	MSU Pavilion
26-27	Haflinger Futurity	MSU Pavilion
26-28	MHC Fall Trail Seminar	Hungerford Lake Campgrounds, Big Rapids (231) 821-2487

October

3-5	Buckskin Congress	MSU Pavilion
10-11	Standardbred Auction	MSU Pavilion
11	MSU Arabian Judging Workshop	MSU Horse Barn
16-19	Great Lakes Draft Horse Show	MSU Pavilion
24-26	Paint Horse Show	MSU Pavilion
31-2	Souther Michigan Paint & Quarter Horse Auction	MSU Pavilion

For more information call the MSU Horse Extension Office at 517/432-0383 or check the Equine Extension Web Site: <http://www.canr.msu.edu/horseadults>