

New Priorities Developed at the 2019 MSU – Michigan Equine Industry Update Meeting

Seventy stakeholders met on March 7th, 2019 at Michigan State University to discuss the current status and future outlook of the Michigan Equine Industry. The 2019 Michigan Equine Update was launched with industry leaders from the Michigan Horse Council, Michigan Farm Bureau, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development presenting an update. Michigan State University faculty and Extension educators shared their equine programming efforts in research, teaching, and extension. Small breakout groups identified and prioritized current issues in the Michigan equine industry. **The following priorities list was compiled and organized by who will lead the initiatives surrounding an issue:**

MSU Led

- Equine Cushing's Disease & Equine Metabolic Syndrome
- Managing aging horses
- Equine nutrition and exercise management
- Resources to evaluate information from different sources (online)
- Providing hands-on large animal experiences for MSU students



Industry Led



Equestrian friendly land use and zoning policy for both public and private land including the continued designation of equine as livestock in Michigan

Building partnerships with recreational areas and municipalities to increase access for equestrian activities



Promotion of the equine industry and activities to youth and the general public

Support for industry professionals focusing on liability, business costs, and sharing information



Developing solutions for the high cost of horse ownership and minimizing the "Unwanted Horse" issue in Michigan

Thank you to the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture for sponsoring this important meeting.