

NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

501 c 3 Registered with NYS Attorney General Charities Bureau

LEGISLATIVE STRUCTURE

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

- CHAIRED BY EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
- MEMBERS INCLUDE:
 - PRESIDENT
 - REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

TRAILS COMMITTEE:

- CHAIRED BY SOUTHERN TIER VICE PRESIDENT
- MEMBERS INCLUDE;
 - EIGHT REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS AND DELEGATES FROM KEY TRAIL GROUPS
- NY STATE TRAILS COUNCIL - SPONSORED BY DEPT. ENVIRONMENTAL. CONSERVATION AND STATE PARKS & HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPT. MEET QUARTERLY
 - PRESIDENTS Or MEMBERS OF MULTI-USE ORGANIZATIONS
 - EQUESTRIAN DELEGATES:
 - NYSHC WESTERN & FINGER LAKES REGIONAL VP'S
 - PRESIDENT OF NASSAU – SUFFOLK HORSE COUNCIL

COMMUNICATION:

- NYSHC NEWSLETTER AND DIRECTORY TO STATE LEGISLATORS, MAJOR STATE ORGANIZATIONS, COUNTY FARM BUREAUS
- LEGISLATORS INVITED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS
- ONE ON ONE MEETINGS

NYSHC NETWORK

NATIONAL:

**AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL
USA EQUESTRIAN
THE NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL**

STATE:

EMPIRE STATE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS -

COMPRISED OF ALL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN STATE
SUPPORT COMMON AND UNIQUE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES
DOES NOT HAVE A PAID LOBBYIST (501C3)

EMPIRE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (150 YEARS OLD)

SUPPORTERS OF AGRICULTURAL ADVANCEMENT & EDUCATION
MEMBERS RUN THE COUNTY AND STATE FAIRS
DOES NOT HAVE A PAID LOBBYIST (501C3)

NY STATE FARM BUREAU

COMPRISED OF ALL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN STATE
SUPPORT COMMON AND UNIQUE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES
DOES HAVE A PAID LOBBYIST (**NOT** 501C3)

NEW YORK STATE EQUINE INDUSTRY LEADERS COMMITTEE:

NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL
NEW YORK STATE FARM BUREAU
NEW YORK STATE HORSE BREEDING DEVELOPMENT FUND
NEW YORK HARNESS HORSE BREEDERS
NYS RACING AND WAGERING BOARD (TBRED BREEDING
DEVELOPMENT FUND)
NEW YORK STATE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOC.
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
SUNY MORRISVILLE
CAZENOVIA COLLEGE
NEW YORK STATE DEPT OF AGRICULTURE & MARKETS
COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS
REGION 2 CHAIR (NAHRA)
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE STAFF

NYSHC PAST SUCCESSES

- NYS HELMET LAW (REQUIRES CHILDREN AND BEGINNING RIDERS TO WEAR HELMETS)
- LAW LIMITING LANDOWNER LIABILITY FOR EQUESTRIAN USAGE.
- REQUIREMENT FOR EQUINE RABIES VACCINATION FOR AT NYS FAIRGROUNDS.
- TOLL REDUCTION ON NYS THRUWAY FOR HORSE TRAILERS.

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

1. HORSE RECOGNIZED AS AN AGRICULTURAL ANIMAL VERSUS A COMPANION ANIMAL
2. HUMANE TRANSPORT OF HORSES THROUGH NY STATE.
 - a. INCREASED THE FINE LEVEL ON THE HUMANE TRANSPORT OF EQUINES LAW IN 2001.
 - b. CORRECTED LOOPHOLE IN THE HUMANE TRANSPORT OF EQUINES LAW IN 2002.
 - c. SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED A TRANSPORT TO SLAUGHTER BILL IN 2000. THIS BILL WAS NOT CONSIDERED BY THE INDUSTRY AS BEING BENEFICIAL FOR ANY PORTION OF THE INDUSTRY.
 - d. WAGED AND COMPLETED A CAMPAIGN TO CONVERT HORSE BOARDING FARMS FROM THE CATEGORY OF COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES TO THAT OF TRUE FARMS. THIS INCLUDED:
 - i. HAVING HORSE-BOARDING FARMS BE GIVEN THE RIGHT FOR AG. ASSESSMENT WITH COUNTY APPROVAL IN 1996
 - ii. HAVING HORSE-BOARDING FARMS BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO SALES TAX RELIEF ON ITEMS PURCHASED FOR THE FARM IN 2000.
 - iii. HAVING HORSE-BOARDING FARMS BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO CLAIM THE 10-YEAR EXEMPTION ON NEW AND REMODELED BUILDINGS IN 2001.
 - iv. HAVING HORSE-BOARDING FARMS INCLUDED IN THE "RIGHT TO FARM" LAW IN 2001.
 - v. HAVING THE "COUNTY RULE" PORTION OF THE AG ASSESSMENT BE RESCINDED IN 2002.

2002 - ONE GREAT YEAR OF PROJECTS AND RESULTS

THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR THE EQUINE INDUSTRY IN NEW YORK. A NUMBER OF BILLS HAVE EITHER BEEN SIGNED OR ARE EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED BY GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI.

1. 7 ACRE FOR AG ASSESSMENT SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 20 AUGUST 2002, REDUCES THE SIZE OF THE PARCELS OF LAND USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO ENABLE SMALLER FARM OPERATIONS TO QUALIFY FOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT STATUS FOR PURPOSES OF ASSESSMENT REDUCTIONS.
2. ELIMINATION OF COUNTY RULE - ELIMINATES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY APPROVAL FOR THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN HORSE BOARDING OPERATIONS AS LAND USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.
3. HUMANE TRANSPORT CHANGES SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 23 JULY 2002 PROVIDES THAT EVERY VEHICLE UTILIZED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF MORE THAN SIX HORSES SHALL HAVE NO MORE THAN ONE TIER.
4. RESTRICTING TOWN CONTROLS ON FARMING SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 6 AUGUST 2002 RESTRICTS TOWN AND VILLAGE REGULATION OF FARM OPERATIONS TO CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY IS THREATENED.
5. TBRED PAYMENTS FOR AG ASSESS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 17 SEPTEMBER 2002 INCLUDES CERTAIN PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE TERM "GROSS SALES VALUE" AS IT RELATES TO AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.
6. CANAL ADOPT A TRAIL PROGRAM SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 23 JULY 2002 ESTABLISHES A CANAL ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM TO REDUCE AND REMOVE LITTER AND DEBRIS AND TO ENHANCE THE APPEARANCE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CANALWAY TRAIL AND RELATED FACILITIES.

NYSHC NON-LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

- RECIPIENT OF \$100,000.00 STATE GRANT FOR CAZENOVIA TRAIL SYSTEM LINKING STATE LANDS ACROSS PRIVATE LAND
- NYSHC SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR MEMBER STUDENTS ATTENDING NYS COLLEGES
- IDENTIFIED NEW YORK HORSE RESCUE FARMS TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO SELLING AT AUCTION FOR SLAUGHTER.
- WORKED ACTIVELY WITH DEC, OPHRP, CANAL AUTHORITY, AND THRUWAY COMMISSION FOR ESTABLISHMENT, MAINTENANCE AND CONVERSION OF TRAILS TO EITHER EQUESTRIAN OR MULTI-USE TRAILS. SPECIFICALLY DEC OTTER CREEK AND BROOKFIELD TRAIL SYSTEMS.
- PROVIDE EQUESTRIAN DELEGATES TO NYS TRAILS COUNCIL FOR STATEWIDE MULTI USE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT.
- FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE NYS EQUINE INDUSTRY LEADERS COMMITTEE, A GROUP OF INDUSTRY, EDUCATIONAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER LEADERS IN THE EQUINE FIELD AFFILIATED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE HORSE IN NEW YORK.
- FIRST NATIONAL TRAIL RIDE IN CENTRAL PARK.
- PRIME MOVER FOR THE 2000 EQUINE CENSUS.
- DEVELOPMENT OF A "FIT FOR SALE" BROCHURE, WHICH WILL DEFINE THE PROPER CONDITION, AN EQUINE MUST BE IN BEFORE IT IS SOLD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AG AND MKTS LAWS.
- DEVELOPED MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CARE BROCHURE FOR EQUINE OWNERS.
- NYSHC DISASTER PLANNING FOR HORSES BOOKLET THAT IS NOW USED THROUGHOUT THE STATE
- NYSHC ANNUAL DIRECTORY STARTED IN 2000.

THE MILLENNIUM HORSE MEDALLION PROGRAM

- PROGRAM FOR NYS RESIDENT HORSES AND THEIR RIDERS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM THROUGH EQUESTRIAN SPORTS
- ORIGINATED IN 2000 WITH GRANT FOR \$100,000.00.
- SECOND GRANT FOR \$100,000.00 RECEIVED 2001
 - \$100 PRIZE MONEY PER DIVISION AT LOCAL SHOWS
 - \$3000 PER DIVISION, AND \$500 HIGH POINT AWARD PER DIVISION AT NEW YORK STATE FAIR FINALS.
 - OVER \$150,000.00 PRIZE MONEY PRESENTED AT LOCAL SHOWS AND NYS FAIR DURING 2000, 2001 AND 2002
- FUTURE YEARS WILL BE FUNDED THROUGH SPONSORSHIP DONATIONS.

NYSHC LEGISLATIVE PLAN FOR 2003

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WILL BE WORKED ON IN SOME WAY NEXT YEAR:

1. PROVIDES THAT AN OWNER OF LAND WHO HAS RECEIVED AN AGRICULTURAL REAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 10 YEARS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN OPEN SPACE REAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT IF THE OWNER AGREES TO MAINTAIN THE LAND IN ITS PRESENT CONDITION.
2. CREATES A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PASTURE LANDS OF NOT LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE ACRES USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.
3. EXEMPTS HORSESHOEING SUPPLIES AND SERVICES FROM SALES AND USE TAXES.
4. PROVIDES THAT THE FINES FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH THE NEW YORK HUMANE TRANSPORT LAW BE RAISED TO MATCH FUTURE FEDERAL LEVELS.
5. INCLUDES WITHIN ARSON IN THE SECOND DEGREE CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE AN INTENTIONALLY SET FIRE RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS, FARM ANIMALS OR PETS
6. INCLUDES FIELD CROPS GROWN AND CONSUMED ON A FARM BY ANIMALS ON SUCH FARM FOR PURPOSES OF DEFINING LAND USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
7. REQUIRES APPROPRIATE SHELTER FOR ANIMALS
8. PROHIBITS THE SALE OF DISABLED ANIMALS BY ANY PERSON OTHER THAN AT A SHERIFF'S OR JUDICIAL SALE
9. INCREASES PENALTIES FOR CRUELTY TO ANIMALS AND PROVIDES FOR DISPOSITION OF FINES IMPOSED
10. RELATES TO THE REPORTING OF ANIMAL ABUSE OR MALTREATMENT
11. RELATES TO THE LIABILITY OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN EQUINE ACTIVITIES
12. REQUIRES HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES TO HAVE REFLECTIVE MATERIAL ATTACHED FROM DUSK UNTIL DAWN
13. REGULATES THE USAGE OF PHENYL BUTAZONE ON RACE HORSES
14. ALLOWS THE USAGE OF LASIX ON HORSES

CURRENT/FUTURE NYSHC PROJECTS:

- ADOPTION OF FIT FOR SALE AND MINIMUM STANDARDS AS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS APPROVED DOCUMENTS.
- DEVELOPING HORSE TOURISM PACKAGE FOR INCLUSION IN THE I LOVE NY BROCHURE.
- DEVELOPING HORSEBACK RIDING PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.
- DEVELOPMENT OF NYSHC CHAPTERS AT THE SUNY AND PRIVATE IN-STATE UNIVERSITIES THAT HAVE EQUINE PROGRAMS.
- DEVELOPMENT OF A NYSHC FOUNDATION TO ENABLE ACTIVE STUDIES AND RESEARCH OF INTEREST TO NY HORSE OWNERS.
- INCREASING THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR EQUINE STUDENTS.
- CREATING A RESCUE FARM COALITION, SETTING STANDARDS AND ASSISTING IN FUNDING.
- GRASSROOTS EFFORTS FOR PASSAGE OF “INHERENT RISK” LAW FOR THE STATE OR DEVELOPING A MECHANISM TO DECREASE THE INSURANCE COSTS TO AN ALREADY MARGINAL BUSINESS SECTOR.
- INCREASING TRAILS, TRAIL AWARENESS AND TRAIL USAGE THROUGHOUT THE STATE.
- \$1M SADDLEPARTNERS PERSONAL LIABILITY PROGRAM

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