

Rolex Kentucky Prompts Recommended Changes to Eventing Safety Regulations

At the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in April, Laine Ashker suffered a serious fall during the cross-country stage of the competition. Laine's horse and another involved in a separate accident had to be euthanized.

These accidents come just a month after Darren Chiacchia, an Olympic rider, had a serious fall at an event in Tallahassee, Florida. They also come in the wake of a recent article in the New York Times about 15 rider fatalities in cross country that have occurred worldwide over the last two years.

This spate of accidents has raised important and potentially troubling questions for those who govern the sport: Why are so many riders and horses having accidents? Is there more that can be done to make cross country safer? Is the sport just too dangerous?

There is no question that eventing is a demanding and yes, risky sport. Riders cross undulating terrain at high speed and jump a series of challenging fences – all while atop a 1,000 pound horse. So there is a constant need for regulating officials to ensure that every precaution is taken to reduce the risk of injury to riders and horses.

Although several measures have been implemented to improve safety over the last year, clearly more needs to be done. The USEF is redoubling efforts to identify additional steps to ensure that riders and horses can compete as safely as possible.

The USEF has proposed that within the U.S. the following five initiatives be put into effect:

1. If a horse has a rotational fall, horse and rider are suspended

from competing for three or six months

2. If a horse has a rotational fall, horse and rider lose their qualification at the level at which they are competing.

3. If a rider falls off on the course they are eliminated.

4. Open oxers on courses at every level are made frangible.

5. If a horse falls related to a jump both horse and rider are suspended from competing for one month.

The USEF invites horse enthusiasts to attend the USEF/USEA Safety Summit to be held in Lexington, KY June 7-8. They will break down the issue of safety and examine the causes and potential solutions with some of the best minds in eventing. If you have immediate thoughts about how USEF can improve the safety of cross country, please email them at: safetythoughts@usef.org and/or safety@useventing.com.

Fergus BY JEAN ABERNETHY



www.FergusTheHorse.com

Youth News

Youth T-Shirt Design Contest Winner



The Kentucky Horse Council received several T-shirt design contest submissions. Regretably we could only choose one to win the i-Pod shuffle prize. The winner of the T-shirt design contest is Maddy Fritz of

Henderson. The design that she submitted will be printed on KHC Youth T-shirts and distributed to our youth members soon. Runner up is Chelsea Whittle of Lawrenceburg, and honorable mention is Lindsey Howland of Lancaster.

Fund Raising for Hungry Horses

First grade students at the Ann Seton Catholic school in Lexington raised \$500 by doing chores around the house. Parents then matched the funds so that \$1,000 was donated to the SoHo (Save Our Horses) fund. Organizing a

student fund raising event for SoHo is easy, fun, and supports a



Ann Seton students with Mandy (the horse) & Ginny Grulke, Executive Director.

good cause. If your group is interested in learning more about fundraising for SoHo contact Essie at 859-367-0509 or email admin@kentuckyhorse.org.

What's Happening at KHC

Equine Abuse Investigation Training

The Kentucky Horse Council sponsored an equine abuse investigation training May 22-23



for animal control officers and other county officials responsible for investigating Kentucky cases of equine abuse and neglect.

Thanks to the support of Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, and Modern Woodmen of America, twenty-four officials were able to attend the training, which included gathering evidence, body condition scoring, networking with local officials, and much more. There will be another training in the fall.

New Horse Owner Education

The KHC Education Committee is working with a production company to create a 10 part series of educational videos for the new horse owner. The videos will be offered on our new website and should be available in 2009.

Grants

KHC recently awarded grants to the following non-profit organizations:

Blue Grass Farms Chaplaincy, Lexington: \$3,000 to outfit a classroom offering training in English as a Second Language, parenting classes, and medical clinics for farm workers.

Campbell Lodge Boys Home, Cold Springs: \$7,200 to purchase an arena maintenance tool and supplies for leadership education using horses.

Green County 4-H Youth Development, Greensburg: \$10,000 to build bleachers for their new show arena.

Kentucky Large Animal Emergency Response Team, Versailles:

\$10,000 to purchase equipment and supplies to use during large animal emergency rescues.

Kicking & Screaming: A day with the Trainer, Lexington: \$1,000 to pay trainer fees and arena rental costs.

M.R. Riders 4-H Club, Cold Springs: \$1,000 to purchase coolers for endurance horses to wear at year round competitions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

For more information about KHC grants or to apply for a grant, visit www.kentuckyhorse.org.

Annual Conference

The Kentucky Horse Council Annual Conference and Meeting is tentatively scheduled for **November 16, 2008**. Please save the date!

If you are an equine professional interested in presenting at the conference or to volunteer to help plan the event, please contact Essie at 859-367-0509 or admin@kentuckyhorse.org.

Note from the KHC President

These have been the best of times and the worst of times. The horse community in Kentucky experienced a difficult winter and now that spring is here, we have lost horses in prominent sporting events. Our thoughts are with those owners as we all know what it is like to lose one of our beloved horses.

But some good will come out of this. The industry is taking a hard look at some of the issues that plague our events. Racing will address track surfaces and drugs. Eventing will address the preparedness of its competitors. And we must all address issues related to indiscriminate breeding.

Ginny, Anna Zinkhon, Kristin Hix and I will be in Washington, DC in June for the American Horse Council Issues Forum and the State Horse Council Advisory Committee meetings. I look forward to bringing back the highlights of those meetings to share with you.

Ginny and Essie are both celebrating the green grass as we are finally seeing a decrease in the number of horses reported as neglected. You should know that the Kentucky Horse Council, through our own resources and generous donations, was able to help feed 242 horses in 19 counties throughout the Commonwealth. But our work is not done. We continue to work to see that laws are in place to address the needs of the neglected horse and that animal control personnel are appropriately trained.

You will find information on page 8 about the Adoption Fair on June 28th at the Kentucky Horse Park. We are so grateful that this need has been addressed and thank those at the park who have been so instrumental in making this happen. From a simple meeting in March to a full fledged event – these are the things that can happen when we work together. I understand there are some really great items in the silent auction too.

And until our paths cross, Have a Great Spring!

Madelyn Millard, President
Waterwild Farm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Kentucky Equine Humane Center

Nicholasville, KY. Volunteers are the heart and soul of KyEHC. Without volunteers, we can't operate.

Help is needed not only with the horses, but with the maintenance and office sides of the center. Please call today ~ even if you only have a few hours to give, we'd love to have you!

To volunteer contact Jennifer Tosch at JTosch@kyehc.org or Lori Neagle at info@kyehc.org or please call the office at 859-881-5849.

Special note: Link from www.kyehc.org to Country Supply to make pet supply purchases and KyEHC receives a 5% rebate.



Buckland Equine Rescue, Inc

The Buckland Estate
8099 Maysville Road
Carlisle, KY 40311
859-473-3100
BucklandEquineRescue.org

Kentucky Horse Park Foundation

Volunteers Needed, No Horse Experience Required
Contact: Gina Beare
gina.beare@khpfoundation.org
859-259-4267

Mountain View Rescue

Columbia, KY. Volunteers are an important part of MVR. We welcome those who wish to participate in offering new lives to the horses, ponies, foals and other animals with unhappy pasts. No equine experience required.

Volunteers must be 12 years old, minors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We look forward to working with you to make MVR a safe haven for our equine residents and to help the owners of equines keep their horses healthy, happy and at home.

For more information visit <http://www.mountainviewrescue.com/BeActive.htm>.



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Kentucky 2010

- ◆ There will be an Equine Pavilion at the 2010 World Equestrian Games featuring breed and other equine demonstrations as well as an information area. Currently 14 equine organizations have committed to exhibiting at the Games, primarily in the new Equine Pavilion. Booth space is still available and more information is available by visiting the games website.
- ◆ The deadline for the submission of proposals for equine demonstrations and special events has been extended until September 1, 2008. Interest in this program remains strong from the equine community. More information can be obtained by contacting Holley Groshek at hgroshek@feigames2010.org.
- ◆ Speakers are available to present information about the games to community, civic, equestrian, and other groups throughout the state. If you would like a representative from the speakers bureau to attend your next meeting please contact Melissa Gamble at mgamble@feigames2010.org

For more information visit www.feigames2010.org



DID YOU KNOW?

UK College of Agriculture is having a Field Day “Agriculture in a New Bioeconomy” at Spindletop Farm, Lexington, KY June 12 from 2-8 p.m.

For more information and other equine events visit http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/equine_calendar.shtml. To have your event added to the Horse Council online calendar email info@kentuckyhorse.org.

State veterinarian Robert C. Stout reminds Kentucky livestock producers that state law spells out how to dispose of dead animals properly.

“Animal losses are an unfortunate fact of life on the farm,” Dr. Stout said. “It’s also unfortunate that some producers fail to take action to dispose of their dead animals legally and prevent the carcasses from becoming a health hazard. My office gets more complaints on animal carcasses than on any other subject. The law is very clear on how and when to dispose of carcasses, and I hope producers will follow the law to protect their farms and be considerate of their neighbors.”

KRS 257.160 provides specific directions on disposing of animal carcasses by incineration, burial,

proper disposal in a landfill and composting. The law also permits



removal of a carcass by a licensed rendering establishment. Dr. Stout said some counties still have services that pick up carcasses on the farm. Your county judge-executive’s office can advise you on the removal services available

in your area.

State law says an animal owner shall dispose of a carcass within 48 hours after it is found unless it is preserved in cold storage.

The first violation of KRS 257.160 is punishable by a fine of \$100-\$500. Subsequent offenses are punishable by fines of \$500-\$1,000, up to 30 days in jail or both fines and jail time.

For more information on proper disposal of animal carcasses, contact the state veterinarian’s office at (502) 564-3956 or consult with your local officials.

Thinking of Breeding Your Mare? *by Tommy Garland*

This article was reprinted in its entirety with permission from *Equus Source*.

It's springtime...and most mares will start coming back into season. Are you thinking of breeding your mare this year? If so, think about a few things before you set out to pick a studly mate.

- If you don't have a quality mare – stop right now! Do not breed your mare because she is lame or because she isn't quiet enough for the show ring or to trail ride. You may think that you'd like to have another 4-legged buddy to feed, but why not spend some time rethinking that thought. Do you have a serious goal in mind for what you want to do with your foal? You certainly don't need to breed a mare just to get a companion animal. What are your hopes and ambitions for that foal? Can you justify all the labor, time and expenses that come with breeding your mare and having a foal?
- Don't buy the price...A cheap stud fee shouldn't be the main attraction to picking a stallion. After all, the stud fee will be the cheapest of the costs that go along with having another 4-legged critter around. Conversely, breeding to a high quality stallion with an expensive stud fee isn't going to guarantee that your mare will pop out a baby with all of the stallion's fabulous traits.
- Don't buy color...You can flip through all the stallion directories in the world and look at potential fathers for your foal-to-be. But so much of how a foal turns out depends on the mare's genotype and phenotype.
- Pick a stallion that will complement your mare. If you have a short, thick, boxy QH mare and you have a goal of getting a refined horse to show in the hunters, don't breed her to a draft horse. If you have a large pony mare and you would like to get a small or medium pony, be very careful of the size of the stallion you choose.
- There are lots of ways to research the stallion you are interested in. Make sure to review his bloodlines, offspring, reputation in the industry and show record. It's also good to pick a stallion whose owners are easy to deal with. Does the stud fee come with a Live Foal Guarantee? Can semen be shipped?
- Lastly, are you truly prepared to cater to a pregnant mare and then a newborn foal? As I said earlier – the stud fee will be the cheapest part of the endeavor.

Best of luck with your adventure into breeding. Please remember to have a realistic goal for your intended foal before you breed your mare.

Before you Breed, Consider the Life of the Foal

Before you breed your mare take a moment to consider the life of her foal from birth to death. If there isn't a clear plan for the potential foal, think again. Too often horses are bred without clear intentions, thus creating an excess number of horses. When the owner of that horse is no longer able to provide care, the horse becomes an "unwanted" horse.

Unfortunately, the number of unwanted horses exceeds the resources currently available to accommodate them. The estimated cost of providing basic care for a horse ranges from \$1,800-\$2,400 annually. Currently, there are not enough volunteers, funding or placement opportunities for all of the unwanted horses.

No accurate figures document how many unwanted horses actually exist, their age and sex, the breeds represented, how many are purebred versus grade, their most recent use, their value or what happens to them in the long run.

The Unwanted Horse Coalition hopes teaching people to own responsibly will help lower the number of unwanted horses. For more information about the Unwanted Horse Coalition or to see the pamphlet "Own Responsibly", visit www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

News From Washington, D.C.

After months of negotiations between the House and Senate, Congress finally passed the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the Farm Bill. President Bush vetoed the bill because of the overall cost, which approaches \$300 billion. Subsequently on May 22 Congress overrode the veto. Due to a clerical error one title of the Farm Bill concerning trade remains in limbo. However, all other titles of the bill including several provisions that benefit the horse industry are now law.

The Farm Bill includes the following changes affecting commercial equine farmers:

Equine Farmers and Ranchers Eligible for Emergency Loans

A provision in the bill makes horse breeders eligible for the first time for emergency federal loans

following a disaster. This change includes "equine farmers and ranchers" within the group of producers specifically eligible for these federal emergency loans.

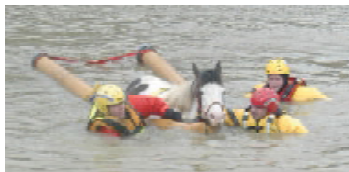
Horse breeders have not been eligible for these loans, which have been available to other livestock producers. Horse breeders suffer losses from hurricanes, drought, ice, floods and other natural disasters just like other livestock producers do. This provision will end the disparate treatment of horses and horse breeders by making them eligible for emergency loans under the same conditions and limits as other livestock producers. Again, the horse industry owes thanks to Senator McConnell for his efforts in passing this provision.

Horses Specifically Included as Livestock in Disaster Assistance Program

The Farm Bill also includes a new disaster assistance program that will provide relief funds to farmers and ranchers who suffer losses in areas that are declared disaster areas by USDA. This program is intended to make funds available to producers sooner following a disaster. Horses are specifically included within the definition of livestock eligible for the program. The inclusion of horses was pursuant to an amendment offered by Senator Bunning to the Senate Farm Bill and was kept by the conference committee.

The horse industry has been working for these last two changes for some time. The industry is now treated like other livestock producers with respect to federal emergency programs.

Regional News from the Northern Kentucky Horse Network



The Northern Kentucky Technical Rescue Team and the Northern Kentucky Horse Network recently partnered to host a Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue training. A select group of emergency personnel and livestock owners attended the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER, www.tlaer.com) training on April 12, 13 & 14, 2008.

The Northern Kentucky Technical Rescue Team (NKTRT) is a specially trained team of emergency responders who deal with emergencies that exceed standard firefighter and paramedic training. NKTRT serves as a resource for large animal rescues in the Northern Kentucky area. In the event of an emergency, the NKTRT team is dispatched at the request of the local fire department or emergency responders. Although the team is based out of Kenton and Boone Counties, and in a working relationship with the Alexandria Fire Department, it is a regional team that responds when dispatched anywhere in the state and has responded to incidents in Kenton, Boone, Pendleton, and Grant counties as well as the Red River Gorge Area.

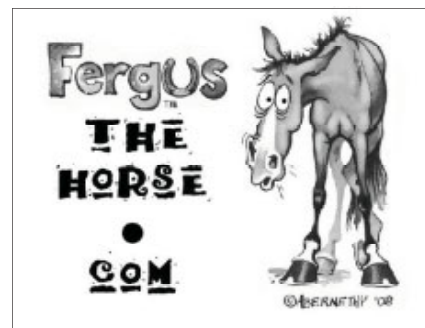
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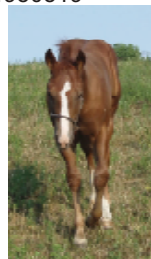
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The John Henry Memorial

EQUINE ADOPTION FAIR

at the Kentucky Horse Park

The Kentucky Horse Council, Kentucky Horse Park, and Secretariat Center are working together to host an Equine Adoption Fair on June 28, 2008 at 6 p.m. The Equine Adoption Fair will be held in the Breeds Barn at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Twenty horses will be offered for private adoption at the event. Additionally all Kentucky Equine Rescue organizations are invited to attend the fair with a display booth or table.

For free booth space please contact Essie at 859-367-0509 or admin@kentuckyhorse.org. To bring horses offered for adoption contact Kathy Hopkins at 859-259-4291.

Kentucky Agricultural News Online

A new online newsletter tells readers about nutritious, great-tasting Kentucky Proud products, interesting events, and vital services the Kentucky Department of Agriculture provides to every Kentucky family every day.

The KDA's Kentucky Agricultural News Online launched May 15.

"This e-newsletter will be an excellent way to get important information to subscribers in a timely fashion," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "We hope you will find it to be a useful source of news about the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as well as all of Kentucky agriculture."

The inaugural issue includes a feature about Kentucky agritourism, reports on Kentucky Proud producers, articles of interest to Kentucky farmers, reminders of upcoming events, a message from Commissioner Farmer, and more.

Kentucky Agricultural News Online will be published on the 15th and 30th of each month.

To receive e-mail notices that a new issue has been published, go to www.kyagr.com/pr/newscenter/subscribe.aspx and fill out the form. Commissioner Farmer encourages readers to pass this link on to friends, associates or others who might be interested.

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