

March 2010

UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE AND COMPETITIVE RIDES ASSOCIATION



2010 Ride Schedule

April 17-18	Brighton Competitive	Howell, MI
April 24-25	Iron Oak	Arkdale, WI
May 1-2	MnDRA I	Orrock, MN
May 1-2	White River Spring	Hesperia, MI
May 8-9	Glacier Trails	Palmyra, WI
May 14-16	Run for the Border	Wolf Creek, WI
May 15-16	Dead Dog Creek	Kinmundy, IL
May 22-23	AHDRA I - M-BYR	Wyanet, IL
May 29-30	Grand Island	Rapid River, MI
Jun 5-6	Maplewood West	Pelican Rapids, MN
Jun 5-6	ApDRA	Palmyra, WI
Jun 12-13	White River Summer	Hesperia, MI
Jun 18-20	S. E. Minnesota	Forestville, MN
Jun 19-20	Prairie Smoke I/II	Bismarck, ND
Jun 26-27	Hopkins Creek	Manton, MI
Jun 26-27	AHDRA 1.5 - Zumbro Bottoms Boogie	
Jul 2-4	Endless Valley	Spring Green, WI
Jul 9-11	AHDRA II - Endure for the Cure	Washington, IL
Jul 10-11	Mosquito Run	Rogers, MN
Jul 10-11	AHAM	Augusta, MI
Jul 17-18	Oak Leaf Run	Wayland, MI
Jul 23-25	Wildcat	Neillsville, WI
Jul 24-25	Salomonie Sizzler	
Jul 31	Warm Up	Oscoda, MI
Aug 2-6	Shore to Shore	Lake Huron to Lake Michigan
Aug 7	Cool Down	Empire, MI
Aug 7-8	Louise Riedel Memorial	Arkdale, WI
Aug 14-15	Thistle Down Run	Frazee, MN
Aug 21-22	Rock River Charity	Utica, IL
Aug 28-29	Northern Highland	Florence, WI
Sept 4	White River Fall	Hesperia, MI
Sept 5-6	White River Labor Day	Hesperia, MI
Sept 11-12	Charity Cup	Pillager, MN
Sept 11-12	Keweenaw	Lake Linden, MI
Sept 11-12	Lincoln Trails	Kinmundy, IL
Sept 18-19	Colorama Classic	New Prospect, WI
Sept 18-19	Tin Cup Springs	Luther, MI
Sept 25-26	Run for the Ridge	Fairfax, MN
Sept 30-Oct 3	DRAWARAMA - Pioneer Ride	Palmyra, WI
Sept 2-3	Pine Marten Run	Nahma Junction, MI
Sept 8-10	Brighton Competitive - Fall	Howell, MI
Oct 22-24	Point Chaser	Hinckley, MN
Oct 30-31	AHDRA III - Big River	Keithsburg, IL

Iron Oak - New and Improved for 2010!

The Midwest Distance Driving Association Board is very excited about this year's Iron Oak event! The event will be two days Saturday April 24th and Sunday April 25th and will include for the first time a 25 mile Limited Distance ride each day sanctioned by UMECRA and MDDA.

A Competitive Clinic will be offered on Saturday which will include; competitive rules for riding and driving, conditioning, pulse and respiration, scoring and vet checks. There will be 12 mile novice rides both days so this is a great event for your friends as an introduction to competitive riding. There will be a 6 mile drive on Saturday following the clinic for those wanting an introduction to competitive driving. There will also be a two day 50 mile competitive ride as well as 25 mile competitive rides and competitive drives on both days.

The event has moved to the Castle Rock Horse Trails near Arkdale, Wisconsin with super camping at the Ukarydee Campground. Call them direct for your camping reservation at 608-564-2233.

Mary Clapper and Jack Shea are working together to share the ride manager responsibilities and are both first time ride managers – so please give them a break! Review your schedule and make this ride a part of your conditioning plan. We look forward to seeing you there. Please see the ride flyer or go to <http://mdda.info> for more detailed information.

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Rates depend on the size of your ad and how many times you wish to run it:

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Classified 10 lines * \$.60 extra per line	\$6.00				
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Full Page	\$45.00	\$36.00 ea.	\$31.50 ea.	\$29.25 ea.	\$270.00
*Line = (65 Characters per line including spaces)					

Please send your ad to UMECRAnews@gmail.com. We can handle most common formats, such as Word, .pdf, or .jpg. The deadline for each issue is the last day of the previous month – newsletters are generally mailed by the 15th.

Please send payment for your ad to:

Jill Feller, UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer
N9280 Cty Hwy TW
Mayville, WI 53050

Checks should be made payable to UMECRA.

Help!!!

THERE IS A TRAVELING TROPHY FOR ROOKIE ENDURANCE AND FOR ROOKIE COMPETITIVE. I have not been able to obtain info as to who donated these and the reason for donation. Anybody who can pass that info on to any member of the awards committee would be appreciated. Thanks in advance for your help.
Max

Blanket Repair Made Easy!

Because horse blankets aren't cheap, knowing how to effectively repair them can save you hundreds of dollars. If you're on the road or trail and need a quick, immediate fix for a blanket tear, try one of the following:

2 of 8

- For small tears to Polyester blankets, use a cigarette lighter to melt small holes and frays. But be sure to use common sense and take the blanket OFF your horse before attempting.
- Duct Tape! It will hold a torn blanket together until you are able to better repair it.
- For larger tears and holes, use an iron-on or denim patch (available at discount department stores).

Some basic instructions for blanket repairs:

- Clean the blanket first and make sure it's completely dry before starting repairs.
- Assess the damage to find out if the tear is superficial or if it involves the inner lining or filling.
- Use an iron-on patch as the cheapest, easiest method for repair to the outer layer of a blanket or sheet. Trim it to fit, apply iron heat to the patch, and wait until it's completely cool to move the blanket.
- For larger tears or for ones that go through multiple layers of the blanket, sewing is your best bet. Use basic sewing strokes and sew from the underside of the blanket. Make it tight, but don't allow the material to bunch up.
- Your local tack or feed shop should be able to provide you with replacement buckles, hooks, or straps.
- If the damage is severe, particularly with waterproof blankets, it may still be more cost-efficient to hire a professional seamstress than to spend another hundred dollars or so on a new blanket.

Below is an excerpt on blanket care and repair from Thrifty Horsekeeping's "Tack and Supplies" chapter:

"Clean your horse's blankets and coolers each winter and at the end of the season before packing and storing them up for the rest of the year. This will prevent dirt and hair from getting ground into the material, and will prolong the blankets' lifespan. If possible, save money by not sending them to the dry cleaners, but cleaning them yourself while following the manufacturers' instructions. Cleaning blankets is often as simple as using a water hose, a stiff brush, inexpensive livestock shampoo, and, of course, some elbow grease. But depending on the material, many coolers and sheets can be machine washed. Polarfleece can easily be tossed in the washer and dryer, while cotton and wool goods should be washed in cold water and hung out to dry. If you put them in the dryer, they will quickly become pony-sized! When possible, try to repair rather than replace torn blankets, as many can be hand-sewn. The moment a blanket gets a small tear, repair it before it gets bigger. If you're not handy with a needle and thread, try easy and durable iron-on jean patches. They may not look

as pretty, but they're saving you money. Suitability Equestrian Patterns offers a wide variety of patterns for making (or repairing) your own sheets, blankets, pads, and even equestrian clothing, at www.Suitability.com.

Another thing to keep in mind are the surcingles on sheets and blankets that can become unbuckled after a good roll or romp in the pasture. If your horse steps on a dangling strap, not only will he tear the blanket but potentially injure himself. One cheap way to prevent surcingles from coming undone is to purchase rubber bands similar to donut farm animal castration bands. Stretch a band over the top of the "T" of the buckle and rest it around the neck so that the surcingle will not be able to jiggle loose."

From www.TheHorse.com

I Ride...

"I ride" taken from the journal of an 87 YO horse woman's journal

I ride. That seems like such a simple statement. However, as many women who ride know it is really a complicated matter. It has to do with power and empowerment; being able to do things you might once have considered out of reach or ability. I have considered this as I shovel manure, fill water barrels in the cold rain, wait for the vet/farrier/electrician/hay delivery, change a tire on a horse trailer by the side of the freeway, or cool a gelding out before getting down to the business of drinking a cold drink after a long ride.

The time, the money, the effort it takes to ride calls for dedication. At least, I call it dedication. Both my ex-husbands call it 'a sickness.' It's a nice sickness I've had since I was a small girl bouncing my plastic model horses and dreaming of the day I would ride a real horse. Most of the women I ride with understand that meaning of 'the sickness.'

It's not a sport. It's not a hobby. It's what we do and, in some ways, who we are as women and human beings. I ride. I hook up my trailer and load my gelding. I haul to some nice trailhead somewhere, unload, saddle up, whistle up my dog and I ride. I breathe in the air, watch the sunlight filter through the trees and savor the movement of my horse. My shoulders relax. A smile spreads across my weathered face. I pull my floppy hat down and let the real world fade into the tracks my horse leaves in the sand.

Time slows. Flying insects buzz loudly, looking like fairies. My gelding flicks his ears and moves down the trail. I can smell his sweat and it is perfume to my senses. Time slows. The rhythm of his walk and the movement of the leaves become my focus. My saddle creaks and the leather rein in my hand softens with the warmth.

I consider the simple statement: I ride. I think of all I do, because I ride. Climb rocky slopes, wade into a lily-pad lake, race a friend across the hayfield — all the while laughing and feeling my heart in my chest. Other days just the act of mounting and dismounting can be a real

accomplishment. Still I ride, no matter how tired or how much my sitter bones or any of my other acquired horse-related injuries hurt. I ride. And I feel a lot better for doing so.

I think of the people, mostly women that I've met. I consider how competent they all are. Not a weenie in the bunch. We haul 40 foot rigs. We back 'em up into tight spaces without clipping a tree. We set up camp, tend the horses. We cook and keep our camp neat. We understand and love our companion — our horses.

We respect each other and those we encounter on the trail. We know that if you are out there riding, you also shovel, fill, bathe, wait and doctor. Your hands are a little rough and you travel without makeup or hair gel. You do without to afford the 'sickness' and probably, when you were a small girl you bounced a little model horse while you dreamed of riding a real one.

My treasures do not chink or glitter. They gleam in the sun and neigh in the night.

Back Tracking...

Coming back from the annual UMECRA convention in January, I thought it would be nice to put some facts on paper.

The first official meeting of THE UPPER MIDWEST ENDURANCE RIDE, INC. was held Sunday, Nov. 12, 1972 at Black River Falls, WI. at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Holder. One of the decisions made at the meeting was the following: At the end of 1973 there will be awards for the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Endurance Horse in each weight division, being light-weight and heavy-weight and a Grand Champion.

On Jan. 19, 1974 the first UMECRA convention held was held at the Branding Iron in Preston, MN.

The convention was called to order by President Ralph Larson and the official title was Upper Midwest Endurance Ride Assn, Inc.

The treasury showed a balance of \$190.66 with an outstanding bill for around \$70.00.

A meal was served to approximately 50 persons, with the 1973 yearend awards then presented.

First Place L.W. Competitive - awarded to Dawn Bonnicksen on Bargain

First Place H.W. Competitive - awarded to Kathy Morstad on El Lamar

First Place L.W. Endurance- awarded to Gail Price on Stanley

First Place H.W. Endurance – awarded to Louise Riedel on Caprison.

All the awards were presented to horse and rider as a unit in each weight division.

A trophy was awarded to the rider who accumulated the most number of points in all division on any number of horses. There was a tie for the award by Marie Larson and Kathy Morstad each with a total of 48 points.

The 40th Convention of UMECRA will be held in Jan. 2012 at Rockford, Ill. It is planned to host part of the convention as a reunion. If anyone knows of a past rider, or participant in any way and has the mailing address please forward that information to this email address: wpwpw@tds.net. Also any photos from any rides.

Submitted by, L Engevold

Mentors Wanted!

Looking for UMECRA Mentors

Would you like to help others learn more about our sport?

- **Tell others about the fun, the friends, the fantastic times we have?**
- **Explain the basics of the conditioning and care of a distance horse?**
- **Partner with a new rider at their first ride?**
- **Help UMECRA's membership grow?**

If so, please email Marty Power (power@dtnspeed.net) with your contact information and we will list you as a mentor on the UMECRA website.

Thanks for considering giving back to the sport and the organization.

Marty

Strange Horse Laws

by SouthernTrails - January 5th, 2010, 6:04 pm

Omega, New Mexico - Every woman must "be found to be wearing a corset" when riding a horse in public. A physician is required to inspect each female on horseback, and ascertain whether or not the woman is, in fact, complying with this law!

Hartsville, Illinois - You can be arrested for riding an ugly horse.

A Wyoming community passed this one: "No female shall ride a horse while attired in a bathing suit within the boundaries of Riverton, unless she be escorted by at least two officers of the law or unless she be armed with a club," And continues with this amendment to the original: "The provisions of this statue shall not apply to females weighing less than ninety pounds nor exceeding two hundred pounds."

Abilene, Kansas, City Ordinance 349 declares: " Any person who shall in the city of Abilene shoot at a horse with any concealed or unconcealed bean snapper or like article, shall upon conviction, be fined."

A 1907 Cumberland County, Tennessee statute reads: "Speed while on horseback upon county roads will be limited to three miles an hour unless the rider sees a bailiff who does not appear to have had a drink in thirty days, then the horseman will be permitted to make what he can."

It is strictly against the law in Bicknell, Indiana, for a man to leave his new bride alone and go riding with his pals on his wedding day. The penalty is a week in jail.

Interested in Hosting A UMECRA Convention?

2011 – Rochester, MN

2012 – Rockford, IL – UMECRA 40th Anniversary!

2013 – Oconomowac, WI (proposed)

2014 – Open

2015 – Open – next out of corridor convention!

Bring your proposals to the Spring 2011 Board of Directors meeting!

ATTENTION RIDE MANAGERS:

If you have not received your copies of the Ride Manager/Vet Handbook by April 1st, please contact Theresa Meyer at tmeyer@tpt.org or 763-753-5236. They were mailed in the middle of March. Remember one copy belongs to you, the ride manager. The other copy, along with the vet signature sheet goes to your head vet. The vet signature sheet should be returned by your head vet to Dr. Wes Elford. If you have a brand new vet to your ride, I have a few extra copies of the handbook, please let me know and I can mail out an additional copy. Thank you!

Nominations for UMECRA Hall of Fame

Nominations will be taken until October 1st. Nominees are distinguished members of UMECRA. They could include riders, ride managers, officers, vets and volunteers. Please send your letter of nomination to Theresa Meyer at tmeyer@tpt.org or by mail to Theresa at 3028 181st Ave. NW, Cedar, MN 55011.

BOD Meeting
March 13, 2010
Ho Chunk, Wisconsin Dells

Present: Linda Mower, Bonnie Mielke, Marty Powers, Julie Jackson-Biegert, Marge Dixon, Peggy Pasillas, Peggy Brush, Jill Feller, Rick Nelson, Theresa Meyer, Lynn Reichert, Wayne Gastfield, Shelly Sentyrz, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wes Elford, Dianne Schmidt, Maxine Bernsdorf.
Guests: Aaron Mower, Linda Jacobson

Call to order by President Rick Nelson.
Welcome made to new board members; introductions were done for all board members.

Secretary's report: Motion was made by Marge Dixon to accept the secretary's report as was printed in the newsletter in February; 2nd by Peggy Brush: motion passed.

Treasurer's report was presented in the form of a balance sheet and the profit and loss state from January 1- March 9th. Motion made by Peggy Brush; seconded by Wayne Gastfield to accept report as presented: motion passed.

Old Business:

- ICF Committee: Peggy will be chair person for the new committee; other committee members will be Rick Nelson, Julie Roe, Tony Troyer and Lynn Reichert. The silent auction would be facilitated by this committee. More information on the committee will be presented in the upcoming newsletters.
- UMECRA Membership cards/numbers: In December the BOD had voted to provide UMECRA numbers and membership cards to all members beginning in 2010. A discussion was held in regards to the need for these numbers; if needed for record keeping purposes, the extra work to print the cards out will be done, but if there is no need for the numbers and cards, the extra work is not needed. Shelly brought forward that last year, Angie was trying to work with the "Rough Riders" software and the members numbers would have been needed; however, Angie has since quit using the software due to difficulties in the design of it therefore the member numbers are not needed. Motion was made by Wayne Gastfield and seconded by Marty Powers to not provide membership numbers and cards to UMECRA members. Motion passed.
- NC ride update: Jill and Peggy B. updated the board on where the NC ride is. The application has been sent in to AERC, but has not yet been accepted. The AERC BOD will be meeting in early April and a decision will be made at that time. Jill and Peggy asked for volunteers for some of the committees for the ride: Marge Dixon volunteered to chair the awards committee. Jill and Peggy also asked UMECRA for a loan of \$500 to start a checking account for the ride to keep all expenses separate and organized. A discussion was held about if UMECRA is supporting the NC ride or sponsoring the ride. The December BOD meeting minutes state: Motion was made by Peggy, seconded by Marty to have UMECRA step up and help DRAW with organizing the NC ride in 2011 and then split the finances (losses or gains). Any money gained

from this ride will be put into the trail fund. Motion passed. This statement is incorrect; UMECRA will only be supporting the NC ride; UMECRA will not be a sponsor of the ride. Motion was made by Marty Powers, seconded by Dianne Schmidt to 'loan' \$500 to the NC ride managers; the loan is contingent on having the 2011 NC ride awarded to the Midwest. Motion passed.

- Membership committee: Marty updated the board on the committee's activities and she also had more buttons of "Ask Me About Distance Riding" available for board members. Angie is getting signs made for RM's- she will send those to the first RM in each state to be passed to other rides. How will the certificates for Novice ride work? Jill has created a certificate to use and will send it to Joslyn Seefeldt and Shelly Sentyrz to put on the RM page on the website in PDF form for RM's to access. Linda Mower gave an update from the Illinois Horse Fair booth; it was very successful. Linda Rudolphi constructed a large Midwest map with all 2010 rides located on it; the map will be sent to the MN Horse Fair to use. The membership committee will also be posting a Frequently Asked Question list on the UMECRA website.

New Business:

- Conventions:
 - o 2010 update: all the bills are paid for the convention and there was not a financial loss.
 - o 2011 update: Dianne Schmidt will be the convention manager. The convention will be at the Marriott in downtown Rochester, MN with \$109/room. There will be a silent auction held during the weekend. Dianne is looking at new entertainment for Saturday night and the speaker. Ideas Dianne presented included an Elvis impersonator and conducting CPR classes on Saturday. The dates for the convention are January 14, 15 & 16, 2011.
 - o 2012 update: This convention is being planned as a 3 day convention; it is the 40th anniversary of UMECRA. Convention managers are Tony Troyer & Rick Nelson. The convention will be in Rockford, IL on January 19-22, 2012. There is a sponsor who will be assisting with the extra costs of the third day of the convention. On Friday a social event will be held to reminisce with past UMECRA members. Anyone having addresses of past UMECRA members should send that information to either Rick Nelson or Dianne Schmidt. Room rates for this convention are \$89/each.
 - o 2013 proposal: Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc on January 18-20, 2013. A discussion was held on having the convention more to the west part of the state: is it better attended? Motion was made by Joslyn Seefeldt; seconded by Wes Elford to accept the proposal for the 2013 convention. Motion passed.
 - o 2015: Wayne put in a bid for the convention in Clair, MI. Rooms \$95/each at the Dorthy Hotel. The cost of meal has not yet been determined. Dianne discussed hosting the 2015 convention in Fargo, ND that year (this is the year the convention would be out of the corridor). After a discussion, it was decided that both bids should be presented to the BOD for consideration at the fall 2010 BOD meeting. A communication will be put into the

newsletter asking for members to submit bids for 2014 or 2015 if they are interested in hosting a convention.

- Ride results in electronic format: Shelly explained (in Angie's absence) the issue with the points. If all the RM's use the correct Excel spreadsheet, Angie can just merge the document into the point's database. If a different spreadsheet is used, then Angie has to cut and paste all of the information into the database. The correct Excel spreadsheet was sent out to all RM's with the mailing that Shelly sent out. The spreadsheet is also available on the Ride Manager's page on the UMECRA website. Ride managers should only use that spreadsheet for submitting ride results. Any manager not able to submit an electronic copy of their ride results should contact Shelly Sentyrz for assistance. Note: some RMs are getting a rider to complete the points electronically in exchange for a free or reduced ride entry at their ride.

- Membership costs for 2011: The hard copy costs of the newsletter and the ride book were discussed. A motion was made by Peggy Brush, seconded by Theresa Meyer to increase the membership fees by \$10 for the 2011 season. A friendly amendment was discussed: All membership fees will be raised \$10 with a discount of \$10 being given for subscribing to the newsletter and ride book electronically. The friendly amendment was accepted: Motion passed. For 2011 the membership fees are \$45/family, \$35/single; members who choose to receive an electronic newsletter and the ride book electronically will be able to take advantage of a \$10 discount: thus the memberships would be \$35/family, \$25/single. The increase will be in effect in 2011; the new membership form will be available by fall.

- Junior membership: Linda Mower made a motion, seconded by Lynn Reichert to have a junior membership for \$25. Motion failed.

- Awards budget: the budget for 2010 awards is \$3044 from 2009 ride entries. This leaves the awards committee \$23 for the lesser awards and \$43 for top ten awards. Jackets cost about \$60 with the embroidery. The awards committee does not feel they can purchase nice awards for the money in the budget. Max asked the BOD for an additional \$600 for the awards. Motion made by Peggy Brush; seconded by Joslyn; motion passed.

- Membership directory: Should the membership directory be printed out yearly or bi-yearly? Should it be hard copy or electronic? After discussing the pros and cons of these issues, the BOD felt that a yearly membership directory will be printed in June and sent out to all members. The format and size of the directory will stay similar to what it has been in past year.

- Ride book in 2011: members will be encouraged to get the ride book electronically or pay the higher membership fees.

- Newsletter link or PDF: Members are encouraged to get the newsletter electronically. Joslyn is working with Bill Suskey on a program that can reduce the size of the PDF file making it more compatible to members with dial up Internet.

- Trail grant request: Dianne Schmidt requested a trail grant of \$250 for the Forestville State Park for trail maintenance. These are the trails that the SE MN ride

uses. Motion made by Maxine, seconded by Wes to approve the trail grant. Motion passed.

- Fall meeting date and place: The fall BOD meeting will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at Ho Chunk Casino at 11:30 am. Wes Elford offered his home for the meeting, but being that it is another 90 minutes from Wisconsin Dells, the location is not feasible for the meeting.

- Versatility Award: In the ride book, there is a nomination form to nominate for the Versatility award. This award was named after a past UMECRA member, Charles Phillips and is sponsored by the MI Distance Riding Association (GLDRA). On the form, there is no mention of whom the award is named after or who is sponsoring it. A MI member is concerned that members will forget the name associated with the award because of this oversight. In the ride book, all of the awards are listed along with who is sponsoring the awards and who the award is named after. A discussion was held about what the best way would be to keep members aware of these awards and the significance of the members whose names appear on the awards. Shelly Sentyrz volunteered to put together some 'book mark' like documentation that will be attached to the various awards in future years, along with presenting this information on the banquet tables at the annual convention.

- Advertising: Shelly has sent the ride schedule to about 50 publications who will publish it at no cost to UMECRA.

- Hall of Fame award: a nomination was given for the Hall of Fame award. Due to the nature of this award being a surprise, the submitted name will not be provided in the minutes. An article will be placed in the newsletter for other nominations. All nominations should be sent in to Theresa Meyer by October 1st to be considered for the award. Past members how have won this award include: Louise Reidel, Grace Ramsey, Dr. Robert Beecher, Bob Mielke, Wayne Gastfield, JoAnn Gernadt and Rick Nelson.

- Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer

Salt Choices

Horse Journal, March 2010

Buying salt with trace minerals added (the red blocks) may seem like a good idea, but odds are its not. When labeled for all types of livestock, these blocks do not provide enough copper and, if they do, they typically also contain too much iron and manganese. Iodine and selenium levels vary from none to high enough that you would need to watch your total intake from all sources. The iron and manganese levels alone are enough reason to stick to plain white salt.

Gov. Doyle Declares Month of the Horse in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle declared April as the Month of the Horse. Governor Doyle recognizes the importance of the equine industry in Wisconsin and passed his proclamation on February 1, 2010. Wisconsin State Horse Council (WSHC) petitioned for this proclamation to recognize the significant impact that Wisconsin's equine industry has on the state's economy. An economic impact survey completed by the UW-River Falls Research Center for WSHC indicates there are 325,000 horses in Wisconsin with an economic impact of \$1.4 billion, a significant portion of Wisconsin's \$232 billion Gross Domestic Product (2007). "We want to highlight the importance of horses, both culturally and economically," said Ken Carpenter, chairman of the WSHC Legislative Committee. "This is a great way to have the spotlight focused on our industry. Having April declared as the Month of the Horse also highlights our own Midwest Horse Fair, a nationally top-ranked horse expo, which draws crowds numbering 50,000+ during a 3-day weekend in April," says Ken. Midwest Horse Fair is a close second to World Dairy Expo as the two largest annual events held at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

Historically, horses provided transportation and were an important source of power for those who traveled to what was to become Wisconsin. Horses have always been a part

of our agricultural heritage and remain an important part of our rural economies. Culturally, horses have been a part of our consciousness since early man. Their prodigious strength pulled our wagons, carriages, and plows. Their athleticism thrills us in competition and performing. Their beauty and true character are captured in all art forms as well as literature and poetry. Today, the horse still occupies a place in our industrial society for recreation, sport, and work. They still work in the fields and forests and as a means of transportation and recreation.

Horses help boost the Wisconsin economy by billions of dollars per year:

- \$32 million in horse-associated revenues
- \$799 million in expenses
- \$1.4 billion in sales
- Provides 36,000 jobs that generate \$286 million in labor income; \$373 million in total income; and \$113 million in taxes
- Adds \$3.5 billion to value of properties

"As a part of Wisconsin's broad agricultural community, we want people to understand not only our contribution to the overall economy of Wisconsin, but also that being involved with horses promotes healthy lifestyles and good stewardship of the land," says Karen Kroll, president of WSHC. "We are honored to receive this proclamation from Gov. Doyle. Horsemen and women are pleased to be recognized in this manner."

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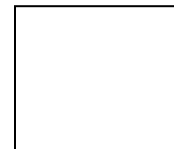
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