



# Horse Council Courier

*The Horsemen's Council of Illinois newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.*

## “Extreme Cowboy Race” in coliseum

### Cameron joined by Wilhelm, Gingerich at Illinois Horse Fair March 4-6

Lead clinician Craig Cameron, 2010 Road to the Horse Colt-Starting World Champion, will be joined at Illinois Horse Fair (March 4-6, State Fairgrounds, Springfield) by popular West Coast trainer Charles Wilhelm, “The Behaviorist” Ryan



Craig Cameron

Gingerich and riding clinic hosts Larry Whitesell (gaited horses) and Donna Irvin (barrel racing). Illinois Horse Fair is the largest gathering of horse owners in the state, expected to attract attendance in excess of 10,000. It is sponsored by Purina Mills, Midway Trailer Sales and Illinois Farm Bureau, and is produced as a fund-raiser by Horsemen's Council of Illinois to support its educational and legislative efforts.

Attendees come as much for the educational opportunities as for the 140 equestrian vendors, 25 breed/sport demonstrations, 75 horses for sale, stallion parade and more trailers for sale than at any other venue in the state.

Horse Fair includes opportunities to ride in training clinics with Craig Cameron, and Charles Wilhelm, plus Tim Boyer, Tim Austin and Brock Reinebach. Or ride for \$2,000 in cash prizes in Craig Cameron's Extreme Cowboy Race Friday and Saturday nights in the Coliseum.



Charles Wilhelm

A thrilling crowd-pleaser enhanced by

Cowboy Hall of Famer Cameron's narration from the arena floor, the race is a multifaceted equestrian sport that requires contestants and their horses to demonstrate both speed and horsemanship as they race the clock, riding over, under, around or through a series of challenging obstacles.

Riders also can participate in a Barrel



Boeding, aided by the current Miss Rodeo Illinois, Brooke M'lynn Owen.

All-Breed Gaited Riding expert Larry Whitesell's Clinic has sold out, but anyone with a ticket to Horse Fair may audit the clinic (or any other clinic) at no extra charge.

Tickets, applications and full particulars, along with complete hour-by-hour time/topic/venue schedules of all Horse Fair activities, are at [www.HorsemensCouncil.org/HorseFair](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org/HorseFair).

New arena demonstrations and training sessions include

- Preparing/Presenting the Western Pleasure Horse with AQHA judge and World/Congress champion trainer John Boxell

- French Classical Dressage presentations with Jill McCrae



Jill McCrae

- Hunt/Jump schooling with Amy Nelson-Mazur
- Getting to the Side Pass with Tim Boyer
- Prep for Cow Work and Ground Work training with Tim Austin and
- Sensitizing the Dull Horse training demonstration with Brock Reinebach.

Ryan Gingerich, “The Behaviorist,” will do a segment on retraining off-track Thoroughbreds for a new career, utilizing My Own Storm, a great-great-granddaughter of Secretariat, reclaimed from slaughter and given a permanent home by Elizabeth

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## President's Corner

### *The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry*



**Stand Up for the Horse!**

The long wait for spring and the resumption of our outdoor horse activities is nearly upon us. Spring is a time of change. Perhaps this spring, change will truly be in the air for Illinois horsemen – there are so many changes that our horse industry needs to reinvigorate itself. Although some changes are not really within our power to affect – a turnaround in our state economy being a grand example – there are a number of smaller changes that can make a big difference to some of us who enjoy various aspects of our far-flung industry.

As horsemen, we are part of an industry as varied as the face of the U.S. – it is at once our strength and our weakness. No matter what aspect of horses you enjoy, though, when one part of that industry gains, we all benefit. Likewise, weakening in one area diminishes us all. A good example of this can be found in Illinois' once vibrant horse racing industry.

Illinois horse racing, once the envy of most states, has been diminished to an also-ran. We had the opportunity to reinvigorate this industry and all the animals, horsemen and agricultural trade on which it depends with recent legislation. That legislation failed, in part because we as horsemen did not put aside our differences or look beyond our own specific horse interests, and we did not speak strongly enough for our industry. As a consequence, horse racing is not the only loser – state and county fairs, park districts, museums and aquariums, agricultural extension programs, Illinois veteran's programs, soil and water conservation, Chicagofest, higher education and research – we all lost. Proceeds from horse racing provide for all this and much more – did you know that?

Overall, Illinois is not a sterling example of a state that recognizes and appreciates the historical and present contributions of the horse to our state's supremacy in agriculture and commerce. Horsepower built Illinois, but as a state we are no longer horse-friendly. Did you know that in the year that Ronald Reagan was born in Illinois more than 80,000 horses were working the streets of Chicago? One hundred years later the ability to own a single horse anywhere near this city is difficult. Horses are being zoned out of city after city in Illinois. Horses are not even included in the agricultural census taken in Illinois or the U.S. Heck, even bees

are included in the Illinois agricultural data, but not horses...what gives?

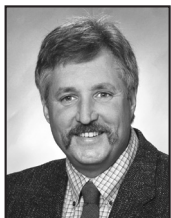
The strange irony of this official disregard for horses is that by our best estimates the equine population of the U.S. is about 9 million strong, and growing. These numbers may be a drop in the bucket compared with the 21+ million horses in the U.S. in 1915, before the automobile was widely available, but they are still nothing to sneeze at. As an agricultural commodity, horses outnumber sheep and goats combined, and their numbers are about equal to the dairy cow population in the U.S. – holy cow, indeed! Although time after time, the vast majority of Americans surveyed say that they admire or even love horses, most Americans have never even touched a real horse. Lack of familiarity makes it so much easier to allow laws that push these animals that once lived side-by-side with all of us to a narrower and narrower space in our society.

So, why are horses and the horse industry ignored by our lawmakers and our agriculture departments? Sadly, part of this is our own fault. As horse lovers and owners, we are the first line of defense against the shrinking of our industry, but we are so busy taking care of our horses' immediate needs that we are often too busy to take care of our horse industry's long-term health. That's where you as horse owners and the Horsemen's Council of Illinois can work together. Representing and defending horses and the horse industry in Illinois is what the Horsemen's Council of Illinois is all about; our mission is to "protect and educate Illinois' diverse horse industry and promote more interaction with horses." But, we can't do it alone. We need the power of the voices of Illinois' 77,000 horse owners!

How do we reinvigorate our industry in Illinois? Support HCI – with your membership, with your time, with your voice, with your actions. Attend the Illinois Horse Fair and the Illinois Equine Lifestyle Expo – heck, bring your non-horse owning friends to Horse Fair – there's lots to see. Display your love of horses proudly – HCI is working on an equine-themed license plate to benefit our industry – help us succeed in our mission and then buy one! Take every opportunity to share the message that horses make better humans. Sponsor an open house at your farm – invite your neighbors and friends who know nothing of horses and introduce them to this marvelous animal. Volunteer to go to your local public school

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# Executive Director's Report



## New Job, Bigger Hat

Stepping down from the presidency of the HCI Board after more than seven years seems a little like retirement, I've never been busier!!! The HCI Directors recognized the need to drive the organization forward, kick it into the next gear and get things rolling again for the horse community in Illinois. We have been discussing the need for an executive director for several years, but due to the infamous Horse Fair that wasn't in 2008 those plans were set on the back burner for a while. But in order to be vibrant, any association, like HCI, really needs people who can get 'er done. The Directors determined the most economical and effective way to do that, in the short term anyway, was to combine the work

I'm already doing for the organization at the statehouse along with a push toward strengthening the association, building membership, developing strategic partners, encouraging benevolent sponsors to step forward, and actually doing the things that need to be done to achieve the goals they've set for the year. It's a tall order that I hope I can live up to for you and the horses. I'm really looking forward to working closely with Dr. Sheree King and the entire Board to make their vision of the association a reality for you.

## HCI Goes Social - Facebook, Twitter, Constant Contact

Many of you have already joined HCI on our social media adventure. The Horsemen's Council of Illinois, the Equestrian Lifestyle Expo and the Illinois Horse Fair have all created Facebook pages where we hope you will join us as

we build an online community to keep up with current Council news, events around the state, and receive updates on Horse Fair and Expo as well as receive updates, alerts and join in discussions on legislative issues that probably affect your life with horses.

You can now follow HCI on Twitter, too @horsecouncil.

HCI has also launched an email member contact newsletter with current news and events from around the horse world, full of timely and relevant information you can use around the barn. We hope you will join our list (there's a link on the HCI Facebook page), find the new format valuable, and let your friends know about it, too.

Stop by and see us at the Illinois Horse Fair. I'm looking forward to hearing your thoughts and constructive suggestions on how to make your life with horses the best it can possibly be. *Frank Bowman*

*continued from page 2*

and talk about horses, better yet, consider letting school groups tour your farm. Let our next generation of Illinoisians discover how great it is to know a horse. Contribute to one of Illinois' horse-associated humane organizations – not the Humane Society of the United States – remember, local is

better. Take a friend to a horse show and whoop and holler. Take that trail ride that you have been promising yourself – and take a friend. Above all, don't take your horse-owning privilege for granted – celebrate it, defend it, promote it – if you don't, you may be in danger of losing it.

Don't worry; I won't always browbeat you in my messages as HCI President. But I do feel the need to wake us all up from our long winter slumber and do something to rededicate ourselves to the animal that we all love.

Here's to the horse! *Sheryl King*

*continued from page 1*

Parker.

Education continues with two special sessions from Southern Illinois University's Equine Science Program that invite attendees to (1) tack up in halter and reins to experience what a "horse" senses when given silent commands by a "trainer," or just watch the fun; and (2) Test fecal samples for parasites to determine if a horse needs worming (microscopes, samples provided; also handout with instructions).

Attendees also will be invited to reach into a horse's mouth – safely – to feel its teeth before and after floating, made possible by equine dentist and inventor Mark Miles, DVM, and his patented hydraulic holding device, which supports the sedated

horse without any human assistance. The device enables Dr. Miles to float teeth without trauma to the horse – or owner. (Eleven horses are needed over the two-day demonstrations. A \$100 dental floating



*Mark Miles*

fee will benefit Horse Fair. Details on the web site.)

Horse Fair opens on Friday with a reduced \$6 admission charge. Saturday or Sunday Horse Fair tickets are \$12 adult and \$6 child/senior; weekend passes are \$20 adult and \$10 child/senior. General admission tickets for the Extreme Cowboy Race Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. require a separate ticket: \$9 adult, \$6 child/senior; preferred seating \$15 adult, \$10 child/senior. Advance tickets may be purchased with a credit card online at [www.HorsemensCouncil.org/HorseFair](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org/HorseFair) or by calling the Council office at (217) 529-6503. Cash only at the door.

## Annual Meetings at Horse Fair

Several Horse organizations will hold annual meetings during upcoming Illinois Horse Fair at the State Fairgrounds, Springfield. The following meetings are open to the public:

**Horsemen's Council of Illinois** 11 a.m. Saturday, March 5 in Meeting Room 14 on the East end of Barn 14. Goals, projects, representation & Q & A.

**Illinois Equine Industry Research & Promotion Board** 11 a.m. Sunday, March 6 in Meeting Room 14 in Barn

14. Q & A - What is expected of grant seekers

**Illinois Trail riders** 10 a.m. Saturday, March 5 in the Livestock Center Seminar Hall (lower level). Election of officers and business meeting.



## SIU's Dr. Sheryl King to head Horsemen's Council of Illinois

Springfield, IL – Sheryl S. King, Ph.D., PAS, Director of Southern Illinois University's Equine Science Program, has been elected president of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, the voice of the equine industry in Illinois.

Other officers elected at the recent strategic planning session and directors retreat were Karen Freese of Hammond, IL, vice president, and Joe Lowry, DMV, of Davis Junction, secretary/treasurer.

Past President Frank Bowman of Pleasant Plains, IL, steps down but remains on the HCI Board and has been appointed to serve as the organization's first executive director. Bowman had been president of HCI for the past nine years and on the Board of Directors for the last 12.

Dr. King began her position as the equine specialist in the Department of Animal Science at SIU in 1983 and presently serves as a director of its Equine Science Program, the only such four-year program in Illinois. She supervises 11 horse classes and serves as general manager of the SIU Horse Center where about 50 horses serve as teaching, research and breeding stock.

Dr. King conducts research in the area of equine reproduction and general horse management and welfare. She has published numerous scientific and lay articles, has received awards for Outstanding Service and Outstanding

Scholar in the SIU College of Agricultural Science and recently became a Fellow in the prestigious Equine Science Society.

She has served on the HCI Board of Directors for 23 years, the past seven as its vice president. She and her husband have raised two children and assorted animals, including horses, on a 25-acre farm in Makanda, IL.

Freese, who also serves as Chair for the Illinois Equine Industry Research & Promotion Board, has been an HCI Board member for six years. She has a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Illinois and more than 20 years of experience in agribusiness with the Archer Daniels Midland Company, initially in research, but for the last several years in sales/marketing and brand management. Several years ago she gave up full-time employment with ADM to devote time to her family. She now works part-time for ADM as a communications specialist in the Research Division.


She grew up with horses in the "backyard" and now owns and operates Lamplight Farm and Stables in Hammond



Karen Freese

with her husband Dennis and two sons John and Michael. They offer boarding, training and lesson programs and are active with the Rus' Wranglers 4H club in Monticello, IL. Karen is a member of the Appaloosa Horse Club and actively competes in local shows, competitive trail riding and mounted orienteering.

Dr. Lowry has been on the HCI Board for more than 10 years. He received his DVM from the University of Illinois in 1966 and began practice in Davis Junction, IL (where he continues to operate a primarily equine practice) in 1968. With his family, he has raised and shown Hackney ponies for more than 40 years and keeps Quarter horses for trail riding and team penning.

Among Dr. Lowry's professional memberships are the American Veterinary Medical Association, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (former Chairman of the Board), American Association of Equine Practitioners and American Hackney Horse Society along with their affiliates in Illinois, Wisconsin and across mid-America. 



Dr. Joe Lowry

## Congress Passes Tax Extensions and Other Benefits

Congress passed the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 during the lame-duck session in December. President Obama signed the \$858 billion package into law almost immediately. The Senate passed the bill on December 15 on a vote of 81 to 19. The House followed on December 16, 277 to 148, with 112 Democrats and 36 Republicans voting no.

"Passage of the legislation avoids tax increases, scheduled to go into effect automatically on January 1, 2011, on everyone's individual income, capital gains, and dividend income and on estates. The bill also includes other tax benefits for the horse industry supported by the American Horse Council," said American Horse Council president Jay Hickey.

After a bit of brinksmanship over extending the Bush-era tax cuts following the November elections, President Obama and Republican leadership sat down and hammered out the legislation. There was some opposition in the House to extending

the cuts for those making more than \$250,000 a year and exempting estates valued at up to \$5 million from the estate tax, but it was not strong enough to allow a tax increase on all Americans to go into effect on January 1.

### Tax Rates

Under the legislation, individual income tax rates will remain at current levels for two more years, through 2012. The marginal rates will stay at 10% to 35% depending on one's income bracket. The rate structure is indexed for inflation. Had the bill not been passed and the current rates allowed to lapse, tax rates would have risen about 4% for each bracket.

The tax rate on capital gains will remain at 15% for another two years, rather than rising to 20%.

The tax rate on dividends will remain at 15% for another two years, rather than being taxed at the same rate as a taxpayer's ordinary income, which could be as high as 35%.

Payroll taxes for all workers will be

reduced 2% from 6.2% to 4.2% for 2011 on wages up to \$106,800. This will put up to \$2,136 extra in the pocket of every U.S. worker.

### Estate Tax Rate and Exemption

Effective January 1, 2011, the top estate tax rate will be 35% with an exemption of \$5 million for individuals and \$10 million for married couples through 2012. This means that only estates valued at over \$5 million (\$10 million for married couples) will be subject to the tax.

### Expensing Allowance Continues; Bonus Depreciation Increased to 100%

Under current law, anyone who purchases a horse or other property for his horse business and places it in service in 2010 and 2011 can deduct up to \$500,000 of the cost. This applies to horses, farm equipment and other depreciable property used in a business. If purchases exceed \$2 million, the deduction decreases one dollar for each dollar over \$2 million. This provision remains in effect.

Under the new legislation bonus


depreciation is doubled from 50% to 100% for eligible assets, allowing horse owners and other horse businesses to write off the entire cost of most capital assets when purchased and placed in service. To be eligible for bonus depreciation the original use of the property must commence with the taxpayer. Any prior use makes the property ineligible. This provision is retroactive and will benefit any business involved in the horse industry that purchases and places eligible depreciable property in service

after September 8, 2010 and through 2011.

#### **Contribution of Property for Conservation Purposes**

Owners of horse farms and ranches are interested in the tax benefits available to those who contribute property for conservation purposes. Conservation easements are one way that owners can keep their property available for farming, rather than selling it for commercial purposes, while getting a tax benefit. Under legislation passed a number of

years ago, a landowner with 50% of more of his/her income from agriculture could get a deduction for the contribution of a conservation easement up to his/her full income, with any unused amount carried forward for 15 years. This provision had expired and the deduction was limited to 30% of income.

The tax bill reinstated the conservation easement benefit for two years, through 2012, for contributions made in taxable years after December 31, 2009. 

### ***Mark Russell tapped for State Horse Judging Seminar***

The annual Illinois State Horse Judges Seminar has been scheduled for March 26th, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 PM at the University of Illinois. Registration and classroom instruction will begin in room 150 Animal Science Lab, 1207 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL. Tentatively, some live classes may also be held in the afternoon, at the UI Stock Pavilion a few blocks south of the Animal Science Lab, depending on arena conditions.

This seminar is open to all youth and open horse show judges, potential judges, exhibitors and spectators of horse events. It is designed to encourage uniform standards for judging and exhibiting horses at Illinois youth and open shows, and to yield a directory of judges for show committees. It will cover criteria for judging halter, showmanship, horsemanship, hunt seat classes, equitation, Western pleasure, gaited horse classes and helpful tips for judging 4-H

shows. Fees for this seminar are \$20 for youth (under 18 years), \$30 for adults and \$50 for adults wishing to take the written and live judging exam for listing in the Illinois Horse Judge's Directory.

The clinician is Dr. Mark Russell. Dr. Russell is a Professor of Animal Sciences & Veterinary Clinical Sciences at Purdue University. He is currently an approved judge with the American Paint Horse Association, Appaloosa Horse Club of America, Pony of the Americas, and the American Quarter Horse Association. He has judged breed, open, and 4-H shows for 30 years and has coached winning 4-H and collegiate judging teams at the Arabian Nationals, Morgan Grand Nationals, Paint World, Quarter Horse Congress, and other national and regional events. He has judged the Pinto Nationals, POA World and Nationals, the Paint World Championships, The Netherlands Western Championships,

the Florida Gold Coast, Dixie Nationals, National Western, AQHYA World Championships, Australian Paint World Championships & Appaloosa Nationals, Italian QH & Appaloosa Championships, and the United Kingdom Appaloosa National Show.

Mark also assists his wife, Laurie, with Horseheads Farm, a boarding and hunter lesson barn in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The Illinois State Horse Judges Seminar is sponsored by University of Illinois Extension and the UI Department of Animal Sciences.

Registration materials may be obtained from:

Kevin H. Kline  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
388 Animal Sciences Lab  
1207 W. Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801  
E-mail: [kkline@illinois.edu](mailto:kkline@illinois.edu)

### ***USEF releases Broadcast Schedule for Live Equestrian Coverage on USEF network***

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) in February resumed broadcasting live equestrian events to viewers across the country on its premier multi-media platform USEFNetwork.com. It began with 15 days of on-demand programming, starting with the WCHR Palm Beach Hunter Classic Spectacular February 18. The tentative schedule for USEF Network through May 1, 2011, is listed below.

#### **FTI Winter Equestrian Festival - Wellington, FL**

February 18, WCHR Palm Beach Hunter Classic Spectacular, 7 p.m. ET

February 19, The FTI Great Charity Challenge presented by Fidelity Investments, 7 p.m. ET

March 4, \$75,000 FEI Nations Cup CSI04\* presented by G&C Farm, 7 p.m. ET

March 5, PRO Derby Cross, 5:30 p.m. ET

March 5, \$35,000 Hermes Puissance, 8 pm. ET

March 6, \$150,000 Grand Prix, 1 p.m. ET

March 26, \$500,000 FTI Consulting Finale Grand Prix, 7 p.m. ET

April 2, \$50,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby, 7 p.m. ET

#### **Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show - Scottsdale, AZ**

February 24, 7:30 p.m. ET/5:30 p.m. MT

February 25, 8 p.m. ET/6 p.m. MT

February 26, 8 p.m. ET/ 6 p.m. MT

February 27, 10 a.m. ET/8 a.m. MT

February 27, 3 p.m. ET/1 p.m. MT


#### **Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event presented by Bridgestone - Lexington, KY**

April 28, Dressage

April 29, Dressage

April 30, Cross Country

May 1, Show Jumping

Between August and October of 2010, thousands of equestrian fans tuned to USEF Network to watch dozens of live-streamed hours and on-demand highlights from the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, the Collecting Gaits Farm/USEF Dressage Festival of Champions and on behalf of the American Saddlebred Horse Association, the Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show. In only three months, USEF Network received more than 500,000 visits, with equestrian fans asking for even more live coverage. 

## 1099 Reporting Requirement Amendments Passes

Earlier this month, the Senate approved an amendment to the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act that will repeal the recent 1099 paperwork mandate. The amendment was offered by Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

The 1099 paperwork mandate was a provision of the health care bill passed last year that imposes new tax reporting requirements, on every business in the U.S., including those in the horse industry, beginning in 2012. There were several attempts to repeal the 1099 requirement last Congress which failed. The American Horse Council supports repeal of the new 1099 reporting requirement.

### Background


The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Health Care Bill") that was signed into law last year included a provision broadly-expanding 1099 IRS form reporting requirements starting in 2012. Currently the law requires 1099s to be sent to any independent contractor that receives \$600 or more from a business in a year. The new requirement requires 1099s be sent not only to independent contractors but also to any individual or corporation from whom a business purchases a total of \$600 or more in goods or services in any given year. Its stated purpose is to identify unreported taxable income, fraudulent tax deductions, and increase tax compliance.

This new requirement will greatly increase the administrative burden on all businesses, particularly small businesses, including those in the horse industry. For

example if a horse farm buys \$600 worth of hay and grain from a particular retailer, or purchases buckets and bridles for a total of \$600 from a tack shop, or an even buys office supplies of \$600 from a supply store over the course of the year, or an individual buys a computer for \$700 from a local store, they are required to issue each business a 1099 form that must be completed and returned to the IRS. This reporting mandate places an added burden on each business involved. The horse businesses would have to collect information and tax identification numbers for every entity they do \$600 worth of business with and mail them forms and the business receiving the forms must complete them.

The Stabenow amendment repeals only the new reporting requirements. Businesses would still have to send 1099s to independent contractors.

### Next steps

The Senate must now approve the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act which will then be considered by the House. Repeal of the 1099 provision has broad bipartisan support. But the larger bill may or may not pass both the Senate and the House. Therefore, repeal at this juncture is not assured. Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE), Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA), and Congressmen Steve Scalise (R-LA), have each introduced stand alone bills that would also repeal the 1099 provision. The AHC supports repeal of the new 1099 reporting requirement. 

## NEW: HCI Insured Family Membership

A new membership option offering a discounted rate yet including the full association's insurance benefit has been added for you at the Horsemen's Council of Illinois – \$72 annually for the whole family, defined as parents and children residing in the same home.

For a family, the new rate offers a discount from purchasing two \$42 individual memberships. Parents and their minor children automatically receive \$1,000,000

excess equine personal liability insurance as an HCI member benefit. The value of this HCI group purchasing program from Equisure is tremendous – the cost for this type of insurance is estimated to range from \$300 to \$400 per year for the average horse owner...if purchased individually.

*Join HCI Today! – Do it for the horses!*


For information visit the HCI website at [www.horsemencouncil.org](http://www.horsemencouncil.org) or call the HCI Administrative Office at (217) 529-6503.

## Buck Brannaman Documentary

An insightful documentary film on Buck Brannaman, whose only appearances at horse fairs were at Illinois Horse Fair – 3 times – was premiered at the recent Sun Dance Festival.

"The Horse Whisperer" movie for which he served as technical advisor, may be the stuff of Hollywood legend, as the promo states,

but the cowboy who inspired the novel and film is very real. Buck Brannaman – master horseman, raconteur and philosopher – is a no-excuses cowboy who travels the world sharing a hard-won wisdom that's often more about human relationships than about horses.

Full particulars are at [www.buckthefilm.com](http://www.buckthefilm.com) 

## Join Us Today!

### Individual Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How many horses do you own? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ at home \_\_\_\_\_ boarding stable

### Individual Membership Dues (includes

\$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$42/yr**

### Family Membership Dues (includes

\$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$72/yr**

### Organization Membership Application

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

# of Illinois Members in Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate category

\_\_\_\_ Business/Professional \_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_ Charity

**Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr.**

Make check payable and mail to:



Horsemen's Council of Illinois  
3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite 308  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Phone: 217.585.1600  
[www.horsemencouncil.org](http://www.horsemencouncil.org)

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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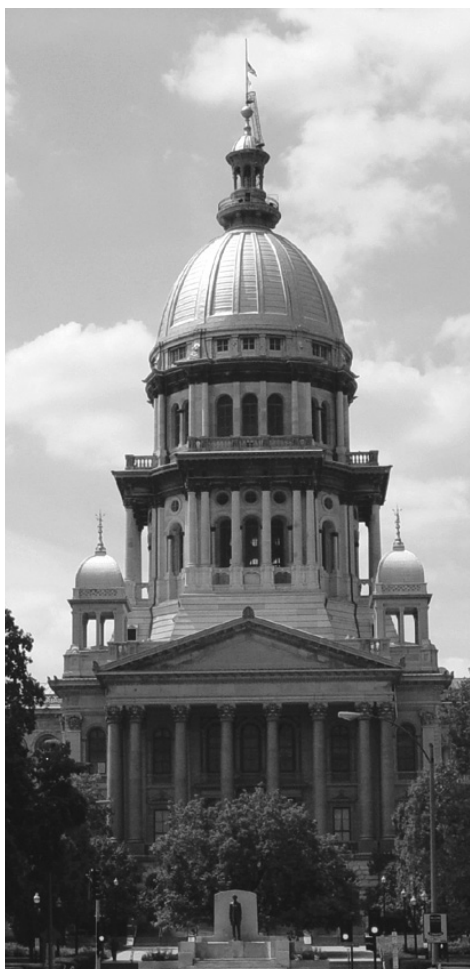
## Legislative Report

by Frank Bowman, Executive Director

As of this writing, the Illinois Legislature is struggling to beat the filing deadlines to introduce all the new bills and resolutions. Due to the snow and the lack of specific committee appointments, several days of session had already been cancelled. The loss of those days along with all the time needed to debate some of the most perplexing problems the state faces should guarantee session running well into the summer. It's pretty obvious that shortening the amount of time lawmakers spend in Springfield will not be one of the ways they seek to balance the budget.

HCI maintains a complete legislative website where you can go to view all the legislation we are watching on behalf of the horse community. You can sign up for emailed legislative alerts and updates, take action on a bill, send a message to your state and federal legislators and easily follow the bills most important to you as they make their way through the process. Go to <http://www.horsemencouncil.org/HCI/> and click on the Legislation tab to get started.

Now is also a great time to get to know the newest members of your state's legislature and congressional delegation. We really need you to take the opportunity to introduce yourselves and express your thoughts on horse ownership to them. Call the HCI office if you would like us to help make arrangements with their district offices for you to stop by or even if you'd like us to go along with you for a meeting and support on an issue. Emails and phone calls work great, too! But like the commercial says, we need you to "Just



Do It." There is nothing more important to a legislator than hearing from a constituent. Simply tell them about how much your horses mean to you. Let them know how much you care.

Illinois Ag Legislative Day will be

Wednesday March 9 in Springfield. IALD provides a great opportunity to come to Springfield, meet with leaders from the ag community, take a tour of the Capital and speak with your state senator and representative. HCI is a sponsor of IALD and would welcome all our interested members to join us for this event. Call the association office at 217-529-6503.

There are more than 3,700 new laws and changes to existing laws bills that have been introduced so far. Here's a few of the many bills of interest:

**HB 181 – State Park Entry Fees:** Authorizes the IDNR to charge an annual vehicle admission fee and daily access fee for entrance to properties owned, managed, or both by the Department. Proposed fees are not to exceed \$10 for each vehicle or \$2.50 for each pedestrian, bicyclist, or motorcyclist. Annual passes are also proposed.

**HB 1147 – Animal Investigators:** Creates certain penalties for violations. Establishes both aggravated assault and aggravated battery charges if an investigator is known to be with the Department of Agriculture or an approved humane investigator. Also authorizes compensation awards to investigators.

**HB 1166 – Companion Animal Hoarding:** Defines a "companion animal hoarder" to be a person who is in possession of 7 or more companion animals in addition to other requirements. Provides that a person must obtain a permit to possess 7 or more companion animals. Note: Horses are classified as companion animals in this law. 🐾

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## Draft Forest Service Planning Rule Released

On February 14th, the Forest Service published a draft planning rule for public comment. The Forest Service planning rule will be used to guide individual forests in setting policies over the next 15 years. The Forest Service planning rule will impact users of the National Forests including equestrians.

The last Forest Service planning rule dates from 1982 and focuses primarily on resource management. The National Forest planning rule provides the overarching framework used by individual forests to develop land management plans. The planning rule will impact all aspects of the

National Forests including recreation, wildlife and fish, wilderness, grazing rights, and timber, energy, and mineral production.

The recreational community, including the American Horse Council, had urged the Forest Service to make sure recreation was adequately addressed in the new planning rule to reflect the reality that it is a major use of our nation's National Forests.

"We believe this rule will provide for sustainable recreational opportunities recognizing the important role that outdoor recreation plays in the economy of rural America that surrounds these forests," said Secretary

of the Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in his remarks introducing the draft rule.

There will now be a 90-day comment period that ends May 16, 2011. The Forest Service will review all submitted comments and then issue a final rule. More information on the proposed rule and about submitting comments are available at [www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule](http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule).

The American Horse Council will be reviewing the proposed rule and its impact on equestrians and submit comments to the Forest Service. 🐾



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## *Owners, riders, trainers get the scoop at Illinois Horse Fair*

To many of the more than 10,000 horse owners expected to attend the Illinois Horse Fair (March 4 – 6 at the State Fairgrounds in Springfield), the appeal goes beyond top national clinicians and 140 vendors selling everything equestrian (Complete information at [www.HorsemensCouncil.org/HorseFair](http://www.HorsemensCouncil.org/HorseFair)).

Horse owners are attracted by the outstanding educational opportunities presented by Horsemen's Council of Illinois in pursuing its mission to educate Illinois' diverse horse community and promote more interaction with horses. A few of the special opportunities at Horse Fair are:

- Visit a real horse camp (complete with tents, corral, horses, equipment

demos and storytelling) where Back Country Horseman and Master Instructor Bob Wagoner will be camping and sharing a few skills to make your own back country trips easier and more fun. He'll teach about horse packing and minimum-impact excursions and answer your questions three times daily at the campsite. Wagoner's appearance courtesy of Illinois Quarter Horse Association.

- Put your hand into a horse's mouth – safely – as Marc Miles, DVM, demonstrates dental floating without trauma, using his patented "Gizzmo" to hold the horse safely and securely. Why put your hand into the horse's mouth? To feel the difference before and after a professional floating and learn why it's essential to a horse's overall health.

- Learn about the physics of saddle fitting from Julie Cyra of West 20

Saddle Co., a firm specializing in saddle fitting for all disciplines. You'll learn the differences in how saddles are constructed, sized and how to tell if one is appropriate for both you and your horse.

- Pick up handy techniques for getting on the judge's score card...and staying there...as instructor Jennifer Lindgren takes you inside the show ring for a look at what the judges look for and what they see.

- Avoid a traffic ticket; understanding Illinois' laws and licensing requirements for horse trailering as John Krueger from the Secretary of State's office explains truck, trailer and driver's license classifications.

- Reduce the risk of colic in your horse and in your stable through responsible stable management as explained by Marcia Thibeault, DVM.

