



Horse Council Courier

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

Horsemen's Council of Illinois Turns 25!


Protecting and Uniting the Illinois Horse Community for over 25 years

Since 1987, the Horsemen's Council of Illinois has worked for horse owners statewide and has become Illinois' largest equestrian organization serving all-breeds, all-disciplines and all facets of our diverse equestrian community.

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois is a statewide association of horsemen working together to:

- Protect the common interests of horse owners in Illinois
- Pursue opportunities which benefit the entire equine community
- Improve the health and well-being of all horses
- Actively expand educational opportunities and the economic viability of the Illinois horse industry
- Promote equestrian safety, responsible ownership and youth programs

We believe horses have much to offer the people of Illinois. Horizons are wider and stakes higher when we are united to work toward an even better tomorrow!

To find out more about the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, our programs, accomplishments, and current issues confronting the Illinois horse community visit <http://www.horsemenscouncil.org/HCI/> 



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President's Corner



The Informed Horseman

As a scientist I have been trained to be a skeptic and to rely on facts to support or refute a position. My fields of expertise are physiology and horses; therefore, I am particularly well versed in understanding how the equine body works, including how to evaluate and protect the welfare of horses. Hardly a week goes by when I don't hear of some piece of "horse wisdom" - portrayed as fact - which makes absolutely no physiological sense. In the best of times, I simply shake my head, in the worst I cringe; either way I can't help but worry about the horses affected by this "wisdom".

I have directed a substantial Equine Science educational program for nearly three decades, during which time I have been responsible for the welfare of hundreds of horses (by my best estimates we have raised, adopted, rehabilitated and cared for over 400 horses). I have taught many more hundreds of humans about horses and thereby, I hope, improved the welfare of horses that were not under my direct supervision. I have a long history of conducting research centered upon ways to improve the lives of horses and to find better ways to do what we do with them. Scientists are truth-seekers - a good scientist will go where the facts lead him or her, period. Sometimes, our discoveries surprise us; sometimes they disturb us; always they inform us ... that is, if we choose to listen.

After much puzzling about the nature of the human psyche, I have come to the conclusion that in America the rational, scientific approach to forming an opinion is in the minority. In fact, sometimes scientists are viewed with contempt - particularly in response to facts that don't support the listener's opinions. It continues to mystify me that so many people choose to believe a celebrity or a layperson (... "my neighbor's grandfather had horses and he said . . .") over a credentialed scientist when it comes to making decisions about their (or other people's) horses. For typical examples of this behavior, you need look no further than any horse magazine where ads often feature a picture of a recognizable celebrity in the entertainment, sports or competitive horse world endorsing any number of horse-oriented products (... "it works for my horses, and it can work for yours!"). We read about a myriad of controversial issues surrounding horse manage-

ment, and so often it is the celebrity, not the scientist or even the professional horseman, that is quoted. Bo Derek, Madeline Pickens, Willie Nelson, Lea Michelle, Sheryl Crow and a veritable cornucopia of others may have name-recognition, but do they have facts? Opinions are free and everyone has one, but if these celebrities really wanted to help horses they could use their considerable resources to sponsor unbiased, scientific research on the topic that stirs their passion.

People believe the celebrities, they believe their fellow horse owners, they will even believe the person down the street who has lots of experience with pets but has never owned a horse - although they think horses are pretty (and pretty much the same as a dog or cat, right?). When searching for horse information, some seek out opinions in internet chat rooms among the (often) equally uninformed. The problem with believing what you are told by Joe Q. Public is that it leaves you and your horse vulnerable to being misled by those with an agenda - hidden or otherwise. If we invested the same amount of time seeking the facts from experts, we would be much better positioned to do right by our horses.

When is a fact not a fact? Sometimes those with an agenda try to support their position by using facts out of context, or sometimes they just don't understand the facts. My colleague and friend, Dr. Don Henneke, describes a case in point in this issue of the Courier. Dr. Henneke was the lead researcher who developed the 9-point body condition scoring system used to assess the energy stores (a.k.a. fat reserves) in horses. The system has even been named after him. Lately, Don has been busy testifying about what this scoring system does and does not indicate about the welfare of horses, all because some activists have misused this research to remove horses from their owners. As a result, some good horsemen have had their reputations besmirched and some good horses have suffered needlessly.

Here's my point. I am not asking you to agree with my opinions. What I *am* asking of you is to form your own opinions based on the best available facts, and to make skeptical inquiry a habit rather than practicing blind trust. If you make use of the internet to investigate an issue, try a search using Google Scholar rather than relying on blogs and chat rooms. In the end, you and your horses will benefit.



Executive Director's Report



HCI turns 25 this year! A quarter century of working on behalf of the Illinois horse community and horse owners all across the state. Wow!

Much has changed in that time, yet much remains the same. A good horse and good horsemanship still go hand in hand. However, the amount of land available for horseback riding and access to parks and open lands continues to shrink daily. Urbanization and the wants, or demands, of the urban population have a way to push horses still further afield as the state's bicycle groups, and others, instill the perception in land managers and park boards that horses should not be allowed on "their" trails. Then there are the subjective legislative initiatives by the now all-to-numerous animal rights organizations that threaten all forms of animal ownership, time honored animal husbandry practices, animal exhibitions (horse shows or racing) and even the basic enjoyment of having animals in our lives.

Horses were an integral part of everyday life when Illinois became a state. As we developed rules and regulations to live by, built railroads and turned towards automobiles horses just kind of faded into the background. One thing that's for certain today is that there is no common definition of just what a horse is under Illinois laws and their corresponding rules. In legislation, the devil is always in the definitions and horses have simply never been addressed or even included in many rules or regulations. Think about it for a minute or two. Just what is a horse? Are horses similar to off road vehicles? Might horses be considered non-motorized vehicles? Are horses more or less pedestrian in nature as a quadruped (walking on four feet)? If so, should they be accorded all the rights of pedestrians? Are horses a form of alternative

transportation? (Think so, try tying one up at the State Capital) Are they livestock or companion animals? Unfortunately, the answer usually depends on who you are talking to. To paraphrase the theme song from Mr. Ed – A horse is a horse of course of course, unless of course it's a dog or a cat, (or a bicycle, a service animal or simply a pain in the neck).

By the time this edition reaches your inbox the state legislature will likely have adjourned for the summer to work their districts ahead of the elections in the fall. Many of the weightier issues will likely remain unsolved, slots still won't be at the racetracks, pensions will still be underfunded and if you are waiting for a payment from the state for your business services, you'll likely be waiting a while longer.

Some of the bills that might be approved this spring and could affect you are;

- IDNR State Park Entry Fees - HB 5789
- IDNR Adopt-A-Park Programs - SB 2882
- IDNR Lands - Removal for Disorderly Conduct - HB 5685

Check the Horsemen's Council of Illinois website for details.

The federal government remains locked in a partisan stalemate that threatens not only the very fragile economic recovery we're told is happening but the function of government as a whole. Washington DC is a long way from home for our legislators and a very strange place indeed. Perceptions get skewed very easily in those marble halls by all the money (and votes) that get thrown around there. Your legislators need

Thank You
to everyone who came
out and for all the
volunteers who helped
make the Illinois Horse
Fair a huge success

you to remind them that horse ownership is alive

and well back home and that you vote, too. Make a phone call, attend a town hall meeting, stop by the district office and get to know the staffer there. It's not that tough and we need you to do it. If you don't who will?

I'd really like to thank everyone who came out for the Illinois Horse Fair and especially all the volunteers who helped make the 2012 Illinois Horse Fair such a success. Be sure to take a minute and tell us about what you liked at the Horse Fair, what you didn't like and what you'd like to see in the future. I'm looking forward to the Illinois Horse Fair to be back, bigger and better than ever, March 1 – 3, 2013. 🐾

Frank Bowman

Save the Date!
2013 Horse Fair
March 1 - 3

Horses Are My Life


by Gabrielle Gordon

"Horses are important to me because they have shaped me into who I am today. Because I am dyslectic I did not know my right from my left, though through riding I soon learned this and much more. Because of my scoliosis I was dismounted unexpectedly more than most kids. Through riding I have learned how to balance myself and to take the unexpected falls with grace, dignity and humility. These things have given me a solid foundation on which I learned to build my life.

"My best friends have always been my horses, wiping away my tears, listening to

my problems, and showing their love to me no matter the circumstances; never judging me or my skills. I am proud to say I taught myself how to train horses, and they have taught me how to sit up straight, how to work for my goals, how to multitask, and many other small tasks that the average person would find unimportant. Horses have been there for me when no person was, they have supported my dreams (literally). Horses are important to me because they are who I am. They made me me."


The preceding was written by 17-year-old Gabrielle Gordon of Manhatten Illinois as part of her entry for the first-ever Illinois

Horse Fair Queen Pageant. Each candidate submitted an essay for judging on "Why Horses are Important to Me." Gabrielle's essay was given top honors among the 14 contestants. 



Gabrielle Gordon

HF Clinician Guy McLean and Team Australia Win Road to the Horse™

Guy McLean, featured clinician at this year's Illinois Horse Fair, and his Team Australia mate Dan James, brought home top honors at the annual colt-starting competition Road to the Horse™. After winning the hearts of both horse and human attendees at the Illinois Horse Fair, Guy traveled straight to Murfreesboro TN for the RTTH competition the following weekend. Guy and Dan competed against Team USA comprised of Craig Cameron (2011 Illinois Horse Fair headliner) and Pat Parelli; and Team Canada comprised of Jonathan Field and Glenn Stewart. The three day competition follows the horsemen as they start an untrained 3-year-old quarter horse provided by the famous Four Sixes Ranch in Guthrie Texas. The competition is judged by a group of elite horsemen representing different facets of the equine industry including legends Jack Brainard and Dr. Robert Miller. The event highlights natural horsemanship as a kinder, more gentle way of working with horses. 



Guy McClean

(MIS)USE OF THE BCS IN ALLEGED NEGLECT

Don Henneke, Ph.D., Director of Equine Science
and the Equine Center Manager, Tarleton State University

Over the past year, cases of alleged horse neglect have skyrocketed across the United States. I have been contacted by people from California to Maryland, from Minnesota to Texas, and from New York to Arizona. This phenomenon has reached epidemic proportions. Minnesota alone reportedly investigated almost 400 cases in 2011. Most of these can be attributed to the down economy and the drought making it difficult for horse owners to feed their horses like they would like to feed them. Therefore, we are seeing a lot more horses in below average body condition. That does not make every thin horse a neglected or abused horse.

Over the past decade, the Body Condition Scoring System for Horses (BCS) has become, in many if not most cases, the sole reason for seizure for neglect or abuse. The problem with this is that the BCS was not designed to reflect the health or well-being of the horse. The BCS provides an estimate of stored body fat, period. From a physiological standpoint, as long as a horse has *any* fat reserves and is receiving a diet that meets its daily maintenance requirements, that horse can be healthy.

For example, *The Minimum Standards of Horse Care in the State of California* (2011) arbitrarily indicates that any horse with a BCS of less than 3 does not meet the minimum standard. By definition, a BCS 3 horse still has reserves of body fat. Once a horse gets below a BCS 3, then reserves are low.

However, the health of the horse is only in jeopardy if it is breaking down non-fat tissue to provide for its basic energy needs. The BCS cannot measure this function.

Breakdown of non-adipose tissue for energy can be evaluated through blood analysis focusing on liver and kidney function, and the breakdown of structural tissue for energy. Blood urea nitrogen, creatinine, and the ratio of blood urea nitrogen level to creatinine level are indicators of tissue breakdown. Analysis for hematocrit, serum concentrations of total protein solids, sodium, calcium, potassium, triglycerides, bilirubin, and albumin will also provide information concerning malnutrition and starvation. None of these tests are accurate on their own. However, evaluation of matching trends from the analysis can help confirm or disprove that the horse is nutritionally deprived.

In addition, the presence, or absence, of other physical indicators of inadequate energy intake should be used to evaluate alleged neglect. Energy deprived horses will be lethargic. Their reaction to stimuli will be depressed. They will usually show signs of dehydration: tacky gums, "tenting" of skin on the neck, concentrated urine with a very strong odor, and decreased fecal output. Coprophagy, the consumption of feces, is usually very pronounced in energy deprived horses, especially those kept in groups. Since energy deprivation is usually accompanied

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Welcome New Association Members

Please visit these clubs on the web to find out more about them and be sure to check out their events listings in HCI's E-News.

Northern Illinois Outlaws

Cowboy Mounted shooting club affiliated with the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association. We follow all CMSA rules and guidelines.

Pekin Riding Club

Pekin Riding Club is for anyone who has an interest in horses and is fun for people of all ages. Offering open fun shows that run from May through October.

DeKalb County Trail Riders Association

A non-profit trail advocacy group dedicated to creating and preserving trails in DeKalb County, Illinois.

Green River Saddle Club

An active equine club located in Amboy, IL with many social functions and coming events.

KWI Saddle Club

Kankakee - Will - Iroquois Saddle Club - Promoting youth and family through horses. All breeds welcome.

Grand Prix Equestrian

Founded on the philosophy that every horse is a hero and the responsibility to respect and nurture the individual qualities of each and every horse at our facility.

Jubilee Riders

A great group of people doing great things in and around Jubilee State Park

Spotted Saddle Horse Association of Illinois (SSHAI)

Promoting the Spotted Saddle Horse and developing friendships associated with this breed.

The Stables on Horse Farm Road

The Stables on Horse Farm Road offers horse boarding, horse riding lessons, & horses for sale, including those from our breeding program for **Rocky Mountain Horses** in Central Illinois

Flying U Horsemanship Center

Champaign, IL facility offering riding lessons and educational programming

Central States Pony Association

Improving and promoting the breeds of American Shetlands, Miniature Horses, and American Show Ponies and to facilitate interaction between owners, breeders, exhibitors and enthusiasts in Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri.

Midwest Majestic Mustang Club

Staunton, Illinois - just a couple of women who love our mustangs and want to try to educate people about them in the positive way, and have fun doing it.

Illinois Mustang Club

Mt. Olive, Illinois

Friesian Heritage Horse

A registry for horses of Friesian heritage, Friesian Sport Horses, Friesians and Gypsy horses.

Hanover Ranch

Jo Daviess County, private equestrian facility

Legendary Mustang Association

A chapter of the American Mustang and Burro Association/AMBA LMA members serve as good will ambassadors for wild equine adoption and an educational resource for adopters and potential adopters

Midwest Horseshoeing School

Established in 1964 to meet demand for skilled, competent and well-educated farriers in this growing trade by continually graduating seasoned professionals.


The Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) is proud to add these organizations to our growing membership. HCI has members and directors in your area available to speak about topics of interest at your upcoming meetings and award banquets.

Contact HCI to find out more about how your organization can become an active participant in the Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

Benefits of Membership in the Horsemen's Council of Illinois

As a member of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, you may take advantage of a host of discount programs offered through the American Horse Council (AHC) and our insurance provider, Association Resource Group (ARG).

AHC Saving Plus will provide you discounts with John Deere, Sherwin-Williams, OfficeMax, and Prescription Drug Card. You can buy products directly from these companies at greatly reduced prices – no minimums required!

Below is a sample of discounts available through ARG. For details on how these valuable Horsemen's Council of Illinois member benefits can help you save money, go to www.horsecouncil.org/ahc-advantage-plan and www.association-resource.net. 

Automatic Member Benefits

go to www.associationresource.net to click through on your benefits

 <p>Access to insurance products from Equisure, Inc. www.equisure-inc.com</p>	 <p>Discount with ARG CDP code: 210089 www.hertz.com</p>
 <p>Discounts from VPI Pet, a nationwide insurance company. Call 866-332-3997</p>	 <p>Discounts with ARG code: 210089 www.hotels.com</p>
 <p>20% discount on orders over \$150 www.officedepot.com</p>	 <p>Members can save up to 25% off a yearly subscription. Click through on the ARG website.</p>
 <p>Let them know you are an ARG member to receive your discount. 800-989-9239</p>	

Our Affiliate Partners

 <p>Save Big on your next saddle! for the family, including youth saddles. www.horsesaddleshop.com</p>	 <p>One of the largest selections of boots on the web. www.sheplers.com</p>
 <p>ARG members receive an extra 10% off their order www.1800petmeds.com</p>	 <p>Hundreds of items and great prices with \$5.99 shipping on all orders over \$60.00</p>

www.associationresource.net



Scholarships Awarded at Illinois Horse Fair

The Illinois Equine Foundation, a charitable organization which accepts tax-exempt contributions for the benefit of the horse industry, has awarded two scholarships to worthy individuals recently at the Illinois Horse Fair.

Brandi Burton of Mount Prospect, IL received the 15th annual Ruby Holmquist Memorial Scholarship established by Holmquist family members in Ruby's honor to assist others in the pursuit or advancement of a horse-related career. Brandi, the youngest of six siblings, is the daughter of Roger and Carolyn Burton, and is a freshman at the University of Illinois. She has been riding for 14 years, showing on the Northern Illinois Hunter Jumper Association circuit for the last six years, and now competes on the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association with the U. of I. team.

"Isn't it every little girl's dream to be a doctor, school teacher, or veterinarian?" Brandi asks. "Ever since I can remember I knew I wanted to be a vet," she concludes. Because Brandi received high marks in high school advanced placement tests, she plans on graduating a semester early (December 2014), and then seeking a full-time internship in a vet clinic, hopefully an equine hospital, she says.


Ben Bergstrom of Rockton, IL, earned the 6th annual Dean Scoggins Memorial Veterinary Scholarship which was initiated in 2007 to honor the memory of the late Dr. R. Dean Scoggins, DVM, a dedicated horseman, a skilled veterinary practitioner and faculty member at the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine. Ben attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, majoring in animal sciences and minoring in chemistry, before beginning studies at the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine. As an undergraduate, Ben volunteered at the University Horse Farm, working in the breeding barn, where he assisted in stallion semen collection and analysis and participated in "foal watch,"

assisting in mares' foaling.

Since entering veterinary school, Ben has worked with Dr. Jonathan Foreman, investigating the effects of various analgesics in horses. This past summer, Ben participated in the National Veterinary Scholars Program funded by Merial. Under Dr. Foreman's supervision, he led his own study on daily tCO₂ concentrations in horses, and then presented his project at the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium in Orlando, FL. Ben is a student member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. He plans to enter an internship and then private equine practice upon graduation. He states enthusiastically that "Veterinary school has been a fantastic experience for me and I cannot wait to begin my career as an equine veterinarian."

This educational scholarship aims to help promote Dr. Scoggins' ideals by recognizing an outstanding Illinois resident veterinary student who has a demonstrated background and interest in the health and welfare of horses and in Illinois. It is supported by the generous contributions of members of the horse community.

Applications for these annual scholarships, which are available on the Horsemen's Council of Illinois website or by contacting the association's office, are due each year by November 1st for consideration.

Tax-deductible contributions to help strengthen and support these worthwhile goals are gratefully accepted through the Illinois Equine Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. Contact the Horsemen Council's office at 217-529-6503 to find out more about the Foundation and how you can help secure a bright future for the horse industry by including the Illinois Equine Foundation through tax-free gifts or in your estate planning. 

Over \$55,000 in Equine Grants Awarded for 2012


The Illinois Equine Industry Research and Promotion Board (IEPB) awarded more than \$55,000 in equine related grants for 2012. The grants were presented at the annual Illinois Horse Fair in Springfield by IEPB Chairman Dr. David Nobbe and Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Bob Flider. Grant recipients were selected from applications received from across the state of Illinois in the areas of equine research, education, and promotional programs.

Grants for 2012 were awarded to the Green River Saddle Club in Amboy IL for repairs to facilities; the Department of Forestry at Southern Illinois University Carbondale to begin a multi-year project to define the optimal horse trail design for Illinois soil; Rockford Park District Lockwood Park Trailside Equestrian Center for enhancements to the equestrian program; Jubilee College State Park, Brimfield IL, in conjunction with Jubilee Riders to drill a well at the equestrian campground; Martinsville Agricultural Fair to rebuild their show arena and announcers stand; and to the University of Illinois Horse Farm to make facility repairs and enhance safety.

The IEPB is made up of Illinois horsemen who represent a wide cross section of the horse community by geography and industry segment and is charged with selecting recipients for grants funded by the Illinois equine check-off program, which provides for the voluntary assessment of a nickel per 50-pound bag of horse feed sold at retail.

Any group, individual, company or institution may apply for funding. Preference will be given to projects benefiting the largest number of people/horses. By law, check off funds must go to support equine research, education and promotion in keeping with the enabling legislation's core purpose: "Enhancement of the Illinois equine industry through self-funded programs, projects and activities. Grants to institutions and individuals will be related to equine research, education and industry enhancements and promotion."

Grant applications are available on the IEPB website or may be requested from the Board office in Springfield.

All applications shall be submitted to: Illinois Equine Industry Research and Promotion Board, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62703, phone (217) 529-6503. 

by protein deficits, the hair coat will dull and shaggy. It is imperative that a low BCS score be supported by other clinical signs of starvation to indicate nutritional neglect.


The presence, or absence, of feed and hay on the premises is an excellent indicator of the ability of the owner to meet the nutritional needs of their horses. If adequate feed and hay is present to meet the needs of the animals, then seizure is not warranted. Few, if any, horse owners will refuse to feed their horses if feed is available.

Adding to the problem is that many "evaluators" have not received any formal training in the application of the BCS. They do not understand the physiology of fat deposition and utilization, they are not knowledgeable in conformation and breed characteristics that will influence the BCS, and most often they have personal biases that lower their estimate. The BCS is designed as a ranking system. It was never designed to be exact and it cannot be exact because of differences in breeds, size, age, and conformation between horses. It is a guideline. If the average lay horse owner gets within 1 body condition score, plus or minus, of the horses actual condition, they are doing a good job. Seizing a horse based solely on an untrained person's estimated BCS is a very questionable practice.

I find it very disturbing that humane societies and local authorities have utilized the BCS in such a manner. There are definitely cases of neglect and abuse that need to be dealt with in a quick and decisive manner. However, care must be taken to be sure that the animals are truly being starved and that requires supporting evidence from their other physical parameters and blood analysis. My recommendation to all parties is that if neglect or abuse due to nutrition deprivation is suspected,

1. The evaluator must exhibit the ability to offer a trained, unbiased opinion based solely on the stored body fat of the animal. If seizure is to be considered, the evaluation of the animals by a qualified, impartial third person should be required.

2. ABCS of less than 3 is not cause for automatic seizure. The animals in question must exhibit altered metabolism confirmed by blood analysis or other physical signs consistent with malnutrition before they can be seized for inadequate body condition. If it is determined that the horse needs immediate attention, a veterinarian of the owner's choosing should provide those supporting procedures. These procedures may be done with supervision by the legal authorities.
3. Only horses exhibiting altered metabolism and having inadequate feed stores on the premises should be seized. Removing healthy horses from their home is not necessary and may often result in adverse consequences due to stress created by a new environment and untrained handlers.
4. If at all possible, the alleged neglected horses should remain at the owner's farm. Removing any horse from its familiar environment, drastically changing its diet, and exposing it to a new set of handlers will usually result in stress and a further loss of body condition. In the vast majority of cases, if the intent is truly the best care of the horse, that care can best be administered in familiar surroundings. If the legal authorities require, care can be conducted under their official guidance.

"Innocent until proven guilty" is the most abused legal standard in America today. Due to biased press coverage, most "trials" are conducted before the accused ever has a chance to answer the charges. Once a horse owner has been accused of neglect, they are stained for life. If they are later proven to be innocent, the public has already painted them with a negative picture. This should not happen. It is imperative that the state authorities demonstrate adequate cause for seizure. Unsupported claims of neglect against a horse owner should be followed by a vigorous public campaign by the state authorities criticizing the parties who have filed a frivolous claim and, if possible, such parties should be prosecuted by the state. 

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 200
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: 217.529.6503
www.HorsemensCouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____



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Horsemen's Council of Illinois, Inc.
The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry
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Illinois Horse Fair Crowns First-Ever Queen Congratulations to Anne Marie Connelly of Highland, IL

Anne Marie Connelly, daughter of Kevin and Diane Connelly of Highland, has been crowned the first-ever Illinois Horse Fair Queen, representing "All things equestrian" at Illinois Horse Fair.

The queen pageant is an all-breed across riding disciplines pageant for girls 14-21, fostering good horsemanship and good sportsmanship. The Illinois Horse Fair Queen will become an ambassador for re-

sponsible horse ownership and the spirit of horse as represented by Illinois Horse Fair and the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, which produces the event.

The pageant offers each contestant an opportunity to shine in the horse community, to experience new friends, to grow in the ways of horsemanship and to be an inspiration to others wanting to become better equestrians.

The 14 candidates in this inaugural contest rode horses of eight different breeds: American Saddlebred, Appaloosa, Arabian, Fox Trotter, Friesian, Morgan, POA and Tennessee Walker.

A huge round of thanks is due pageant coordinator Pam Sigler and all the many volunteers who helped make the entire event such a success! 🐾



Queen Anne Marie Connelly



*Horsemanship Winner Jessica Winter
and Queen Anne Marie Connelly*