

# AHCnews



## Three Elected to AHC Board

The American Horse Council has elected John Long, Scott Wells and Don Treadway to the Board of Trustees.

“This is a great class. The AHC is pleased to have John Long, Scott Wells and Don Treadway join its board,” said AHC president, Jay Hickey. “The experience they have from a lifelong involvement and dedication to the various segments of the horse industry is outstanding. Our members are pleased to have them working in yet another capacity to keep our industry strong.”

John Long comes to the Board as the first chief executive officer of the United States Equestrian Federation, which is the National Governing Body for Equestrian Sport in the United States. The USEF supports a membership of over 90,000; 28 breeds and disciplines are represented in the Federation. Internationally, Mr. Long serves as Secretary General to the International Equestrian Federation. He was Chairman of the World Games 2010 Foundation Board of Directors, which developed the planning process for the FEI World Equestrian Games held in Lexington, Kentucky in 2010.

Prior to assuming his position at the USEF, Mr. Long served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby.

“The role the American Horse Council plays in virtually every aspect of the Equine industry is more important today than ever,” said Long. “The challenges and opportunities each segment faces can best be explored when they are explored together. I look forward to my personal involvement and that of the United States Equestrian Federation’s.”

As current president of the Thoroughbred Racing Associations, Scott Wells is no stranger to the horse industry. He is a third generation horseman from New Mexico and has been a licensed trainer in 14 states. He has managed racetracks and racetrack openings both in the U.S. and abroad. He was project manager in the reopening of the national racetrack in Mexico in 2001 and later in Uruguay in 2005. Mr. Wells is the General Manager of Remington Park in Oklahoma City.

“The board of trustees of the American Horse Council has always been comprised of thoughtful, experienced people who share a passion for horses and horse activities,” Wells stated. “I consider it an honor to serve on the board and I look forward to it as an opportunity to learn from my colleagues and to collaborate with them on issues which affect horse lovers everywhere.”

Don Treadway is the executive vice president of the American Quarter Horse Association, the world’s largest horse organization and breed registry.

During his 38 year tenure at AQHA, and prior to becoming executive vice president, Mr. Treadway was responsible for directing all marketing, communications, and development plans for Association programs including publicity, advertising, membership and customer service, youth activities, the American Quarter Horse Youth Association, corporate sponsors, AQHA-sponsored

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A M E R I C A N  
H O R S E C O U N C I L



programs, AQHA affiliates and public policy. Under Mr. Treadway's leadership, AQHA's corporate partner program grew from zero to more than \$9 million in contributions to Association programs and services.

Mr. Treadway was responsible for developing the AQHA Animal Welfare Commission, which has greatly intensified the Association's focus on the welfare of the horse by defining and then managing key issues related to animal welfare.

Mr. Treadway is from Kaw City, Oklahoma where his family farmed and ranched. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1974 with a degree in agricultural journalism. He and his wife, Robyn, have two children.

"The American Quarter Horse Association has been actively involved with the American Horse Council since its formation in 1969. Over those many years, the legislative issues facing horse owners and our industry have changed dramatically and now more than ever it's critical for us to be involved in Washington," said Treadway. "As an AHC trustee, I am dedicated to facing the challenges ahead and representing the members of AQHA, as well as working closer with our Q-Contacts and Public Policy Committee, to ensure the horse industry is represented in Washington. Being an AHC trustee facilitates this."

### **Layher Joins American Horse Council Staff**

R.J. Layher has recently joined the American Horse Council as the Director of Health and Regulatory Affairs. His responsibilities will include equine health issues, welfare issues, and state, federal and international requirements regarding the movement of horses. He will be the principal AHC contact to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"It's great to be part of an organization that understands the importance horses play in our country. I look forward to advocating on behalf of the horse industry to preserve this robust and dynamic facet of the agricultural economy that it is today," Layher said.

Mr. Layher grew up on a family farm in Southeast Michigan and graduated from Hillsdale College in 2010 with a degree in Political Economy. Before coming to Washington, he managed a Michigan State House campaign and spent time in Oklahoma, Kansas, Minnesota and the Dakotas where he worked for a custom harvester. Most recently, he was a Legislative Assistant for retired Congressman Timothy V. Johnson of Illinois.

"We are pleased to have R.J. join the AHC staff," said AHC President, Jay Hickey. "He brings political experience and enthusiasm to this important position."

### **Federal Legislation Introduced to Eliminate Soring**

On April 11, 2013, Congressmen Ed Whitfield (R-KY) introduced the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2013 (H.R. 1518). The bill is intended to strengthen the Horse Protection Act (HPA) to prevent soring. The HPA was enacted in 1970 to prohibit the showing, exhibiting, transporting or sale at auction of a horse that has been sored.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which enforces the HPA, deems soring to involve the use of action devices, chemicals, pads, wedges or practices like trimming a horse's hoof to expose sensitive tissue, to cause pain in the horse's forelegs and produce an accentuated show gait for competition. According to the USDA, soring has been primarily used with Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses and continues despite the existence of a federal ban for over forty years.

"Far too often, those involved in showing the Tennessee Walking Horses have turned a blind eye to abusive trainers, or when they do take action, the penalties are so minor, it does nothing to prevent these barbaric acts," stated Whitfield. "This amendment does not cost the federal government any additional money and is essential in helping to put an end to the practice of



soring by abusive trainers.”

The horse show industry has been living with the HPA for over 40 years. However, the trigger for USDA enforcement of the Act is the showing, exhibition, auction or transport of a sore horse. For this reason USDA has focused its efforts on those segments of the show community that involve breeds and activities that are most frequently involved in soring. If a breed, discipline, or activity is not soring its horses to exaggerate their gaits, then as a practical matter the Act has likely not adversely affected them and the bill to amend the Act, if passed, will not affect them any more than current law.

The bill would amend the HPA to prohibit a Tennessee Walking Horse, a Racking Horse, or a Spotted Saddle Horse from being shown, exhibited, or auctioned with an action device, or a weighted shoe, pad, wedge, hoof band or other device or material if it is constructed to artificially alter the gait of the horse and is not strictly protective or therapeutic. These new prohibitions would not apply to other breeds and would not prohibit the use of therapeutic pads, or bell boots or quarter boots that are used as protective devices.

The legislation would also increase fines and penalties for violations for soring, including the potential for a lifetime ban for repeat offenders.

The bill would create a new licensing process for horse show inspectors, eliminating the current program that uses industry-affiliated designated qualified persons (DQPs). This program has received criticism because these DQPs are often not independent of the industry they are inspecting. USDA would be required to train, license and appoint the new independent inspectors for shows and other HPA-regulated activities that wish to hire an inspector. Licensed or accredited veterinarians would be given preference for these positions. The decision to hire an inspector, however, would still be up to the show, sale or auction. It would not be made mandatory. Shows or sales that employ DQPs now would begin using USDA-selected inspectors. Shows or sales that choose not to use DQPs now would not be required to use them should the bill pass.

The Bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

“The AHC supports this legislation, as does the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Paint Horse Association, the American Morgan Horse Association, the Pinto Horse Association of America, the American Veterinary Medical Association and other groups,” said Jay Hickey, president of the American Horse Council. “The bill focuses on the problem it is intended to solve and does not adversely affect other segments of the show industry that are not soring horses and have no history of soring horses. The AHC will be involved in the Congressional process and will immediately oppose any efforts, amendments, or attempts to broaden the Act or its enforcement that would adversely or unnecessarily affect any breeds, disciplines, or horses that have no history of soring.”

## **Senators Introduce Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill**

On April 17, the “Gang of Eight” a bipartisan group of senators, including Senators Schumer (D-NY), McCain (R-AZ), Durbin (D-IL), Graham (R-SC), Menendez (D-NJ), Rubio (R-FL), Bennet (D-CO), and Flake (R-AZ), introduced the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013. The bill would increase border security, provide a path for unauthorized immigrants to remain in the country and eventually apply for citizenship, implement an employment verification system, and improve current and create new temporary guest worker programs. If comprehensive immigration is debated by Congress in the coming months this bill will likely be the basis for reform.

“Comprehensive immigration reform has been a priority of the horse industry for many years. The difficulty horse farms, horse shows, trainers and others have had recruiting American workers has forced many to rely on foreign workers and utilize both the H-2B and H-2A temporary foreign worker programs to meet their labor needs,” said AHC president Jay Hickey. “However, the current system is not reliable and is extremely burdensome to use. This bill would overhaul the U.S. immigration system and has the potential to finally fix some of the immigration issues facing the horse industry and all of



American agricultural.”

## **The Bill**

This bill is very long and complex and would make many changes concerning border security and all aspects of our current immigration system. The horse industry is primarily concerned with changes to guest worker programs and a path to legal status for undocumented workers.

## **Legal Status**

The bill would allow undocumented aliens to apply for registered provisional immigrant (RPI) status if they were here by December 31, 2011, have not been convicted of any serious crime, pay back taxes, and pay a fine. They can then stay and work in the country. After ten years they could apply for permanent residence (Green Card), and eventually citizenship, if they pay additional fines and fulfill additional requirements.

Undocumented farm workers including those on horse farms would be eligible for a separate agricultural legalization program, referred to as a “blue card,” that includes an accelerated 5 year path to legal permanent resident status if they continue to work in the agricultural sector.

These changes would allow any undocumented individuals working in any capacity or segment of the horse industry to stay and continue working if they can meet the requirements in the bill.

## **Temporary Worker Programs**

The bill would replace the current H-2A program with a new, temporary agricultural foreign worker program that should be easier to use than the current H-2A program. The new program would be administered by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) as opposed to the Department of Labor (DOL), and provide two work visa options :1) a portable, at will employment based visa; and 2) a contract based visa program. Visas will be good for up to 3 years and could be renewed one time. Currently, H-2A visas are only good for 10 months. To participate in the program employers must register with USDA and will have to provide housing or housing stipend, pay transportation cost, pay a predetermined wage and take actions to recruit and ensure U.S. workers are not adversely affected, similar to the current H-2A program. However, the proposed program should be much less burdensome for employers to use than the current H-2A program.

The bill also includes some reforms to the H-2B temporary, non-agricultural worker program such as an improved wage methodology. It also would exempt returning workers from counting against the 66,000 annual visa cap through 2018.

Additionally, the bill would create a completely new low-skill guest worker program (W- Visa). This program would grant low skill foreign workers a 3-year W-visa to work for American employers in industries that have difficulty finding American workers. The program would have an annual cap of 20,000 visas for the first year; 35,000 the second year; 55,000 the third year and 75,000 the fourth year after which the cap will be calculated according to a formula that takes into account several factors, like new job openings in the economy and the number of unemployed US workers. Employers would have to register for this program, demonstrate a need and take actions to recruit and ensure U.S. workers are not adversely affected similar to other guest worker programs. Non-agricultural horse industry employers like trainers, race tracks, and horse shows should be eligible for this program.

## **Employment Verification**

The bill would also require all employers to use the E-Verify system over a 5-year phase-in period to make sure all their workers are authorized to work in the U.S. Employers with more than 5,000 employees will be phased in within 2 years; those



with more than 500 employees 3 years; all others, including agricultural employers, will be phased in within 4 years.

“This bill is very complex and is over 800 pages long. The AHC is in the beginning stages of analyzing the bill and its possible impact on the industry. However, the bill has the potential to make the guest worker programs the horse industry relies on more reliable, less burdensome and less costly,” said AHC legislative director Ben Pendergrass. “Some of the reforms included in this bill could fix many of the labor issue the industry has been dealing with for many years.”

“The AHC will be watching this process closely and working to make sure any final bill deals with the needs of horse farms, horse shows, trainers and the entire horse industry,” said Hickey.

### **Focus of AHC’s Issues Forum is “A Healthy Horse, a Healthy Industry”**

The American Horse Council has announced that its theme for this year’s National Issues Forum is “A Healthy Horse, A Healthy Industry.” “These two concepts are co-dependent,” said AHC president Jay Hickey. “Our horses need a viable, growing industry, supported by the public, to ensure they are enjoyed and can get the best care; and fundamental to our industry is a healthy horse that can be moved interstate and internationally for breeding, showing, racing, sale and recreational riding. There are a number of continuing efforts to accomplish these goals that will be the focus of the National Issues Forum.”

This year’s National Issues Forum will be held on Tuesday, June 18, in Washington, DC during the AHC’s annual convention. The annual meeting will run from June 16 to 19 at the Washington Court Hotel.

The convention will also include the AHC’s Congressional Reception, the annual Congressional Ride-In, meetings of all AHC committees, the meeting of the Unwanted Horse Coalition and the AHC’s Breed Roundtable, which brings together leaders of the horse industry to discuss common issues of importance.

This year’s Issues Forum will focus on the progress of the National Equine Health Plan. The plan will spell-out the issues surrounding the prevention and control of diseases and the responsibilities and roles of the federal and state authorities and the industry to keep our horses healthy and our industry viable in the face of disease outbreaks, which seem to be occurring more frequently. Fundamental to such a plan is an Equine Disease Communication Center to coordinate and disseminate accurate information about equine diseases. Plans are underway to create a network involving veterinarians and Federal and State Animal health officials to relay time-sensitive information through a central communication system so that reliable and updated information will be available to all segments of the horse industry in real time. This will help to ensure that more horses can be shielded from outbreaks and any disruptions to movement, events or activities are minimized.

Industry support will be critical to the effort. The Issues Forum will be an opportunity for horse people to hear about the plans and provide feedback.

Attendees will also receive an update on the status of the AHC’s Marketing Consortium to reinvigorate the horse industry, which was discussed at last year’s Forum. The consortium now involves a number of organizations and industry service providers. Substantial progress on messages, themes, target audiences, social media, and test-events has been made. The forum will be an opportunity to flesh out this marketing effort and involve others.

The AHC Breed Roundtable will be held on Monday, June 17. This event was reinstated several years ago and has proven to be very popular. It allows leaders of varied horse organizations and varied disciplines to visit with each other and discuss issues of common concern.

The annual Congressional Ride-In will take place all day Wednesday, June 19. The Ride-In allows members of the horse community to meet with their elected representatives and federal officials to discuss important issues affecting them. All members of the horse community are encouraged to participate, even if they don’t attend the AHC convention.



“The Ride-In puts a face on the \$102 billion horse industry and the millions of Americans who are part of it,” said Hickey. “Congress deals with various issues that impact the horse industry, including taxes, gaming, immigration, welfare, access to trails and public lands, diseases, and interstate and international movement of horses. This is an opportunity for the horse community to come to Washington in force and meet with their Senators, Representatives, and staffs. The Ride-In literally illustrates the goal of the AHC to ‘Put More Horsepower in Congress.’”

The AHC will conduct a free briefing for Ride-In participants. Anyone wishing to participate in the Ride-In should contact AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass at [bpendergrass@horsecouncil.org](mailto:bpendergrass@horsecouncil.org) or 202-296-4031.

More information on these Forums and the entire AHC annual meeting, including registration and hotel information can be found on the AHC’s website, <http://horsecouncil.org/events.php> or by contacting the AHC.

## **Open Letter to the Horse Industry: Time to be Proactive on Equine Disease Outbreaks**

The horse community is always just one step from a calamity and that calamity is a disease outbreak of such proportion as to widely imperil the health of our horses and threaten the economic viability of our industry. The ever-present risk is due to the equine industry’s reliance on the timely movement of healthy horses for sales, breeding, racing, showing, work and recreation. In this environment an infectious disease outbreak can result in federal or state restrictions on horse movement to stop the spread of the disease.

Since the beginning of 2013 there have been outbreaks of the neurologic form of Equine Herpesvirus-1, called Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM), in New Jersey, Utah, Colorado, Florida, Illinois Tennessee, California and Quebec, Canada. These and other disease outbreaks have cost the industry millions of dollars for the care of horses, implementation of biosecurity, and lost revenue in the form of cancelled or restricted commercial equine activities.

The industry has been able to deal with various diseases – so far. The United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services, has joined the effort as needed, and State Animal Health authorities have been responsive, often taking the lead in dealing with outbreaks. Equine organizations and affected participants have responded, but all this has often been in a reactive, ad-hoc manner. It is time for the broader industry to be proactive in dealing with disease outbreaks with increased biosecurity, education, and a plan to immediately stop the spread of diseases.

One of the best ways to contain any disease outbreak is to provide accurate and timely information about the current status of the problem and how to break the cycle of disease transmission. Even though modern communication systems allow access to information continuously, it is often plagued with inaccurate information or too little accurate information. This leaves horse organizations, owners, events, veterinarians and health officials susceptible to the same misinformation generated about the affected horses and wondering about the risk of infection to currently healthy horses.

The American Horse Council, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the National and State Animal Health officials are in the process of creating a National Equine Health Plan (National Plan) that will outline the issues surrounding the prevention, diagnosis and control of diseases and the responsibilities and roles of the federal and state authorities and the industry. Fundamental to such a plan is an Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) to help coordinate and disseminate accurate information about equine diseases throughout North America. Plans are underway to create a network involving practicing veterinarians and Federal and State Animal health officials to relay time-sensitive information through a central communication system so reliable and updated information will be available to all segments of the horse industry in real time.



We hope to convince all members of the equine community of the importance of this initiative. We are asking all horse owners, horse organizations, and event managers to be involved in the preparation of a National Plan and the formation of an EDCC. While Federal and State Veterinary Regulatory officials' help is critical and already being formulated, without industry input and support this program will never achieve the goals of an effective National Plan and communications system which can help stop the spread of disease that can kill horses and cripple the industry.

A major focus of the American Horse Council's National Issues Forum in June will be discussion about the National Plan and the creation of a working model of the EDCC. Once we have a detailed plan we will need support and participation from all parts of the equine industry to make both realities.

Please share your thoughts with us at the American Horse Council and American Association of Equine Practitioners about essential components of a National Plan and Equine Disease Communication System that will to help make both a success for the equine community.

### **Equine Tax Parity Introduced**

On March 6, 2012, Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) introduced the Equine Tax Parity Act (H.R. 998), which would make horses eligible for capital gains treatment after 12 months, rather than 24, similar to other business assets.

Under the current federal tax code, gains from sales by individuals of property used in a trade or business, including horses, qualify for long-term capital gains and are subject to the maximum capital gains tax rate of 15% for taxpayers earning less than \$450,000 or 20% for those earning more. Since the individual tax rate can go as high as 39.6%, the lower rate is a real advantage.

"Horses held for breeding, racing, showing or draft purposes qualify for the capital gains rates only if they are held for 24 months. All other business assets (except cattle) qualify if held for 12 months," Said AHC president Jay Hickey. "We believe this is unfair to the horse industry and there is no reason why we should not be treated the same as all other businesses."

The Equine Tax Parity Act would end this discriminatory treatment of horses under the tax code and allow horse owners to enjoy the reduced rate upon sale after holding a horse for 12 months. For most owners and breeders shortening the capital gains holding period to 12 should be a benefit. Reducing the holding period by half would give many horse owners and breeders more flexibility to sell and market their horses. It would mean that every sale of a horse which is held for at least 12 months will qualify as a capital gain or loss unless that horse is held primarily for sale.

"We appreciate Congressman Barr introducing this legislation and highlighting this unfair tax treatment of horses, we will work with the Congressman to get it passed," said Hickey.

### **Congress Passes Six Month Funding Bill**

On March 21, Congress passed, and the President is expected to sign, a six month Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government through September 30, 2013. This bill is a package of several bills that will ensure all government agencies and programs continue to operate for the next six months. The U.S. Department Agriculture (USDA) FY 2013 appropriations bill is part of the CR and includes several provisions important to the horse industry. The CR also prohibits the Department of Labor (DOL) from implementing a new H-2B wage rule opposed by the AHC.

Normally, Congress debates and approves separate appropriation bills for each federal agency. However, Congress has been unable to pass any individual FY 2013 appropriations bills and has been relying on a six month CR to keep the government operating.

"The recently-passed bill is technically an extension of some FY 2012 appropriations bills and a package of several new FY 2013 appropria-



## **FY 2013 USDA Appropriations Bill**

The bill includes an additional \$1.2 million for Equine, Cervid, and Small Ruminant health. Total funding for Equine, Cervid, and Small Ruminant health is \$19.17 million. The bill specifically directs USDA to use these additional funds to “support equine veterinary medicine and related expenses.” This increase in funding for equine health will help ensure the USDA is able respond effectively to equine disease outbreaks.

“Contagious equine disease outbreaks continue to be a major concern for the horse industry. So the AHC requested Congress increase funding for equine health programs, particularly to fund the equine vet position at USDA,” said AHC president Jay Hickey.

Additionally, while no horse slaughter facilities are currently operating in the U.S., the bill will provide funding for USDA inspections if any facility were opened. For several years beginning in 2005 the USDA was prohibited from funding inspections at horse slaughter facilities, which prevented any such facility from operating in the U.S. In the FY 2012 USDA appropriations bill the prohibition on funding for USDA inspections was lifted. This bill does not contain any provisions that would prevent USDA inspections of horse slaughter facilities to resume if any were to open.

The bill provides \$696,000 for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act.

## **DOL Wage Rule**

The CR will continue to prohibit the DOL from implementing a new wage rule for the H-2B program. The new wage rule is opposed by the AHC and other H-2B users because it would significantly increase the cost of using the program. More information on the wage rule can be found at: <http://www.horsecouncil.org/regulations/h-2b-wage-rule>.

## **Bill to Prohibit the Sale of Horses for Food Introduced in House**

On March 12, 2013, Congressman Patrick Meehan (R-PA) introduced the Safeguard American Food Exports Act of 2013 (H.R.1094). The bill would prohibit the sale, transport, export or import of horses or horse meat for human consumption. A Senate version of this bill is expected to be introduced by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA).

The House bill would amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to make it illegal for anyone to sell, transport, export or import horses or horse meat if they “know or should have known” the horses were to be slaughtered, or the horse meat was to be used for human consumption. The penalty for the first violation would be a maximum fine of \$1,000 and/or up to a year in prison. Subsequent violations could result in up to three years in prison and/or a fine of not more than \$10,000.

The bill states that horses in the United States are treated with a number of drugs that are not approved for use in horses intended for human consumption and pose a serious health threat to humans.

This bill is different from other bills introduced in previous years that would have also prohibited the transport or sale of horses intended for human consumption. Those bills would have amended the Horse Protection Act and did not cite health concerns as the justification for the bills.

The House bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Agriculture.





## **CEM Rules Tightened**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal, Plant, Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has finalized a new rule concerning Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). These rules were previously adopted as interim rules in 2012, but then held in abeyance to allow for the industry to prepare for the new requirements and to allow the USDA to review comments on changes. USDA has now made these rules final, effective March 13, 2013.

“APHIS undertook the rulemaking because of the increasing number of cases of CEM in the last few years,” said AHC President Jay Hickey. “The changes are intended to provide additional safeguards and strengthen the testing requirements on imported horses to reduce the chances of a CEM outbreak in the U.S.”

Under these new rules, test mares, imported mares, and imported stallions above a certain age will be required to undergo an additional CEM test that will help improve the accuracy of final test results. These include:

- Mares over 731 days of age must be given a complement fixation (CF) test at the post-arrival CEM quarantine facility. Mares that test positive will be treated and retested.
- Stallions to be imported will have one set of cultures collected prior to test breeding with negative results. If positive, the stallion will be treated and retested by being test bred to two mares within 21 days of the treatment.
- Test Mares and Mares over 731 Days – Three sets of cultures must be taken but only the third set must include a swab from the distal cervix or endometrium.

To see the complete list of all countries the USDA has specified affected with CEM, health certificate requirements, pre-exportation CEM testing, and general entry requirements for bringing horses into the U.S. from CEM affected countries, please see the USDA-APHIS website.

## **Legislation Introduced to Ease Federal Sports Betting Ban**

Several states have attempted to offer sports betting, most notable New Jersey, which went to court to overturn the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act that was enacted in 1992 and prohibits sports betting. The state lost that suit in the lower court, but has appealed the decision. Now two New Jersey representatives have introduced legislation to amend the ban. One bill would allow New Jersey to offer sports betting; the other would give all states a limited opportunity to do so.

When the sports betting ban was passed over 20 years ago, Nevada, Delaware and Oregon were exempted since they offered forms of sports wagering then, although only Nevada offered full sports betting and is the only state that can do so now. New Jersey was given two years, until 1994, to institute sports betting but that window closed without New Jersey acting. Pari-mutuel racing was exempted from the prohibitions on sports betting when the law was passed and still is.

More recently, New Jersey has been at the forefront of initiating sports betting. In 2011, New Jersey voters amended the state constitution to allow sports betting at casinos and racetracks. The state legislature then passed a law allowing sports betting; but the federal law still prohibited it. The state filed suit in federal court arguing that the current federal ban was unconstitutional. The Department of Justice argued that the ban passed constitutional muster. The judge ruled in early March that the federal ban was constitutional and that New Jersey could not offer sports betting. New Jersey has appealed that decision.

Two bills have now been introduced in Congress to amend the federal ban. Congressmen Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) have each introduced legislation in the House of Representatives to provide a path for New Jersey, and possibly other states, to offer sports betting.



Mr. Pallone's bill, the New Jersey Betting and Equal Treatment Act of 2013 (H.R. 626), would amend the federal law to exclude New Jersey from the federal prohibitions and allow the state to offer sports betting, limited to New Jersey, if approved by the state legislature.

Mr. LoBiondo's bill, the Sports Gaming Opportunity Act of 2013 (H.R. 625), would open up a four-year window, from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2017, during which any state could legalize betting on professional and amateur sports. If a state did not act, the window would close and that state could not offer such wagering.

There has been no action on either bill as yet.

### **UHC's Operation Gelding Program Continues Nationwide**

The Unwanted Horse Coalition's (UHC) Operation Gelding program continues to help castrate stallions nationwide. Since the beginning of the year the program has helped to geld over 85 horses in six states across the country.

The program, which was first launched in late August 2010, is able to continue aiding in the castration of stallions thanks to the support and seed money provided by the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation, Pfizer, and the UHC. Proceeds from the sale of the Dr. Jennifer Williams' book *How to Start and Run a Rescue* from the UHC's website also go to the Operation Gelding program. Books can be purchased by going to the UHC website: [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org).

Operation Gelding is designed to offer funding assistance to organizations, associations, and events that wish to conduct a public gelding clinic under the name and guidelines of Operation Gelding. An organization that has completed an Operation Gelding clinic will receive funding of \$50 per horse, \$1,000 maximum, to aid in the costs associated with the clinic.

Dani Horton and Lisa Rice of the GFAS verified non-profit Hope Equine Rescue held a free gelding clinic in Auburndale, FL in February and gelded an incredible 42 horses. Rice said, "We would like to thank the Unwanted Horse Coalition for their support through their Operation Gelding program. The clinic was a huge success and due to their funding assistance, we were able to geld 42 horses! We look forward to working with UHC in the future and appreciate the many resources that they provide."

The New Mexico Horse Council held an Operation Gelding clinic in January with the help of Kristin Kreger and Dr. Dave Fly. Through research Kreger and Dr. Fly learned that the need for castration in New Mexico exists primarily in poor rural areas and frequently the owners of horses in these areas don't use a vet or have a horse trailer. "We made a difference for four horses thanks to UHC! Thank you UHC for providing this "stepping stone" for equine population management in the state of New Mexico. This program is a great long term and short term solution for equine management," said Kreger.

Delores Hanser from Paws Ranch Equine Rescue in North Carolina held her first Operation Gelding clinic along with the help of veterinarian Dr. Callie Fogle. On March 1 they castrated a herd of 15 semi feral stallions. Hanser told us, "Our clinic was a great success thanks to all that participated. We appreciate all the UHC has done to help our organization and unwanted horses." Callie Fogle DVM, DACVS; Assistant Professor, Equine Surgery, NC State College of Veterinary Medicine said, "I'd like to thank the Unwanted Horse Coalition for funding the castration clinic and supporting the health of the semi-feral herd of horses. The clinic enabled participating veterinarians from NC State's College of Veterinary Medicine, Carolina Equine Clinic, East Carolina Veterinary Service, and Rutherford Large Animal Services to teach NC State veterinary students the technique of castration. The students also learned darting techniques to restrain the horses from Sue Stuska, a wildlife biologist with the Cape Lookout National Seashore. The castrations were conducted to help the owner with the cost of reducing additional births in the semi-feral herd."

All Vegas Horses and Karin Cartwood were able to hold their first Operation Gelding clinic in Las Vegas, NV in March. Cartwood tells the UHC that the clinic really made an impact on the Vegas equine community, "The community was very impressed with this clinic, so many attendees said they could not have afforded it otherwise!"



Nikki Walden and Anne Thornton held their first Operation Gelding clinic in Greenville, TX with the help of the Unwanted Horse Coalition. They were able to castrate 11 stallions in February and were very happy with the success of their clinic. Thornton told the UHC, “Working with the UHC was fantastic. The owners that participated were very appreciative of the assistance provided to have their horses gelded. My veterinarian thought it was a fantastic idea and would like to see more offered if possible.”

Faith Equine Rescue in Mulberry Florida held a clinic in Mulberry, FL in March under the guidance of Dawn Bazemore. “Thanks to the Unwanted Horse Coalition’s Operation Gelding we now have 14 less stallions. This is a huge relief for us as a rescue, knowing that we have been able to prevent foals from being born and potentially becoming unwanted or abused. Thank you for all that you do for these horses, without these services we would be in so much more trouble than we are now,” said Bazemore.

Upcoming clinics will be held in CO, FL, VA, WA, IA, and NM.

Operation Gelding currently has funding available for organizations that would like to host their own Operation Gelding clinic. For more information on how to host your own clinic, contact Ericka Caslin, UHC Director, at [ecaslin@horsecouncil.org](mailto:ecaslin@horsecouncil.org) or 202-296-4031.