

# AHCnews

## AHC Work on Proposed Changes to Horse Protection Act Con.

Many members of the horse industry know that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently proposed changes to the regulations governing enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (HPA). The HPA was passed in 1970 to stop the cruel practice of "soring" horses that was occurring in some parts of the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse and Spotted Saddle Horse industry.

The proposed rule would make several changes to current HPA regulations with the goal of improving enforcement of the law and ending soring. However, the proposed rule has prompted some questions about its potential impact on the wider industry, particularly on other gaited breeds. The AHC has convened an HPA working group and has been engaging industry stake holders to answer some of these questions and draft formal comments regarding the proposed rule. The AHC has been actively communicating with industry groups including the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the U.S Equestrian Federation, the American Saddlebred Horse Association, the American Morgan Horse Association, and the Arabian Horse Association.

"The AHC has always opposed soring and supported the enforcement of the HPA. There is no question that soring is an abusive practice that should not be tolerated or allowed to continue. Because soring continues to be a problem in the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse and Spotted Saddle Horse industry, improvements to the HPA enforcement program are clearly needed and justified," said AHC President Julie Broadway.

"However, it is equally important that any new regulations are narrowly focused on the problem of soring and do not adversely impact or unnecessarily burden other segments of the horse show industry that are not soring horses and have no history of soring horses."

The USDA has been holding public meetings around the country and will be accepting written comments until September 26, 2016. USDA will then review all comments and make changes based on those comments before releasing a final rule.

"Any time regulatory changes are proposed there is always a need to seek clarifications and make improvements. This is why federal agencies seek comments before any rule is made final," said AHC Sr. VP, Policy & Legislative Affairs Ben Pendergrass. "The AHC's HPA working group is drafting comprehensive comments on the proposed rule that will hopefully help USDA improve the rule and address any concerns the horse industry has about the rule. "

The AHC will continue to keep the horse industry updated as the rulemaking process continues. The proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register and can be viewed here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/07/26/2016-17648/horse-protection-licensing-of-designated-qualified-persons-and-other-amendments>

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## Get to Know the New AHC President

On July 1, Julie Broadway “took the reins” from Jay Hickey and became President of the American Horse Council. Naturally we thought she would be the best fit for our first staff-profile! Get to know Julie and find out why she is passionate about the AHC and what we do.

### AHC Related Questions:

- **How did you first get involved with, or first hear about, the American Horse Council?**

I first heard about the American Horse Council at the local level through my state horse council. I saw the great work the state council was doing to preserve trails, gain funding for horse facilities and expose people to joy of horses. I got involved with AHC while working at a breed Association – I served on AHC committees and was impressed with the work AHC does. Working at AHC seemed like a great way to use my skills and talents, and give back to the industry I love.

- **What do you find most challenging about the AHC?**

What I find most challenging about AHC (but in a good way!) is the diversity and complexity of the subject matter AHC addresses. While AHC primary focus is on “horses”, there is also legislation that affects the businesses, associations and other stakeholders that make up the horse industry. We can go from talking about 3 year depreciation on race horses to equine disease control, all the way to how changes in overtime legislation can impact associations and non-profits.

- **What do you wish other people knew about the AHC?**

I wish everyone knew about the important work AHC does and how vital having a voice for the horse industry is to the long term sustainability of the industry. Next time you saddle up and go for a trail ride, remember someone at a state horse council and here in Washington is fighting to keep those trails open and accessible so you and your partner can enjoy that ride. Don’t forget to send us photos of the scenery so we can enjoy that ride along with you ☺

- **Why do you think it is so important to become a member of the AHC?**

Without AHC the horse industry would be fragmented and our voice would be lost in the noise. Horse enthusiasts need to support AHC so that we can advocate, educate and collaborate with regulatory and legislative bodies and work to unify the industry. On a more personal level being an AHC member helps ensure the health and wellbeing of your horses, and strives to maintain the equine community you love.

- **What do you think will change within the equine industry over the next five years? Do you see any specific trends?**

I’m hopeful we’ll see some growth in the industry in the next five years. AHC’s Time to Ride program and the Olympics “Let’s move” campaign are striving to expose people of all ages to horses.

- **If you weren’t working for the AHC, what would you be doing instead?**

Well that depends – did I hit the lottery?

### Time to Get Personal!

- **What might someone be surprised to know about you?**

I grew up on the coast and am an avid swimmer and sailor.

Maybe not “surprising” but still fun facts...horses have played an important role in many of my major life events. I met my husband at a horse show. He proposed on a carriage ride in Central Park and we got married in the pasture at Tara Farm with WC Tara’s War Eagle pulling the carriage.

- **What do you like to do in your down time?**

In my down time I like to horseback ride, garden, read, cook, and play with my Pembroke Welsh Corgis!

- **What is your favorite food?**

I don’t really have a favorite food. All seafood is great, I like spicy ethnic foods so Italian, and Mexican also top my list. Comfort food is mom’s homemade chicken pie.

- **What music is playing in your car right now?**

If you and James Cordon got in my VM beetle right now you’d hear either NPR, classical or country. Carpool Karaoke would be a hodge-podge!

- **Who is your favorite equestrian/horse?**

My favorite equestrians are very diverse – they range from Suzy Stafford (Driving), David O’Connor (Eventing) to Mike Goebig (Saddleseat). They are not only great horseman, they are great people! My favorite horse is of course- mine!



## How the AHC Spent the Summer

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. In the DC area, some schools have even already started up, and traffic is getting back to its "normal" gridlock.

Both the Senate and the House have been in recess since the middle of July, and are slated to come back to work on September 5th and 6th, respectively. Since the American Horse Council (AHC) works with Congress on issues that impact our industry, what exactly do we do during the summer when Congress isn't here?

In June we held our Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum, where members and leaders from every segment of the industry gathered to discuss issues of importance that are affecting the industry. The National Issues Forum, sponsored by Luitpold Animal Health contained presentations and discussions about the successful Time to Ride campaign and benefits of Microchipping with speakers from the United States Equestrian Federation, United States Hunter Jumper Association, and The Jockey Club. Senator Pat Robert (R-KS) also spoke on the importance of the industry and hearing from constituents about the issues they feel are important.

After the Annual Meeting, the AHC transitioned to new leadership with Julie Broadway assuming the role as President from Jay Hickey. Under her leadership, the AHC is working on a new and improved Annual Meeting, and increasing the visibility of the AHC not only within the industry itself, but in the public eye as well.

On the legislative side of things, both the Senate and the House both adjourned for recess on July 15th and 16th. Even though members of Congress are not physically here in Washington during their summer recess, the AHC is still working with staff of members of Congress on issues and regulations that could impact our equine industry.

During this recess time members of Congress are still working, but out of their offices in their home districts. In fact, a lot of members set aside specific time to meet with their constituents face to face while they are back in their district. This is a perfect opportunity to set up a meeting with them and discuss any issues of importance to you and the equine industry.

Additionally, staff members for the member of Congress are still back in the office here in Washington, DC during the recess, and meetings are still taking place. While Congress isn't in session, no formal hearings or votes take place, but work is still being done on your behalf.

Last week, the USDA announced proposed changes in the Horse Protection Act (HPA) regulations, so the AHC has been actively working on reviewing these proposed changes, what they could mean for the industry, as well as preparing our comments for submission. As a result of these proposed changes being announced, there has been some confusion on the difference between the current HPA Regulations, the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, and the proposed HPA regulations. The AHC has put together some information in an easy to understand [infographic](#), as well as more detailed information on each that you can [view here](#).

Due to 2016 being an election year, Congress has been working on an abbreviated schedule so not much has been voted on or passed. As a result, we anticipate that 2017 will be quite busy, but rest assured that the AHC will be here actively working on behalf of you, your sport, and your equine.



## **Economic Impact Study to be Updated**

The American Horse Council Foundation is seeking to update the National Economic Impact Study of the Horse Industry in 2017. State Breakouts will also be included for this third update.

The 2005 Economic Impact Study documented the economic effects of the racing, showing, recreation and other segments of the horse industry. It established that the horse industry in all its segments, including racing, showing, and recreation, had a \$39 billion effect on the US economy, involved more than 4 million Americans and 9.2 million horses, and supported 1.4 million full-time jobs. The study also provided invaluable demographic data and insights into professions and other industries that are impacted by the equine ownership.

The study has proven to be extremely helpful to the industry's efforts in Congress and state legislatures and in documenting its size and diversity to the public, press and media.

The 2017 Study will include expanded demographic information to include the impact that youth involvement has on the industry, as well as a more in-depth of analysis of all segments of the industry—such as rescues and sanctuaries, and therapeutic riding centers.

“The 1996 and 2005 studies gave insight to an industry that operates in every corner of the country and contributes greatly to the American economy and culture,” said Julie Broadway, President of the AHC. “We are looking forward to updating this information to continue to be able to educate not only Congress and state legislatures, but also the industry itself as well.”

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the update of the national study, you can make a tax-deductible contribution to the American Horse Council Foundation. Please email [info@horsecouncil.org](mailto:info@horsecouncil.org) or call the AHC at 202-296-4031 with any questions.

## **Coalition of State Horse Councils Fall Meeting Approaching**

Representatives of state horse councils and the American Horse Council will meet in Kansas City October 28, 29 & 30th for their annual fall meeting. All state councils are encouraged to have representation at this meeting. The continued effectiveness of the Coalition of State Horse Councils rests on all its members.

As this years' host, the Kansas Horse Council has assembled an exceptional range of speakers to address pertinent topics related to: forming effective non-profit boards and dealing with compliance issues such as the “Do's and Don'ts to Maintain 501c3 Compliance;” a four person panel discussion of “What's ahead for equine owners?” presented by Drs. Davis, Blevins, Lutter and Beard of the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine; and a multi-user panel discussion with representatives from federal and state land management, Back Country Horsemen, hiking, biking and ATV users, to discuss multi-user trail issues and how we can better interface as groups to do trail maintenance work, host multi-user functions, and better respect one another.

To provide a genuine Kansas experience there will be several presentations unique to Kansas including:

1. An exhibition by the Fort Riley Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard
2. A review of the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility, which is the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's foremost animal disease research facility. The \$1.25 billion facility being constructed in Manhattan, KS is a biosafety level-4 laboratory and will replace the aging Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York.
3. The Bureau of Land Management - Kansas Wild Horse Program. Through a unique partnership with the Kansas Department of Corrections and Kansas Correctional Industries, the BLM offers gentled wild horses for adoption at the Hutchinson



Correctional Facility. These are animals that have been halter- or saddle-trained by inmates in a rehabilitation program.

4. For some interesting equine history, Friday evening Rob Kornacki will provide the thoroughly engrossing story of “Comanche, Famed Equine Survivor of Custer’s Last Stand”, who is on display at the Kansas University Natural History Museum.

If you haven’t received the full schedule and registration materials please contact Ashley at the AHC office: [afurst@horsecouncil.org](mailto:afurst@horsecouncil.org). A lot of planning has gone into making this a valuable learning opportunity which isn’t easy considering the vast experience level of state horse council representatives.

The host hotel is the Hyatt Place Kansas City Airport which has a free shuttle available. The link to book a room at the CSHC rate of \$79/King bed or \$84/Double beds is: [http://kansascityairport.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp\\_id+g-kshc](http://kansascityairport.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id+g-kshc).

Catered meals will be provided for lunch and dinner on Saturday thanks to a donation from Merial.