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AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL
Your Unified Voice In Washington



AHC Holds Forum on Welfare of the Horse

The American Horse Council's National Issues Forum was held June 16 in conjunction with its 2009 annual Meeting. The forum's focus was on the Welfare of the Horse and included panels on racing, showing, competition, sport, and horses used in work and entertainment. Representatives from national organizations involved in all these activities provided an update on their welfare activities.

[READ MORE](#) (Full Summary of Forum)

The American Horse Council's "Welfare of the Horse" Forum is Now Available on H-Span

On Tuesday June 16, 2009 the American Horse Council held "The Welfare of the Horse" forum in Washington, DC. The Forum, sponsored by Luitpold, was held as part of the AHC's National Issues Forum and featured speakers from segments of the horse community as varied as competition, sport, work and entertainment. Speakers and panelists discussed the many welfare and safety initiatives that various segments of the horse industry have in place or are instituting.

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Brewer, Lenz, and Tanner Appointed to the AHC Board of Trustees

The American Horse Council is pleased to announce that Mr. Bill Brewer, Dr. Tom Lenz, and Mr. Mike Tanner were appointed to the AHC Board of Trustees at the 2009 annual meeting.

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Russell Williams Elected AHC Chairman

Russell C. Williams, USTA Vice-Chairman and Director for District 7 (Pennsylvania) was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Horse Council (AHC) at their annual meeting in Washington, DC on June 16. The Horse Council is the federal information and lobbying representative of the horse industry in Washington.

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Bush H-2A Agricultural Worker Rules Are Suspended by Obama

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has suspended the changes to the H-2A program made by the Bush Administration last December 18, 2008. This suspension took effect June 28, 2009. Many horse breeding farms employ foreign workers for temporary periods through this program. In the final months of the Bush administration the DOL adopted a final rule outlining new procedures for the administration of the H-2A temporary agricultural alien worker program. Those regulations took effect January 17, 2009.

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Horse Industry Meets with Congress in AHC Congressional Ride-In



David Foley, AAEP, Congressman Kurt Schrader (OR), Dr. Harry Werner, AAEP, Dr. Scott Palmer, AAEP, and Dr. Nat White, AAEP

The 2009 American Horse Council National Issues Forum highlighting the welfare of the horse was held in Washington, DC June 14 to 17. The Forum also provided an opportunity for leaders from AHC member organizations and every facet of the horse industry to meet with members of Congress and their staffs to discuss issues important to the industry.

"The AHC represents the horse industry before Congress and the federal agencies. The Ride-In is great because it allows us to bring the horse industry to Washington for a few days," said AHC President Jay Hickey.

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Rolapp Award Goes to Congressman Ben Chandler



AHC President, Jay Hickey with 2009 Rolapp Award winner,

Obama Makes Immigration Reform a Priority

On June 25, President Obama signaled his intent to prioritize immigration reform by holding a meeting with key members of Congress. Members from the House and Senate and both parties with varying positions on immigration reform attended the meeting at the White House.

"We have finished what I consider to be a very productive meeting on one of the most critical issues that I think this nation faces and that is an immigration system that is broken and needs fixing," said President Obama.

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Withholding Repeal Would Benefit Racing

Wagering on horse racing has decreased over the last few years. While there are likely a number of reasons for this, one is clearly the current withholding tax that is imposed on certain winning wagers made on races. But if Congressmen Charles Boustany (R-LA) and John Yarmuth (D-KY) have their way, this will end. Both Representatives introduced the Pari-mutuel Conformity and Equality Act of 2009 (H.R. 2140), which would repeal the federal withholding tax on pari-mutuel gambling winnings.

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Internet Gambling Legislation Introduced

The Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act (UIGEA) was passed in 2006. The law does not prohibit Internet wagering, but bars banks and credit card companies from processing payments to facilitate such wagering. The law permits "any activity that is allowed under the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978," thus protecting racing's interstate wagering activities by maintaining the status-quo.

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Congressman Ben Chandler (KY)

The American Horse Council's 2009 Rolapp Award was presented to Congressman Ben Chandler of Kentucky for his outstanding support of the horse industry. The award was presented to Congressman Chandler on June 16 at a Congressional Reception in the Capitol during the American Horse Council's National Issues Forum in Washington, DC.

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2009 Van Ness Award Presented to Sally Blount of Iowa



*AHC President Jay Hickey with
2009 Van Ness Award winner Sally Blount*

The American Horse Council's 2009 Van Ness award, named for the late Marjorie Van Ness, and sponsored by New Jersey Horse Council was presented to Ms. Sally Blount of Iowa at the AHC's National Issues Forum on Tuesday June 16, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

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Tourism Promotion Bill Introduced in Senate

Equine tourism is a growing and diverse segment of the horse industry. It encompasses many parts of the industry including recreation, showing and racing. Marketing the U.S as an equine tourism destination abroad will be important to its future growth and will benefit the entire horse industry. Legislation that could aid those efforts has now been introduced in the Senate.

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Senate Passes National Day Of The American Cowboy Resolution

The American Horse Council is pleased the U.S. Senate passed a resolution honoring the American cowboy. The resolution, introduced by U.S. Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming, designates Saturday, July 25, 2008 as "National Day of the Cowboy."

The bill pays tribute to the enduring legacy of the cowboy in America and the contributions cowboys continue to make to our nation today.

"I am happy the United States Senate is honoring such an enduring cultural icon of the American West that is irrevocably linked with the history of the horse in this country. It is important to remember the cowboy and the horse remain an important part of America still. This resolution recognizes both the history and the continuing contribution of the American cowboy" said AHC President Jay Hickey.

SAVE MONEY WITH AHC'S ADVANTAGE PLAN

A membership with the AHC, State Horse Council or an AHC organization entitles you to special savings on products used for your equine farm, business, or personal use.



Visit the AHC website for more information on how you can get discounts with John Deere, UPS, Sherwin-Williams, Toshiba Direct, Office Depot, Equine Travel Advantage and Moxie Equestrian. You can buy products directly from these companies at greatly reduced prices.

[For more information visit http://www.horsecouncil.org/advantage_plan.php](http://www.horsecouncil.org/advantage_plan.php)

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