

THE *work* HORSE

FEBRUARY 2006 VOLUME III

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKY EQUINE  EDUCATION PROJECT

**Horses
Work**
for Kentucky.

KEEP'S EXPANDED GAMING BILL FILED

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) has announced that its expanded gaming bill, which calls for a constitutional amendment to allow casino gaming at designated limited facilities, has been introduced simultaneously in the state House of Representatives as House Bill 600 and in the Senate as House Bill 198.

The bill was sponsored in the House by Rep. Joe Barrows (D-Versailles), Jon Draud (R-Edgewood) and Susan Westrom (D-Lexington) and in the Senate by Sen. David Boswell (D-Owensboro).

"We're pleased to be working with Rep. Barrows, Sen. Boswell and other legislators on this important piece of legislation," said Jim Navolio, KEEP Executive Director. "Our bill, like others, asks for the legislature to let the people of Kentucky decide on this important issue by a constitutional amendment. The bill calls for designated revenue for education,

healthcare, local government, veterans, the environment, the horse industry and more."

*"And to our
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LET THE
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*- Jim Navolio,
Executive
Director, KEEP*

"Currently there are hundreds of millions of dollars leaving our state and we need to keep this revenue in Kentucky for our education system, healthcare needs and other vital services," said Navolio. "This is a complicated issue and will require a lot of dialogue and input from many people to reach consensus. We invite everyone who recognizes the need to keep this revenue in Kentucky to come together with us and engage in dialogue to build consensus to put forth the best plan for Kentucky. And to our opponents we say, let the people decide this issue at the ballot. This will resolve the issue once and for all and every Kentuckian will help decide this important issue."

House Bill 600 deals with the issue of the constitutional amendment. It's companion bill, House Bill 601, deals with the enabling legislation.

HOUSE BILL 600 calls for a voter referendum to amend the state constitution to allow for full gaming casinos for those holding licenses to operate racetracks in Kentucky. If allowed this would generate an estimated \$437 million annually to the state to be earmarked for programs such as education, healthcare, local government and economic development. Under this plan, all Kentucky counties would receive revenue from casino gaming regardless of their location. The monies it would generate for the horse industry would be reinvested in programs to benefit all breeds.

We urge you to contact your legislator and tell them you want this issue to be put on the ballot to "Let the People Decide." Remember, there is strength in numbers and we need to show how strong our industry is with this call to action.

How do I contact my state representative or state senator?

By mail: Capitol Annex, Frankfort, KY 40601

By phone: 800-372-7181 (Legislative Message Line)
877-287-3134 (Spanish Line)

This line is staffed from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday - Thursday and Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the legislative session.

By e-mail: To send a message to your legislator, go to <http://www.lrc.ky.gov>. Click on "Who's My Legislator" by district or county and click to send a note online. Or visit www.vote-smart.org to search by zip code for your legislator.

NOTE: We strongly encourage you to e-mail your individual legislator if at all possible.

When leaving a message, state your name and where you live so it will get to the right legislator. The message is simple. Please support **HOUSE BILL 600** and **LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.**

House Bill Introduced to Remove Sales Tax on Equine Products

A message from Rep Susan Westrom and Rep Royce Adams:

House Bill 263, focusing on tax equity for the horse industry, was jointly filed by Representative Susan Westrom, D-Lexington, and Representative Royce Adams, D-Dry Ridge. This bill was drafted as a requirement of the Subcommittee on Horse Farming which is charged with investigating the value and breadth of the industry and with drafting critical legislation to maintain the health of the industry.

Tax equity has been an issue that Rep Adams began fighting for in 2002, finding it to be an annual challenge to be heard before the Appropriations and Revenue Committee. Both representatives agree that the timing may be better than in the past since this legislation will encourage economic development and further ensures that Kentucky remains the Horse Capitol of the world. This legislation confirms that the horse industry deserves the tools necessary to remain competitive in the horsing world.

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) today announced its support of House Bill 263, which removes the sales tax on feed, grooming supplies and other products sold for equine use. The primary sponsors of this bill are Rep. Susan Westrom, Rep. Royce Adams and Rep. David Osborne. Since the bill was filed several other legislators have signed on as co-sponsors.

"This bill addresses an equity issue," said Jim Navolio, Executive Director of KEEP. "This is an unfair tax that is only levied on horse farmers. If you buy the same item for another animal you are not charged sales tax on the item. Every horse owner across the state would be positively impacted by the removal of this tax."

KEEP is asking its membership, all breed associations and anyone owning a horse to call their legislators at 1-800-372-7181 and voice their support for the removal of this tax.

University of Kentucky Horse College: 2006 Schedule

In 1999, the University of Kentucky held its first Horse College in McCreary County. Dr. Robert Coleman, UK Extension Specialist and Professor is the instructor of the program. "We found that the one night sessions were not meeting the educational needs of the participants", said Dr. Coleman. "Agents were needing and wanting to meet this new extension audience."

The program is a multi county activity that focuses on the adult horse owner. Topics covered are related to the care of horses. The topics cover feeding and nutrition, health, hoof care, selection, facilities, tack and equipment and breeding. The feeding and health are the core topics with the others being selected based on the interests of the local group. The hoof care topic is done by the Horse Shoeing School and the Health is covered by a local vet. Dr. Coleman gets to do the rest.

"We started slow with only a couple per year generally in the spring. In 2005, we had 8 and we will have 7 in 2006 as we have moved to both fall and spring dates. I have 2 booked for spring 2007", says Coleman.

The program is designed for the adult owner or someone thinking about having a horse. The programs are open to all who want to come. The program gives horse

owners from across the state an opportunity to learn more about current practices on caring for their horses. Coleman sees both new owners and long time owners are learning things at the college.

If you are interested in the Horse College by UK, the following are the dates and contacts for 2006:

- Boyd Co. , Lyndell Harned (606-739 5184)
Jan 30th, Feb 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th
- Breckenridge Co. (Grayson and Meade)
Carol Hinton (270-756-2182)
March 13th, 20th, 27th and April 3rd
- Hardin Co (Meade & Larue) Doug Shepard
March 9th, 23rd, April 13th, 27th and May 11th
- Marshall (Calloway, Graves)
Lincoln Martin (270-527-3285)
Jan 19th, Feb 2nd, 9th and 16th

For anyone interested contact your local county agent and have them contact Dr. Coleman at rcoleman@uky.edu

BENEFITS OF A KEEP MEMBERSHIP

- Receive all KEEP newsletters, press releases and updates
- Free admission to Kentucky Pari-mutuel Race Tracks (excluding the Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks and the Breeders' Cup) through December 2006
- Free admission to the Kentucky Horse Park/ American Saddlebred Museum through December 2006 and 15% discount at the Horse Park Gift Shop

THE KEEP MISSION

The Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP) was formed to build broad-based education and grassroots initiatives to increase awareness of the benefits of Kentucky's horse economy, including all breeds, and to promote and preserve jobs and economic opportunities within the equine industry for Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth.

THE RACE FOR EDUCATION TO TOP \$1 MILLION MARK WITH 2006 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Race For Education Board of Directors today voted to award \$350,000 in scholarship money this year to young people in the equine industry, bringing the four-year-old organization's total scholarship awards to \$1,044,000. This year's sum includes new scholarships sponsored by Keeneland and Emerald Downs racecourses, the Ashado Scholarship for a young woman majoring in a horse-related subject, and the National Turf Writers Association/Youbet Journalism Scholarship.

The national nonprofit organization continues to offer its two original types of scholarships: The Thoroughbred Scholarship and the Horsemen's Scholarship. The Horsemen's Scholarship is available to children of racing industry workers, including, but not limited to, foremen, grooms, hot walkers, trainers, riders and maintenance workers. This scholarship is open to any field of study.

The Thoroughbred Scholarship is available to students wishing to pursue a racing- or equine-related career, such as veterinary medicine, agricultural science, racetrack management, or equine business management. The scholarship is open to students from all walks of life. All but the NTWA/Youbet scholarship are primarily need-based.

"Awarding more than a million dollars in such a short time is exciting, but I am most proud of all of the young people whose lives have been changed by receiving a Race For Education schol-

arship," said Executive Director Elisabeth Collier. "The Thoroughbred racing industry deserves an enormous amount of credit for their support in making this important program a reality."

To date, \$694,000 has been awarded to 59 students from 17 states. Recipients are chosen by a selection committee made up of members of the racing industry and independent of the RFE Board of Directors.

This year's selection committee is headed by Steve Grissom, RFE Board Member and college finance consultant and includes RFE treasurer Georgia Lockridge; Greg Avioli with National Thoroughbred Racing Association/Breeders' Cup; Chris Young of Overbrook Farm; Chaplain Mike Powers; Remi Bellocq of the National HBPA; Gay Fisher, formerly with the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Association and now with Mt. Brilliant Farm; Kathy Lacy with National Thoroughbred Racing Association/Breeders' Cup; Kathy Harty, California representative; Anne McMahon, New York representative; Mark Simon of Thoroughbred Times; Corinne Heiligbrodt, Texas representative; and Joe Miller, former RFE scholarship recipient now with Kern Lillingston Association.

The Race For Education is accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors and college students until February 28. Scholarship applications and submission guidelines can be found at The Race For Education web site, www.racingscholarships.com. For more information, contact The Race For Education at (859) 252-8648.

TEAM LEADER UPDATES

KEEP Continues to add to the team leader ranks throughout the state. The following are the latest of these additions.

- David Steele, Laurel County Team Leader, local farrier who owns and operates London Tack.

We want to welcome David aboard.

If you are a team leader and have any news or information to share, let us know. Email Cara Stewart @ cstewart@horseswork.com.

A BREED APART - TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

The Tennessee Walking Horse, a member of the light breeds of the equine family, is no mystery horse, nor is there anything of magic or difficult to understand about his makeup. It is a composite breed that evolved from the Narragansett Pacer, Canadian, Morgan, Standardbred, Thoroughbred and American Saddlebred. These bloods were fused into one animal in the middle Tennessee bluegrass region, resulting in one of the greatest pleasure, show and trail riding horses. The result, over countless years, was the Tennessee Walking Horse - the first breed of horse to bear a state name.

For those who think the Walking Horse is comparatively new on the equine scene, pages of history reflect the strong influence this animal has had in the building of this country and in the daily lives of our forefathers. Mainly used for utility and riding stock, he gained wide popularity for this ease of gait and ability to stride faultlessly over hills and through the valleys of the rocky middle Tennessee terrain. Being used as a utility animal for all types of farm work, as well as family transportation and recreation, the old plantation-type horse was not trained for showing in those days -- its gait was naturally inherited.

The Tennessee Walking Horse is now in all parts of the country. No longer found only in Tennessee, registered Tennessee Walking Horses can be found in all fifty states and several foreign countries. And since the organization of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' Association in 1935, nearly 300,000 horses have been registered.

Breed Characteristics

The Tennessee Walking Horse generally ranges from 14.3 to 17 hands and weighs 900 to 1200 pounds. The modern Tennessee Walking Horse possesses a pretty head with small well placed ears. The horse has a long sloping shoulder, a long sloping hip, a fairly short back and short, strong coupling. The bottom line is longer than the top line, allowing for a long stride.

The Tennessee Walking Horse performs three distinct gaits: the flat foot walk, running walk and canter. These three are the gaits that the Tennessee Walking Horse is famous, with the running walk being an inherited, natural gait unique to this breed. Many Tennessee Walking Horses are able to perform the

rack, stepping pace, fox-trot, single-foot and other variations of the famous running walk, while this is not desirable in the show ring the above mentioned gaits are smooth easy trail riding gaits.

Breed Organization

In 1935, admirers and breeders of this unique horse, met to form the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' Association of America. The purpose of this association was to collect, record and preserve the pedigrees of the Tennessee Walking Horse, to maintain a registry, develop rules and regulations governing all aspects of Tennessee Walking Horses, and to sponsor programs promoting this breed. Lewisburg, Tennessee, USA, the home of the first meeting was chosen as the official headquarters for this new breed.

The Tennessee Walking Horse stud book was closed in 1947, meaning that from 1948 forward to be registered as a Tennessee Walking Horse, both parents must also be so registered. The Tennessee Walking Horse was officially recognized as a distinct breed of light horse by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1950. In 1974 the registry's official name was expanded to the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association.

The TWHBEA entered the 1990s committed to promoting the Tennessee Walking Horse to the world. With approximately 300,000 horses registered and Association membership approaching 19,000, the Tennessee Walking Horse has firmly established itself as one of the top ten recognized horse breeds in the U. S., and has earned the distinction as the fastest growing breed. According to the Kentucky Walking Horse Association, the voice of the Walking Horse Industry in Kentucky, there are more than 32,000 registered Walking horses in the state of Kentucky as of 2005. For more information on the Tennessee Walking Horse or to contact the Kentucky Walking Horse Association visit www.kywha.com



TEAM LEADER & BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT- EARL ROGERS, JR.

Earl Rogers is one of a kind in more ways than one. The current President of the Kentucky Walking Horse Association, Earl wears many hats. He is the only KEEP Team Leader that also holds a seat on the Board of Directors. Along with these duties, he sits on the Grassroots Committee and the Non Race Breeds Sub-Committee.

When asked about his favorite kind of horse, Earl said, "They are so versatile, they can go from the show ring to the trail and anyone can ride them." The breed's disposition is what has kept Earl in the Walking Horse business for almost 50 years.

"I love the fact that it can be a family endeavor", states Rogers, "Grandparents to Grandkids, the whole family can get

"I love the fact that it can be a family endeavor, Grandparents to Grandkids, the whole family can get involved."

- Earl Rogers,
KEEP Board Member
and Bath County
Team Leader

involved."

Earl says his family has always had Walking Horses. "My dad and granddad had work mules and when they weren't needed anymore they moved to Walking Horses and we have had them ever since."

He remembers always having a horse to ride, then he began showing around 1958 and never seemed to stop.

Earl and family live in Owningsville where they have approximately 15 horses on their farm.



Earl Rogers, KEEP Board
Member and Bath County
Team Leader

2006 KENTUCKY HORSE PARK EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Below is a list of Educational Programs the Kentucky Horse Park will offer from now until April 1st. For a complete list of activities visit their website at www.kyhorsepark.com

So You Want to Own a Horse???

February 25, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Factors to consider in the commitment to horse ownership - selection of animal, equipment, and living facility; appropriate health and hoof care; training and education.

Instructor: Margi Stickney. Fee \$30.

Single Horse Basic Driving - CLASS IS FULL

March 4, 9:00am - 4:00pm (1 hour lunch break)

Learn two different styles and uses of single driving harness, as well as hooking and driving a single horse safely. Class limited to 8. Instructor: Tracy Walker. Fee \$75.

Basic Care and Handling

March 18, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Keep your horse happy, healthy, and safe. Hands-on course will focus on living conditions, grooming and feeding, plus haltering, tying, leading, and physical restraint.

Instructors: Margi Stickney, Sherry Whetzel. Fee \$30.

Health Care

April 1, 9:00am - 3:00pm (1 hour lunch break)

Develop preventive health maintenance programs, and learn to recognize and deal with common equine health problems. Hands-on and lecture format.

Instructors: Margi Stickney, Sherry Whetzel. Fee \$45

KEEP CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

FEBRUARY 2006

- February 1st Lexington Lions Club 11:30 am
February 4th-5th South Kentucky Ranch Horse Association, WKU Ag Expo Center
February 6th Allen County Saddle Club, 7:00 pm
February 8th Lexington Ad Club, Lexington, Noon
February 8th Midway College, 7:00 pm
February 9th Oldham County Public Meeting, 7:00 pm
February 10th WPSD TV Paducah
February 10th KADF Annual Meeting, Louisville, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
February 11th POOKy Horse Show
February 14th Shelbyville Rotary Club, Noon
February 14th University of Louisville, Equine Class, 4:00 pm
February 14th Livingston County 4-H Horse Club, 5:30 pm
February 16th Grayson County Chamber of Commerce - noon
February 17th Clark County Rotary Club, Noon.
February 16-18th ASHA Annual Meeting and Youth Conference, Embassy Suites, Lexington.
February 18th Road Horse Association, Maysville, 9:00 am
February 21st Local Health Directors (KHDA) Frankfort
February 21st Spotted Saddle Horse Association, Winchester, 6:00 pm
February 23rd Bluegrass Rotary Club, Campbell House, Noon
February 24-25th American Ranch Horse Association Annual Convention, Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green.
February 24-25th Kentucky 4-H Volunteer Forum, Hyatt Regency, Lexington.
February 25th Hardin County Trailblazer's Annual Stallion Auction, Hardin Co. Fairgrounds, Noon

MARCH 2006

- March 4th Young Guns Tack Auction, Boone County Extension Office, 6:00 pm
March 7th Union County Fairboard Meeting, 6:00 pm
March 15th Kentucky Quarter Horse Association Meeting, Simpsonville, 8:00 pm
March 16th Center for Rural Development, Equine Committee, Somerset, 10:00 am
March 18th Kentucky Arabian Horse Association Meeting, Louisville, 6:00 pm

APRIL 2006

- April 17th Grant County Chamber of Commerce, Country Grill, 8:00 am

**All times are local.*

Kentucky Equine Education Project

4047 Iron Works Parkway

Lexington, KY 40511

Phone: Toll free 866-771-KEEP

Main Phone: 859-259-0007

Fax: 859-259-0501

E-Mail: info@horseswork.com

Cara Stewart, Field Representative

email: cstewart@horseswork.com

Rachel Fowler, Field Representative

e-mail: rfowler@horseswork.com

Jim Navolio, Executive Director

email: jnavolio@horseswork.com

Scott Lowery, Director of Administrative Support

email: slowery@horseswork.com

Gene Clabes, Equine Director

email: gclabes@horseswork.com

Jayson Page, Administrative Support

email: jpage@horseswork.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

If you have an idea for a story in The Work Horse, contact Cara Stewart at cstewart@horseswork.com.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

- Join online by visiting www.horseswork.com
- Call our office toll free at 866-771-KEEP