

WINTER 2013

Equine Science Center UPDATE

• • • • • “Better Horse Care Through Research and Education”

Upcoming Events

Horse Management Seminar

Sunday, February 10, 2013

Cook Campus Center

New Brunswick, NJ

Call 848-932-5529

Junior Breeder's Symposium

Saturday, March 30, 2013

G. H. Cook Campus

Rutgers, The State University of NJ

New Brunswick, NJ

Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day

Saturday, April 27, 2013

G.H. Cook Campus

Rutgers, The State University of NJ

New Brunswick, NJ

rutgersday.rutgers.edu

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Equine Stress and Transportation

“Equine Stress and Transportation” is the overarching theme of the upcoming Horse Management Seminar hosted by the Rutgers Equine Science Center and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The seminar, scheduled from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm on Sunday, February 10, 2013, will feature presentations by several equine industry experts.

“Chronic stress can cause health problems in horses, just as it can in humans. Many times horse owners are unsure about their horses’ stress levels, especially when competing and traveling long distances,” says Carey Williams, extension equine specialist and associate director of extension for the Equine Science Center. “Our goal in presenting this workshop is to provide tools and tips to reduce stress in our horses, both in everyday life and during transport.”

Williams has assembled presenters who are recognized as experts in their field to offer perspectives and personal insight. Topics and speakers will include: “Stress vs. Distress in our Horses,” by Sarah Ralston of Rutgers University; “Relieving Transport Stress in Horses,” and “Unintended Consequences for Slaughter Horse

Welfare in the United States and European Union,” by Ted Friend of Texas A&M University; “Handling a Trailering Emergency,” by Michael Fugaro of Centenary College and Mountain Pointe Equine Veterinary; and “Domestic and International Equine Transport Regulations,” by Leslie Bulaga of the USDA and APHIS.

A question-and-answer panel at the end of the day will give attendees an opportunity to interact with the expert presenters and have all their equine questions and concerns addressed!

In addition to the educational presentations, the seminar will feature informational displays, networking opportunities with equine industry companies and area organizations, and ample time for one-on-one discussions with the day’s presenters.

Complete program, registration information, and seminar brochure are posted on the Equine Science Center website at esc.rutgers.edu. For more information, contact Laura Gladney at 848-932-3229, gladney@aesop.rutgers.edu, or Carey Williams at 848-932-5529, cwilliams@aesop.rutgers.edu.



From The Clubhouse

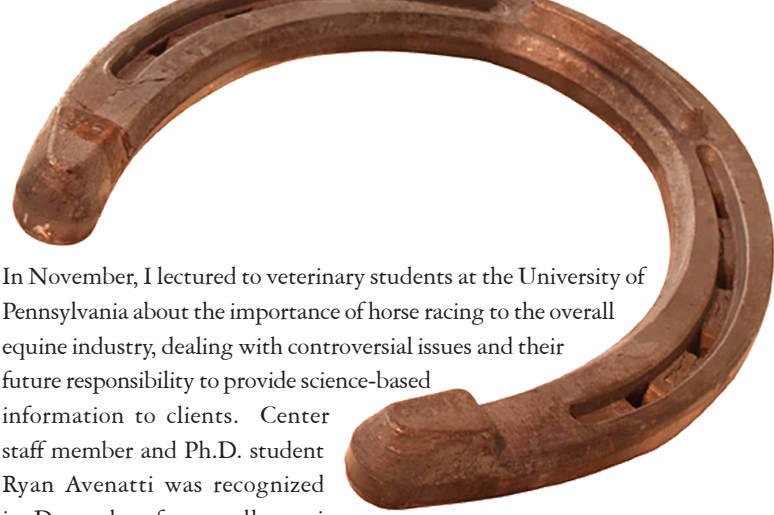
Karyn Malinowski, Ph.D., Director



Happy New Year to all of our Equine Science Center friends and supporters! Hurricane Sandy's arrival in October certainly put a dent in the Center's, and other equestrian, fall activities. Let's hope for a quiet and productive start to 2013! In anticipation of Sandy's arrival the Center posted animal emergency information on its website. The decision was made to create a featured "**Emergency Preparedness**" page for the website, the link to which can be found from our **homepage**.

Faculty, students and staff have been extremely busy conducting research, teaching, and bringing the latest science-based information to you! The Center's Facebook page has become a popular portal for the delivery of information in a timely, responsive manner. If you haven't **joined** us yet on Facebook please do so **NOW!**

We held the annual Equine Science Update on December 11th during which we honored Linda Toscano with the 2013 *Spirit of the Horse Award* and Showplace Farms with the inaugural *Gold Medal Horse Farm* recognition for environmental stewardship. We also had a surprise four-legged visitor, which delighted the hundred plus attendees. Check out the **photo gallery** for a peek at the evening's festivities. In October, we held our annual meeting with stakeholders in conjunction with the NJDA Equine Advisory Board meeting at Rick's Saddle Shop. Please visit our website for **Key Identified Issues** from the meeting and for a copy of our 2012 **Stakeholder Report**.



In November, I lectured to veterinary students at the University of Pennsylvania about the importance of horse racing to the overall equine industry, dealing with controversial issues and their future responsibility to provide science-based information to clients. Center staff member and Ph.D. student Ryan Avenatti was recognized in December for excellence in graduate research with the Wilbur M. Runk Award presented by Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

We are planning a busy spring with the upcoming Horse Management seminar on February 10 and the beginning of a new pilot program - the Equine Business Planning course - which starts on February 5 and continues for six consecutive Tuesday nights.

In closing, I wait with excitement and anticipation for the launch of the new game, "*Exercising Horse Power*" on **Equine Science 4 Kids**. The game will feature three animated horses, one being our beloved Lord Nelson, running on the treadmill in the exercise physiology lab. Not only will this be fun, it will also teach young people about the intricacies of doing experiments with horses. Kudos to Tiffany Cody, Avani Palkhiwala and Center students and staff for making this game a reality. We'll keep you posted when the game goes live.

Thanks to all of you who have continued to support and advocate for the Center. We continue to face tough economic times, but are up to the **challenge** as we bring you "Better Horse Care through Research and Education."

Best, karyn

Partners



New Jersey Farm Bureau's primary purpose is to represent the overall interests and improve the financial well-being of farmers and our \$800 million industry. NJFB

activities are supported through voluntary membership and annual dues. Members have access to:

- Staff assistance on farming issues and regulatory problems.
- Educational workshops on topical issues such as farm labor, wildlife damage, and zoning.
- Weekly updates on legislation news and regulations affecting all aspects of farming.

It pays to be a NJ farm Bureau member! For a full list of membership levels and benefits, or to sign up, visit www.njfb.org.

Established in 1961, the Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association of New Jersey [SBOANJ] has a membership comprised of horse breeders, drivers, trainers, owners, and backstretch personnel, and its mission is to support and promote the standardbred industry in New Jersey. The Board of Directors authorizes stallion, mare and foal registrations, negotiates with track management, actively oversees and administers a benefits program, and advances legislation favorable to the horse racing industry. For more information, please visit www.sboanj.com.



Equine Business Planning Course: Register NOW!

In order to stay afloat in these hard economic conditions, equine operations need to be more business-savvy than ever. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, with funding from the Equine Science Center and Northeast SARE, is pleased to offer the innovative pilot program oriented specifically for horse business owners. The newly established Equine Business Planning course aims to help horse business owners create original business plans tailored to the success of one's operation from planning to implementation. For more information and to sign up, please see the course [flyer and registration form](#).

This course will take place over seven weeks, with one three-hour class per week on Tuesday evenings beginning February 5 and running until March 19. It will take place in two locations: Somerset County Extension Office and the Gloucester County Extension Office, and classes will run from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, including a light dinner. Simultaneous workshops at two locations will provide greater ability to reach a broad range of participants across the state, and stimulate a wide array of perspectives using a combination of live speakers and videoconferencing technology. Enrollment is offered to all who own or manage horse-related businesses, whether they are product- or service-oriented.

"So many horse business owners are overwhelmed with the daily pressures of running a business that they fail to establish a clear vision and look at the 'big picture.' The process of writing a plan encourages business owners to evaluate every aspect of operating an equine business, which in turn, will make them better prepared when problems arise," explains Carey Williams, equine extension specialist. According to Williams, equine business owners would benefit from a horse-specific program due to differences from traditional production agriculture industries. These workshops are fashioned after the popular program *Annie's Project*, a nationally acclaimed farm business educational program for women farmers (the equine business planning course is open to both men and women). Robin Brumfield, farm management specialist at Rutgers, began *Annie's Project of NJ* and has also taught *Suzanne's Project* for women farmers in Turkey. She reveals that "the real value is in the process of creating the business plan."

Throughout the *Equine Business Planning* course process, students will produce tangible evidence of their accomplishments and acquired knowledge. By the end of the seven-week course, students will have created an executive summary and business

description, completed a business and industry profile, charted a production and operations plan, prepared a marketing, management, personnel and financial plan; plus produced an enterprise budgeting plan. The opportunity to network with fellow equestrians will not only benefit one's equine business, but it will also be of benefit to the entire equine community. Through sharing success stories and encouraging others, the primary goal is to inspire more New Jersey horse business owners to establish original business plans.

Additionally, the *Equine Business Planning* course workbook is a unique feature detailing equine-specific topics, questions, observations, charts and examples beneficial to creating one's original business plan. The companion workbook will also serve as a stand-alone resource for horse business owners who cannot attend the course. Course instructors are Rutgers professors and agricultural professionals. Whether a participant is looking to revise a previous business plan or begin a new one, this program is an exceptional opportunity for horse business owners to have their questions answered.

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Funding for the *Equine Business Planning* course was provided by the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and the Rutgers Equine Science Center.

For more information about the *Equine Business Planning* Course, please contact Laura Gladney at gladney@aesop.rutgers.edu or 848-932-3229.



The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is an agency which oversees programs that serve virtually all New Jersey citizens. One of the Department's major priorities

is to promote, protect and serve the Garden State's diverse agriculture and agribusiness industries. In addition to the programs we offer to support production agriculture, NJDA also manages programs that feed schoolchildren, distribute surplus federal foods to soup kitchens and pantries that serve our needy citizens, conserve precious soil and water resources, protect farmland from development and preserve it for future agricultural use, expand export markets for fresh and processed agricultural products, and promote our commercial fishing industry, and administer the complete program of agriculture, food and natural resource education, which includes the State FFA Association. For more information about NJDA, please visit www.nj.gov/agriculture/index.shtml

Scholarship Opportunity!

The Equine Science Center will begin taking applications for the Doris C. Murphy scholarship on Monday, February 18, 2013. The Doris C. Murphy scholarship is reserved for female students who are New Jersey residents majoring in Animal Sciences with a minor in Equine Science and are enrolled in or are incoming freshman at Rutgers University. Up to six \$1,000 awards are available annually. The deadline to submit an application for the 2013/2014 academic year is Monday, May 6, 2013.

Congratulations again to the 2012/2013 scholarship recipients: Marissa Costa, Merrill Simpson, and Rachel Walter.





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Captivating Showcase for Annual Equine Science Update

On Tuesday, December 11, 2012, the Rutgers Equine Science Center provided information and entertainment to its many guests at the annual Equine Science Update, which was held at the Cook Campus Center on the G.H. Cook Campus. The evening was truly a success as faculty and staff provided an update of their current and on-going research projects. Check out the [photo gallery](#) for a peek at the evening's festivities.

The engaging evening of equine science began with an energetic account of the importance of rider safety by Cape May County 4-H member Katie Washart. Katie's presentation, "Hats, Helmets, and Everything In Between," emphasized the need for awareness and proper safety precautions when riding a horse.

The partnership between the Equine Science Center and 4-H was further evidenced by the New Jersey 4-H Horse Project Advisory Committee (HPAC) presenting the Equine Science Center with a financial gift of support. Helen Ferraro and Estella Almeida, HPAC Program Leaders, issued a challenge to all guests in attendance to also be creative in developing ways to support the Equine Science Center.

Guests were then treated to an unexpected surprise when Rutgers University Mounted Patrol officer, Emily Ghods and her horse DodgeBall, made a guest appearance and captured the full attention of everyone in the conference room. A tearful Malinowski

acknowledged that, true to the mission of the Equine Science Center, the Mounted Patrol officers are also committed to the care, well-being, and performance of horses and the equine industry. The celebrations continued as the Equine Science Center presented its "Spirit of the Horse" award to Linda Toscano, the most successful female trainer in harness racing history. The "Spirit of the Horse" award recognizes individuals whose lives have been profoundly changed because of their involvement with horses and who have acknowledged the impact by giving back to the horse industry.

The second award presentation for the evening, the inaugural "Gold Medal Horse Farm 2013" award, was presented to Bix DiMeo and Showplace Farms. A collaborative new initiative between the Equine Science Center and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the Gold Medal Horse Farm award recognizes outstanding management and calls attention to how the New Jersey equine industry helps to maintain the beauty of the Garden State.

Malinowski kicked off the equine science presentations by sharing an "Overview of Recent Center Activity." Carey Williams was the evening's keynote speaker reviewing "Antioxidants Research in Exercising Horses." The next topic was "Poop to Power: Making Methane from Manure" by Donna Fennell. Sarah Ralston presented two topics: 1) "Vitamin C & Stress: Was Linus Pauling Right?" and 2) "Pioneering NJHorseInfo.org." The presentations concluded with Tiffany Cody's "Game On – New Additions to Equine Science 4 Kids."

As guests filed out of the Cook Campus Center at the end of the evening, they were treated to a unique parting gift – a custom photograph USB flash drive in the shape of a business card. The flash drive was preloaded with Equine Science Center files.

For more information about the Equine Science Update, please contact Tiffany Cody at cody@njaes.rutgers.edu or 848-932-9419.