



2011

Suffolk County
Legislature



SUFFOLK COUNTY EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE REPORT

Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force Report Issued Pursuant to Resolution 187-2009

June 2011

Members

Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington, Chair
Director Sarah Lansdale, Suffolk County Department of Planning
Commissioner Joseph J. Montuori, Suffolk County Department of Parks,
Recreation and Conservation
Director Pamela J. Greene, Suffolk County Division of Real Estate
Gigi A. Asher, Suffolk County Supervisors Association
Denise C. Speizio, Nassau Suffolk Horsemen's Association
Janet Plympton, Long Island Professional Horsemen's Association
Vito M. (Rocky) DiVello, Long Island Farm Bureau
Elaine Wagoner, Patchogue Medford High School Equestrian Club
Gerald Lauber, Suffolk County SPCA

Suffolk County Legislature
Hauppauge, NY

The Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force extends their thanks to Robert Calarco, Chief of Staff to Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington and Jessica Kalmbacher, Planner, in the Suffolk County Planning Department for their assistance in preparing this report.

Table of Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table of Contents..... | 1 |
| Executive Summary..... | 4 |
| Introduction..... | 6 |
| Equine History of Long Island..... | 6 |
| Equines and Their Uses | 7 |
| The Current Equine Population | 8 |
| Equine Owners..... | 8 |
| Equine Organizations..... | 9 |
| Equine Properties..... | 9 |
| Equine Professions..... | 9 |
| The Equine Economic Impact..... | 10 |
| Equine Assets..... | 10 |
| Equine Businesses..... | 10 |
| Equine Expenditures | 11 |
| Per Equine Cost..... | 12 |
| Challenges to the Industry | 14 |
| Operating Costs..... | 14 |
| Insurance Costs | 14 |
| Ineligibility for Government Farmland Preservation Programs | 15 |
| Zoning Ordinances..... | 16 |
| <i>Inconsistent Regulation of Equines and Equine Activities</i> | 16 |
| Lack of Equestrian Venues | 17 |
| Limited Trail Network and Trail Access | 17 |
| Limited Equine Education Opportunities | 18 |
| Full Size and Scope of the Equine Industry is Unknown | 18 |
| Task Force Recommendations..... | 19 |
| Cooperatives | 19 |
| Equine Activity Liability Statute | 19 |
| Update Existing Governmental Preservation Programs | 20 |
| Equine Zoning..... | 20 |
| Suffolk County Equestrian Center..... | 21 |
| Start High School Equestrian Teams | 21 |
| Expand and Create New Trail Access | 22 |
| Equestrian Survey | 22 |
| Resolutions 187-2009, 810-2009, 509-2010, 1018-2010 & 371-2011..... | 23 |
| Glossary of Terms..... | 34 |
| Appendix..... | 38 |
| Equine Estimate Averages | 38 |
| New York State Equestrian Survey | 38 |
| Blacksmith Estimates..... | 38 |
| Veterinarian Estimates | 39 |
| Final Estimate | 40 |
| Equestrian Organizations..... | 41 |
| Sales Tax Estimates | 45 |
| Suffolk County Town Equestrian Codes | 46 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Equestrian Trail Access | 50 |
| Suffolk County Soil and Water Best Management Practices | 54 |
| Equine and Equestrian Property Needs..... | 57 |
| Recommended Professional Site Plan | 63 |
| Establishing High School Equestrian Teams | 64 |
| Works Cited | 65 |

Executive Summary

The Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force was formed via Resolution 187-2009, *Creating an Equestrian Task Force*. Subsequently, Resolutions 810-2009, 509-2010, 1018-2010, and 371-2011 were passed extending the timeframe for the Task Force to issue its report. The Task Force included representatives from the Suffolk County Legislature; the Suffolk County Departments of Environment and Energy, Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and Planning; the Suffolk County SPCA; the Suffolk County Supervisors Association; the Suffolk County East End Supervisors Association; the Long Island Farm Bureau; and the general public as well as two representatives from the Equestrian Community, one of which was appointed by the Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association. The legislation directed the Task Force to study and analyze the various issues relating to the equestrian industry and issue this report. To achieve this goal, the Task Force conducted extensive research, ten public meetings over the course of 18 months and held three public hearings on August 24, 25 and 26, 2010 at Huntington Town Hall in Huntington, the Edward K. Griffing Building in Riverhead and the William Rogers Building in Hauppauge, respectfully. This report will provide a detailed look at the history of the equine population on Long Island, the challenges horse owners and those in the industry have faced in recent years and provide turn key recommendations for local governments to adopt to facilitate this industry's success and provide for its longevity for years and generations to come.

The Task Force was also challenged with enumerating the various governmental factors that impact the industry throughout Suffolk, including zoning, liability insurance, government preservation programs, available trail networks and others. Lastly, based upon these findings the Task Force will make recommendations to help preserve the equestrian industry for both the cultural and economic benefits it provides.

There are six main categories of equines; racing, other light horses, ponies, miniatures, and donkeys and mules. They serve a number of uses namely breeding, competition or sport, lessons, specialty uses and the most common pleasure. Based upon a 2005 Equine Survey conducted by the New York State Department of Agriculture, Suffolk County is home to at least 6,200 head ranking 6th most in any county within the state and 4th in total value with an average equine value of \$20,322 (Ropel, 2007).

In addition, those properties being utilized for an equine purpose and the associated assets total \$2.5 billion in the Long Island and New York City area, with an average per acreage value of the land of \$67,440. In 2005 there were over \$2 billion in equine related expenditures in New York State with over \$1 billion in operating expenses alone (Ropel, 2007).

Though the equine industry is sizeable both in New York State and Suffolk County, those involved are finding it ever more difficult to maintain a strong presence. The Task Force identified eight main challenges that have an impact on the viability of the equine industry:

1. Rising operating costs;
2. Lack of "Equine Activity Liability Statute;"
3. Ineligibility for government preservation programs;
4. Inconsistent regulation of equines and equine activities in zoning ordinances;
5. Lack of equestrian venues;
6. Limited trail network and trail access;
7. Limited equine education opportunities; and
8. Full scope and size of the Equine Industry is unknown.

The Task Force has also developed eight recommendations that are a first step towards protecting the equine industry in Suffolk County and New York State. Some will require legislative action on the Town, County or State levels, while others can be implemented by the equine industry directly and others will need a collaborative approach.

1. Cooperatives;
2. Equine Activity Liability Statute;
3. Update government farmland preservation programs;
4. Model code;
5. Suffolk County Equestrian Center;
6. Trail connections, expansion, and advertisement;
7. 4H Equine Program and high school equestrian teams; and
8. Equine Survey.

Introduction

When the Suffolk County Legislature, at the request of Legislator Jack Eddington, passed Resolution 187-2009 on March 24, 2009, they authorized the creation of the *Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force (Task Force)*. “The small horse farm is a piece of Suffolk County’s cultural heritage, as well as our current economy and tourism industry. As I see more and more horse owners sell their farms and move out of state, I realized something must be done to help protect this resource.”

As Suffolk County grew with new residents seeking a suburban lifestyle, the equestrian industry which acted as an attraction for this migration eastward also found itself a victim of development. Over time, many horse farms succumbed to housing pressures and paddocks turned into cul-de-sacs. New residents, who never experienced living next to a horse property, quickly decided that the charm of the rural character that drew them to Suffolk County was no longer desirable. Further, as the small horse properties were bought by non-horse owners, the number of lots in the equestrian inventory gradually shrank.

Despite this development, however, some pockets of equestrian communities remained and continue to quietly exist today. Many of these equestrian friendly neighborhoods border New York State, Suffolk County or local Town park and open space properties that offer bridle trails, open fields and other equestrian related facilities.

The goal of the Task Force was to bring together the voices of those with varied experiences to collaborate on comprehensive solutions. The members included horse owners, representatives from the equine business community, a representative from the educational community, as well as representatives from various levels of government.

The directive of the legislation included such tasks as identifying the present size of the industry, including but not limited to the number of equines, the number and size of properties used for equine purposes, the number of equestrian organizations, and support services; such as, veterinarians, farriers/blacksmiths, saddlery and tack stores, feed distributors, and manure removal businesses.

Equine History of Long Island

Probably no animal has been as important to human history as the horse. The horse has been, and continues to be, a noble and loyal partner to humans willingly providing many services to the world around them.

Our nation was explored and built on horseback. At one time before the steam and petrol engines were invented, horses were the fastest form of transportation on land. Suffolk County is home to the nation’s first commercial farms and is presently the largest agricultural producing county in New York State. We have tractors now to plow fields, but who was it that first pulled the plow – the horse!

Even after the invention of the “iron horse,” the horse was called in to assist with our very own Long Island Railroad. There were earlier railroads built with the intention of using horses to pull the cars. In addition to this service and “in spite of the fact that the Long Island Railroad was built with the intention of using steam locomotives, it used horses in some places from the beginning, and probably as late as 1895” (Reifschneider, 1967).

Long Island was home to America's first measured racecourse, which was set up on the great Hempstead Plains in the spring of 1665 (Long Island Our Story, 1998).

Horses have held government positions, such as cavalry and the Pony Express mail carriers, and some positions continue to exist today such as the mounted police. At Fort Bragg the horse assists in training our soldiers and serve as a mode of transportation for our soldiers in remote areas of foreign countries not easily traversed by vehicles (Long Island Our Story, 1998).

The medical field is utilizing the kindness of the gentler side of this caregiver. Therapeutic riding is a venue to train and exercise, while providing a source of enjoyment from which both mentally and physically challenged children and adults can benefit. Most recently, miniature horses are being trained and utilized as guides for the blind.

While researching the history of horses on Long Island, it was noted that in "Long Island; Our Story" horses were mentioned or photos of horses were within 44 of the stories. Horses are credited with pulling carts and wagons; carrying their humans; bringing the supplies like ice, fruits, and vegetables; plowing fields; pulling trolleys and train cars; installing gas and telephone utilities; participating in battle; traversing Long Island in front of stages creating historic byways – now a network of thoroughfares; and herding for the cattle ranches (Long Island Our Story, 1998).

Theodore Roosevelt, an avid horseman, was from Long Island and after the Spanish-American War brought his troops and horses to Deep Hollow Ranch, the oldest continually operating cattle ranch in America, in Montauk from Camp Wikoff for recovery.



Colonel Theodore Roosevelt at Camp Wikoff

Horses have been exploited for every use possible. Several cultures drink mare's milk, horse hair is used for violin bows, mattresses and lining for clothes, horsehide is made into fine cordovan leather, and glue is often made by boiling horse bones and cartilage. Even their immune systems produce life-saving tetanus anti-toxin, while their manure is commonly used for fertilizer and was sometimes even used for fuel.

Modern day uses of the horse and other equine species are seen all about Long Island. Mostly, horses are used for recreational purposes and fill a role of a special kind in a working relationship. This sentiment is best summed up by Task Force member and President of the Nassau Suffolk Horsemen's Association, Denise Speizio, who said "Our 'recreation' is a 365-days-a-year commitment. Although a horse is considered a sporting companion, it is not just about riding and owning a horse; this is really a way of life – a way of life that is worth preserving on Long Island."

Equines and Their Uses

The equine population consists of a variety of breeds utilized for many different purposes. According to the *2005 New York Equine Survey*, prepared by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets in coordination with the United States Department of

Agriculture, National Agriculture Statistics Services, equines are typically categorized as Racing Horses, other Light Horses, Draft Horses, Ponies, Miniature Horses, and Donkeys and Mules. Further, equines are typically used for pleasure, breeding, racing, competition or sport, lesson and specialty uses. Pleasure uses represented 36.6% of the population, the largest category for equine use throughout the state as well as in the Long Island and New York City (LI NYC) region. The second largest category was the racing at 17.6% (Ropel, 2007).

In addition to the general categorization of uses of the equines, there are very specific disciplines found within the equine industry. There are nine English and twelve Western disciplines, as well as other activities related to parade horses, driving, vaulting, and trail riding. Equestrians can find competitions, shows or parades to practice almost any discipline within Suffolk County with the exception of competitive trail riding.

The Current Equine Population

The New York State Survey estimated that there were a total of 197,000 equines throughout New York State and 15,300 in the LI NYC region. It ranked Suffolk County 6th in the State with inventory of 6,200 head and Nassau just ahead at 5th with 6,300 head (Ropel, 2007). The Task Force used a



Sydeways frolics in the snow at Morningstar Farm, Holtsville

variety of methods to attempt to derive a current count of the number of equines within Suffolk County. Methods included applying a growth rate to the 2005 Survey estimate and estimating based upon workload for the existing Blacksmiths and Veterinarians in business in the area. Unfortunately, none of the three approaches can be easily verified and estimates ranged from 6,600 equine to 15,000 equine (Appendix I). The disparity between our estimates shows a clear need to obtain a more accurate accounting of the number of equine in Suffolk County.

Equine Owners

The equine community and horse owners in general are at times perceived to be the purview of the elite; one may think of polo and the Hampton's Classic. Yet, most equine owners are not wealthy, but are rather middle class individuals who choose to make equestrian activities part of their life. Many equine owners in Suffolk County own their animal specifically for their own enjoyment or recreation, much like those who own classic vehicles for a hobby. Recreational owners may enter their equine in competitions, shows or races, but do not derive regular income from such activities.

Others actively use their horses and their properties as a way of earning a living. Equine uses typically associated with the professional purposes include racing, therapeutic programs,

training, riding schools and lessons, as well as, boarding, breeding, driving, farming, and police work. While most of the professional owners keep their animals on their own property; it is not unusual to find racehorse breeds with more than one owner and stabled at a track barn where the animal can be trained for a life on the racetrack.

Equine Organizations

The Task Force has identified 20 organizations throughout Long Island that cater to the equine community (Appendix II). The groups vary in size of membership depending on the foundation upon which it was formed. Some groups are geographically based, others are formed based upon a specific equine discipline, and others yet for the horse breed or usage. What all of them have in common is each has a mission of educating the public and promoting the equine community, land preservation and management, and trail maintenance.

There are a few local high school equestrian teams and many area colleges and universities have teams that compete as part of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). They include Dowling College, St. Joseph's College and SUNY Stony Brook, some of which even offer scholarships. In fact, the IHSA Zone 2 Region 4 consists of all the Suffolk teams along with Hofstra University, C. W. Post, Molloy College, Nassau Community College, New York University and Columbia University and the Suffolk County Community College has reformed their Equine Club. Until very recently both Suffolk and Nassau Counties had equestrian components to the 4-H Clubs that operated as a part of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Equine Properties

The number of equine properties, like the number of equines, is unknown. According to the *2005 New York Equine Survey*, LI NYC Region had 1,800 equine properties on a total of 28,000 acres, the majority believed to be on sites less than ten acres in size. Said equine properties were categorized as sites of commercial boarding and training (16.7%), commercial breeding (0.1%), crop/livestock farms (0.1%), non-commercial/non-farm uses (75%) and other (0.1%) (Ropel, 2007).

As per the Long Island High Score Awards Association's (LIHSAA) database there are approximately 89 active commercial operations where hunter/jumper disciplines are offered in accordance with the United States Equestrian Federation, (USEF) standards in Suffolk County. The LIHSAA was formed in 1960 to recognize excellence in the hunter, jumper and equitation divisions of horseback riding. There are between 60 to 70 LIHSAA recognized events in Suffolk every year, which must be officially sanctioned by the USEF.

Equine Professions

The various operations may require employees, both manual labor and skilled professionals, to help them run. For some of the smaller operations, the owner and his or her immediate family may be the stable hand, instructor and trainer all in one. While in rough board stables the customers are the manual labor.

The industry employs many skilled positions such as jockeys, trainers, and instructors as well as several manual laborers including stable hands, groomers, exercise riders, and walkers. In addition, there are a host of other professions such as veterinarians, nutrition specialist, dentists, massage therapist, farriers or blacksmiths that service the industry.

Breeding farms have their own professionals, educated in husbandry which deals with the reproductive systems and genetics of equines. Often times a breeding farm will have a veterinarian on staff.

The Equine Economic Impact

The exact size and scope of the equine industry's impact on Suffolk County's economy was perhaps one of the most difficult challenges that the Task Force was charged to meet. The Task Force relied heavily on the New York State Equine Survey as a means to extrapolate a best estimate to the values of the equines, the related assets such as land, buildings and vehicles, as well as expenditures and the ripple effect it has on business not specific to the equine industry. The NYS Equine Survey coupled Suffolk County with Nassau County and New York City as the Long Island New York City region and provided most of its information along those lines. It is important to note here the interdependence of the two counties and the influence of the racing tracks; Belmont and Aqueduct. There are many farriers and veterinarians that service the entire region, owners in Nassau County may stable their equine in Suffolk County, and large supply outlets may service the entire region. Therefore, it can be difficult to determine the economic impacts solely for Suffolk County.

Equine Assets

The Survey reported total equine related assets in New York at \$10.4 billion including such items as the equines, properties, barns, stables, and equipment. There was a reported \$1.83 billion in equine values, of which \$447 million were located in the LI NYC Region. Suffolk County ranked at 6th in total equine population and 4th in total value at \$126 million, representing 6.9% of all equine value throughout the state and 28.35% of the LI NYC Region value. While the increase in the number of equines from the 2000 Equine Survey was just 7% the equine value nearly doubled to an average equine value of \$20,322 (Ropel, 2007).

The LI NYC Region represents \$2.5 billion of the total asset values, or 24% of New York's assets. The highest valued assets are the land, fences and buildings that constitute our equine properties. In total, land related assets totaled \$7.08 billion in the State and \$1.888 billion in the LI NYC Region or an average of \$67,440 per acre. The property values in the LI NYC Region were second only to the Southeast Region and far surpass land values in any other part of the state (Ropel, 2007).

Equine Businesses

There are a large number of businesses that are either a part of or provide goods and services to the



Morningstar Farm, Holtsville

equine industry. Those businesses can be divided into two categories: those that are directly related to the equine industry and those that are indirectly related and whose equine related sales are a part of their overall business.

Businesses directly involved in the industry include boarding stables, rider and driving schools and instruction, equine training, show and competition facilities (both indoor and outdoor), veterinary and dental care, pharmacological services, feed supply, massage therapy, tack shops, groomers, farrier or blacksmith services, breeding, and manure removal and disposal. Depending on the size and operation of each business the labor potential includes not only the principal provider of the service such as the instructor or veterinarian, but also assistants, bookkeepers, salespersons, and other laborers.

Business that are indirectly impacted by the equine industry include: fuel supply, insurance, utilities, vehicle and trailer dealers, tractor and other farm equipment suppliers, landscapers and designers, graphic artists and website designers, fencing, building supplies, raw materials such as sand and gravel, realtors, legal services and advertising.

In some instances niche businesses have formed out of this second category of indirect services to cater specifically to the needs of the equine community, such as Long Island Horse Properties which provides equine real estate services.

As with almost any industry, there are a number of equine and equestrian specific publications that range from the general to issues focused on a specific discipline or use. *The Horse Directory* magazine is published monthly in Eastport and provides news and updates regarding equestrian activities, clubs and events throughout Long Island. *Today's Equestrian*, another trade magazine published ten times a year and servicing Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania has its offices located in Medford.

Equine Expenditures

The Survey went on to analyze the total expenditures and revenue for all equine related activities in New York State. Total expenditures topped \$2.06 billion in 2005 a near 300% increase from total

Table 18. EQUINE RELATED EXPENDITURES, NEW YORK, 2000 AND 2005

| Expense Category | Total Expenditures | | | Average per Equine | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | 2000 | 2005 | Percent Spent in New York ^{1/} | 2000 | 2005 |
| | <i>Thousand Dollars</i> | | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | 522,860 | 1,101,940 | 91 | 3,112 | 5,594 |
| Boarding | 54,800 | 155,920 | 95 | 326 | 791 |
| Training | ^{2/} | 57,330 | 90 | ^{2/} | 291 |
| Breeding Fees and Related Expenses | 22,000 | 28,310 | 71 | 131 | 144 |
| Farrier | 23,400 | 52,160 | 95 | 139 | 265 |
| Veterinary and Health Expenses | 32,590 | 74,000 | 87 | 194 | 376 |
| Shipping and Travel | 14,810 | 31,010 | 82 | 88 | 157 |
| Purchased Bedding | 18,750 | 32,300 | 90 | 112 | 164 |
| Value of Home-grown Bedding | NA | 2,330 | NA | NA | 12 |
| Purchased Grain | 24,920 | 47,360 | 97 | 148 | 240 |
| Value of Home-grown Grain | NA | 1,490 | NA | NA | 8 |
| Purchased Hay | 59,120 | 55,660 | 94 | 352 | 283 |
| Value of Home-grown Hay | NA | 24,740 | NA | NA | 126 |
| Mixed or Formula Feeds | 16,700 | 15,630 | 85 | 99 | 79 |
| Medicine | ^{3/} | 14,870 | 87 | ^{3/} | 75 |
| Supplies | 11,050 | 25,400 | 90 | 66 | 129 |
| Manure Disposal | NA | 6,350 | 93 | NA | 32 |
| Fees and Payments | 12,780 | 29,520 | 82 | 76 | 150 |
| Advertising and Marketing | ^{4/} | 7,440 | 85 | ^{4/} | 38 |
| Contract Services | ^{4/} | 8,120 | 96 | ^{4/} | 41 |
| Maintenance and Repair | 37,190 | 69,910 | 85 | 221 | 355 |
| Utilities and Fuels | 22,930 | 35,140 | 95 | 137 | 178 |
| Insurance Premiums | 20,290 | 30,780 | 82 | 121 | 158 |
| Rent/Lease Expenses | 10,920 | 34,150 | 88 | 65 | 173 |
| Miscellaneous | 6,410 | NA | NA | 38 | NA |
| Property Taxes | 37,910 | 82,580 | 97 | 226 | 419 |
| Interest | 7,970 | 39,190 | 98 | 47 | 199 |
| Labor | 88,320 | 168,810 | NA | 526 | 857 |
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | 180,790 | 958,130 | 86 | 1,076 | |
| Purchases of Equine | 49,460 | 254,000 | 69 | 294 | |
| Purchases of Equipment | 68,320 | 213,690 | 90 | 407 | |
| Purchases of Land and Capital Improvements | 63,010 | 490,440 | 92 | 375 | |
| TOTAL | 703,650 | 2,060,070 | 88 | 4,188 | |

^{1/} 2005 labor expenses are not included in Percent Spent in New York column.

^{2/} Training included with Boarding in 2000.

^{3/} Medicine included with Health in 2000.

^{4/} Advertising and Marketing and Contract Services included in Miscellaneous in 2000.

*From 2005 New York Equine Survey

expenditures reported in 2000 of \$704 million. Of that slightly over \$1.1 billion were in operating expenses alone, which include a host of goods and services, such as farrier services, hay, grain and other feed, manure disposal, among others. Capital expenditures were just slightly less than \$1 billion, which comprises of purchase of equines, equipment, land and property related improvements.

In addition to the \$2.06 billion in expenditures reported in the Survey, the equine industry also generated over \$445 million in revenue through equine and related sales, training, breeding, services and winnings (Ropel, 2007).

Utilizing the economic impact software IMPLAN (Impact Analysis for Planning), the Survey derived a total impact of the equine industry on New York State's Economy. According to their estimates, the statewide economic impact is between \$1.38 billion and \$1.73 billion in 2005 dollars, adjusted for inflation the impact would be \$1.54 billion to \$1.93 billion today (Ropel, 2007).

The well-known and attended Hampton Classic takes place in Southampton every August to raise money for Southampton Hospital. The 2010 Hampton Classic brought an estimated 1,600 horses and over 50,000 spectators. The event organizers estimated that between the spectators and participants, the event generated over \$13.56 million in economic activity in the Hampton's and therefore, Suffolk County's economy (Isenbeck, 2010).

In addition to the goods and services utilized by the equine community, they further contribute to our economy through property and sales taxes, and park permit fees. The Survey reported that \$82,580,000 in property taxes was paid in New York State in 2005, over double the amount of property taxes reported in 2000 (Ropel, 2007). By applying the Suffolk 8.65% sales tax rate to those taxable operating expenses identified by the Survey, the equine industry produces an estimated \$930,000 in sales taxes every year in Suffolk County (based upon 6,200 equines) (Appendix III).

Per Equine Cost

Generally equine owners have two options in providing for the care and needs of their animal; either keeping them on their own property or boarding them at a professional operation. Boarding operations offer a range of services spanning from full board to rough board. Depending on the location, size and services available boarding can cost between \$300 to \$3,000 and more per horse per month.

The owner who keeps their equine on their own property must ensure that they provide for all the needs of their animals. This includes purchasing feed, hay, supplements, tack, as well as cleaning the stalls, disposing of manure and a long list of other associated responsibilities. The costs of owning a horse will vary for each owner depending on his or her availability of time, labor and property.

The NYS Equine Survey utilized overall expenditures throughout New York State to determine an average cost of owning a horse of \$5,594 (Ropel, 2007). The estimate includes such expenditures as boarding, training, advertising, and labor; all items that the recreational owner may do without.

| SC Equestrian Task Force SAMPLE BUDGET PER HORSE PER YEAR | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| FEED: | | |
| Hay | (20 lbs. per day x 365 days = 7300 lbs. or 3.65 tons x \$275 per ton) | \$1,003.75 |
| Grain | (4lbs. per day x 365 days = 1460 lbs. or 29 - 50 lbs. bags x \$17.50) | \$507.50 |
| BEDDING | | |
| | (4 bags shavings per week x 52 weeks or 208 x \$6) | \$1,248.00 |
| Manure Management | (Dumpster pickup every month 12 x \$225) | \$2700.00 |
| VETERINARY SUPPLIES AND CARE: | | |
| Immunization | (Fall and Spring) | \$200.00 |
| De-worming | (6 times per year x \$11.00) | \$66.00 |
| Dental and Misc. | | \$170.00 |
| Farm call charges | | \$75.00 |
| FARRIER: | | |
| Shoeing | Front Shoes only at \$120 / 6 times per year | \$720.00 |
| | Full shoes at \$160 / 6 times per year | \$960.00 |
| Trimming | \$50 / 6 times per year | \$300.00 |
| TOTAL | (Feed, Bedding, Manure, Veterinary + Farrier average) | \$7,750.25 |
| Sample Budget following the <i>Horsekeeping on Small Acreage</i> Sample Budget, page 12 | | |

Horsekeeping on a Small Acreage is a 'how to' book for recreational equine owners who keep their animals on their own property. It provides a very basic budget to help owners determine minimum yearly costs to owning a horse. The Task Force utilized the *Small Acreage* sample budget to develop an estimated operating cost per horse for this type of owner. Substituting current prices we estimate that the minimal cost per horse at \$7,750.25 (Hill, 1994).

Challenges to the Industry

The equine industry is facing many challenges that are severely impacting its ability to continue to exist in Suffolk County. Some challenges impact the professional owner, while others the recreational, and many both. As a result of these challenges, equine owners are moving out of Suffolk County and out of New York State in search of ‘greener pastures’. They find havens in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and many other places where property values, taxes and the everyday needs of the horse are all less costly and the equine zoning standards are more relaxed. The Task Force recognized eight specific issues that adversely impact the vitality of the equine industry:

1. Rising operating costs;
2. Lack of “Equine Activity Liability Statute;”
3. Ineligibility for government preservation programs
4. Inconsistent regulation for equines and equine activities in zoning ordinances;
5. Lack of equestrian venues;
6. Limited trail network and trail access;
7. Limited equine education opportunities; and
8. The full size and scope of the equine industry is unknown.

Operating Costs

The Survey put the costs of owning a horse at \$5,594 per year, while the Task Force estimates for the recreational owner keeping the animal on their own property at slightly more at \$7,750. Hay can cost upwards of \$275 per ton or \$7.50 for a 50 pound bale. The average horse consumes over 3.5 tons of hay per year and another half of ton of grain. Additionally, 8 to 12 pounds of bedding is used daily.

Manure, which in other parts of the state can be used to create revenue, is a major cost factor in Suffolk. Each day the average horse produces 2.4 cubic feet of manure or close to 12 tons every year (Foulk, Mickel, Chamberlain, Margentino, & Westendorf, 2004). A local composting facility takes in the manure at a rate of \$10 per cubic yard, and some area carters will provide a 10 cubic yard dumpster at a rate of \$260 per collection, provided it is collected every 7 to 10 days. As a result of the Task Force’s research efforts, local carting companies have prompted their sales representatives to consider adopting new services specific to equestrian needs; however, there is no assurance that costs will be any lower.

It is imperative to the economic viability of the equine industry to help bring such basic and avoidable costs under control. Doing so will provide both the professional and recreational equine owner financial relief and stability.

Insurance Costs

The average horse property must carry additional insurance to protect both for the safety of the equines on the property, as well as, those that may come in contact with the animal. The risk associated with owning and riding a horse will increase recreational owner’s homeowners insurance.

For the professional operation there is an added expense of liability insurance. New York State is one of four states that does account for the inherent risk of riding a horse in its insurance laws.

The result is higher liability insurance rates for any hack operation, which may provide such services as trail riding to the inexperienced rider. A 2001 survey on agritourism, conducted by New York Sea Grant and Cornell University's Farming Alternatives Program, noted that 84% of the business owners stated that liability insurance was a major concern and cost. Additionally, of those "several respondents indicated that they have special riders for horseback riding, hayrides or their u-pick operations" (Hilchey & Kuehn, 2001). To grant the professional operation the ability to allow individuals to 'ride at their own risk' given appropriate precautions would greatly increase the viability of this portion of the equestrian industry.

Ineligibility for Government Farmland Preservation Programs

Farmland preservation in Suffolk County is achieved through both indirect (i.e., New York State Agricultural Districts Program) and direct (i.e., municipal development rights acquisition programs, agricultural reserves, etc.) means.

In the early 1970s, New York State enacted the Agricultural District Law. Said law enables owners of viable agricultural lands to create new and join existing certified agricultural districts. Although the New York State Agricultural District Program does not directly preserve farmland, it provides benefits that help keep commercial agricultural production a viable economic activity, thereby keeping farmlands in active commercial agricultural use. Such benefits include protection from unreasonably restrictive local laws, comprehensive reviews of proposed farmland condemnations, and agricultural assessments. Viable agricultural lands used for commercial agricultural production in excess of seven acres that generate more than \$10,000 in average annual gross sales, those used for commercial agricultural production but less than seven acres that generate more than \$50,000 in average annual gross sales, and those used for commercial horse boarding operations in excess of seven acres that generate more than \$10,000 in average gross annual sales (i.e., through the sale of agricultural products and/or through receipts collected for horse boarding) are eligible for inclusion in agricultural districts. Often, equine properties located within Suffolk County are inherently ineligible for inclusion in said program because they are less than seven acres in size and do not constitute commercial livestock husbandry and/or commercial horse boarding operations, nor involve standard agriculture.

In the late 1970s, Suffolk County implemented the first purchase of development rights program in the nation. The Suffolk County Purchase of Development Rights Program is a direct farmland preservation program; whereby, Suffolk County acquires and extinguishes the development rights to lands and the landowners retain the right to use the premises solely for commercial agricultural production. Since then, the Towns of Brookhaven, East Hampton, Huntington, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Southampton, and Southold have established their own development rights acquisition programs and/or partnered with Suffolk County on development rights acquisitions. The intent of said programs is to preserve viable agricultural resources and promote the agricultural industry. The criteria for inclusion in said programs are similar to that used for inclusion in the New York State Agricultural Districts Program. Therefore, equine properties in Suffolk County are also inherently ineligible for these programs as well.

While hack horses, trail riding and riding lessons do not conform to the definition of agriculture, they often are considered to be a part of agricultural tourism or agritourism. In 2006, the Agricultural District law was amended to include agricultural tourism as an eligible activity. While not included in the text of the amendment, the sponsors specifically noted horseback riding as an opportunity to increase agricultural tourism (Winner, 2006).

In 1999 New York Sea Grant and Cornell University's Farming Alternative's Program conducted a two part study of agritourism businesses in New York State. Those equine businesses identified in the study included both livestock breeding and sales farms, as well as horseback riding. The study estimated that the gross income of agritourism business on Long Island to be \$34,691,700, none of which included equine related activities.



Horseback riding on the beach in Montauk

The study aimed to not only measure the size of the agritourism industry but to highlight potential areas for growth and noted that 36.3% of the customers indicated that they would want to partake in horseback riding in a future visit (Hilcher, 2000). Clearly, many professional equine operations

would benefit from an expansion of equine related activities included into the legal definition of agritourism to conform with the intent of the authors of the law.

In addition to the development rights acquisition programs, municipalities within Suffolk County also utilize cluster subdivisions to preserve farmlands directly. Although the specifics of such subdivisions vary based on the municipality, the principle remains the same: the size of the lots is reduced below the minimum required by the zoning district, the development is clustered, and the remaining land is preserved via restrictive covenant thereby creating an agricultural reserve (or other open space area) whose use is limited to agriculture (or other activity specified by the Planning Board). While existing reserves exclude equine activities; future reserves could be created as equine activity reserves or other trail network connectors. However, since such method would require that there be existing subdivision potential and given the presumed size of existing equine properties, cluster subdivisions are currently not a feasible solution.

Zoning Ordinances

Inconsistent Regulation of Equines and Equine Activities

Pursuant to §262 of New York State Town Law and §7-702 of New York State Village Law, towns and incorporated villages within Suffolk County may establish zoning districts, which are created and maintained via zoning ordinances. Consequently, each of the 43 municipalities (i.e., 10 towns and 33 incorporated villages) within Suffolk County has statutory authority to create its own zoning ordinance as necessary to meet the needs of its community.

General restrictions as well as inconsistencies between the zoning districts both within an individual municipality and across municipalities may negatively impact the equine industry (Appendix IV). For example, the Town of Brookhaven permits commercial equine activities within its Horse Farm Residence District and permits a density of two equines per acre (§85-152 of Brookhaven Town Code). Said density may be increased to five equines per acre provided

certain criteria are met (§85-152 of Brookhaven Town Code). No lot less than ten acres may be included within the Horse Farm Residence District (§85-152 of Brookhaven Town Code). The remaining residential districts within the Town of Brookhaven prohibit commercial equine activities and permit a density of two equines per acre provided certain criteria are met (§85-384 of Brookhaven Town Code). Moreover, said districts prohibit equines on lots less than 40,000 square feet and prohibit more than eight equines per lot (§85-384 of Brookhaven Town Code). The Town of Islip, an adjacent municipality, permits four equines per acre with no established minimum lot size or maximum head (§12-27 of Islip Town Code). Due to the myriad of municipalities and potential standards the Task Force recognizes the need to further research to obtain a full listing of zoning codes. Consistent standards within and across municipalities for recreational equine properties and consistent standards within and across municipalities for professional equine properties are needed to provide a fair, predictable environment in which the equine industry may operate.

Lack of Equestrian Venues

The equine show industry is large and governed by a number of national and international organizations. Officially sanctioned shows can attract competitors from around the nation and world. In the very near future the United States Equestrian Federation, one of the umbrella organization for rated horse shows, and which holds over 50 shows on Long Island annually, will be requiring certain updated amenities for venues to host future horse shows and competitions. This will cause several equine operations to no longer be adequate for USEF sanctioned events. Even the Hampton Classic, which is held on private grounds, will need to revamp their offerings to be in accordance with USEF's new criteria.

The lack of adequate facilities and locations for members of the equine industry to practice their discipline limits both the size and number of equine shows held in Suffolk County. Additionally, the loss of sanctioned shows and competitions will lead to losses in potential revenue from outside of Suffolk County.

Limited Trail Network and Trail Access

Generally the equine community has always promoted and supported the preservation of open space. Maintaining a pristine environment and natural habitats is in tune with the most common equine activity – trail riding.

Obtaining and then maintaining access to parks, preserves, and open space parcels has been quite a task for all user groups, and certainly there are unique factors that affect equine trail access. The equine community often must compete for access with hikers, mountain bikers and other trail users. Additionally, the equine community must help address issues regarding potential erosion and pollution caused by their activity.

Presently equines can access trails at 10 Suffolk County Parks Department parks, 8 New York State Parks and Recreation facilities, 5 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation areas, and sites maintained by the 10 towns and 33 villages (Appendix V). In addition to those trails, there is a network of open space parcels that have been acquired for environmental protection that may have existing trail networks that are conducive to trail riding and other equestrian activities. However, their availability for use for any form of recreation, including trails riding, can be limited depending on the acquisition program utilized to obtain the property.

In addition, there are only two hack riding operations in Suffolk County and both are at County owned parks. They are located at West Hills County Park in Huntington from the Sweet Hills

Equestrian Center and at Theodore Roosevelt County Park in Montauk, where trail rides are offered at Deep Hollow Ranch Stables. There are no private or publicly owned facilities in between that offer hack horses for trail rides.

Limited Equine Education Opportunities

Perhaps one of the most daunting of all the challenges to keeping the equine industry vibrant in Suffolk County is finding ways to attract new interest. One avenue to attract new young people was through the 4H Club that was operated through Cornell Cooperative Extension. However, due to funding cuts in recent years the 4H Club was forced to shut its equine program and find new homes for its horses. Some high schools, such as Patchogue-Medford High School, do have an equestrian clubs that is usually organized by a dedicated teacher and several colleges have equestrian teams. Efforts to expand these educational programs will create more exposure of equine activities to our young population and help create new interest and new participants.

Full Size and Scope of the Equine Industry is Unknown

The Task Force was challenged with conducting a comprehensive study and analysis of the impact of the equine industry in Suffolk County including economic losses. After holding several public meetings, three public hearings and intensive research it became clear that there is a lack of information on the true size and scope of the equine industry. The Task Force relied heavily upon a joint United States Department of Agriculture and New York State Department of Agriculture sponsored survey, *2005 New York Equine Survey*, as a basis for determining such items as total number of equine in Suffolk County, the number and average size of properties and the economic impact of the industry. Unfortunately, the information was lacking in its specificity to Suffolk County. Additionally, testimony from members of the equine community led to concern regarding the Survey's accurateness. Until a more comprehensive survey of the industry is conducted within Suffolk County, and Long Island as a whole, it will be difficult to develop effective public policy.

Task Force Recommendations

The Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force has reached the conclusion that the equine community in Suffolk represents a sizable part of our overall economy. In addition, the community has a deep rooted significance to the rustic and agricultural heritage of Suffolk County. The Task Force has therefore reached several recommendations to offer potential solutions to alleviate the pressures on the industry and to ensure its continued viability in Suffolk County.

1. Cooperatives;
2. Equine Activity Liability Statute;
3. Update government farmland preservation programs
4. Model Code;
5. Suffolk County Equestrian Center;
6. Trail Connections, Expansions, and Advertisement
7. 4H Equine Program and High School Equestrian Teams; and
8. Equine Survey.

Cooperatives

To help reduce the cost of operating expenses for both the recreational and professional equine owner, the Task Force recommends the establishment of cooperatives. Such arrangements can easily be established through web-based approaches and working in conjunction with existing organizations and the Long Island Farm Bureau. Not only can collaborative purchasing arrangements be achieved so that owners buy items such as hay, which is often shipped into Suffolk County, but also for manure management.

Manure represents an interesting paradigm, as so many owners are forced to pay to have the manure removed; while so many crop farmers, especially with society's demand for organic produce, are purchasing natural fertilizers. Equine manure once properly composted is the best organic, non-chemical all-natural fertilizer available. Therefore, if a means can be established to link the crop farmer to the horse farmer both would greatly benefit. Presently, and as a result of the efforts of the Task Force, the Nassau Suffolk Horsemen's Association working with the Long Island Farm Bureau and Eastend Livestock Association has developed an online resource where such relationships can be established. Equine owners and crop farmers can now contact the LI Farm Bureau to enroll in the program, and the first such arrangement has already been brokered.

Equine Activity Liability Statute

According to the Long Island Farm Bureau, New York is one of only four states across the nation that has not adopted liability laws. The Task Force recommends that efforts be taken to revise New York State Insurance Law and join the New York State Farm Bureau in support of Senate Resolution S0795, the *Equine Activity Safety Code Act*.

The *Equine Activity Safety Code Act* would amend New York State Law to provide that an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional shall not be liable for an injury to or the death of a participant resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities. Liability is not limited by this statute where the equine professional knowingly provided faulty tack or equipment, failed to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to engage safely in the equine activity, owns or otherwise is in lawful possession of the land or facilities upon which the participant sustained injuries because of a known, dangerous latent condition, or if he or she

commits an act of omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant or intentionally injures the participant. The statute also requires the visible displaying of warning signs that alert participants to the limitation of liability by law.

Update Existing Governmental Preservation Programs

Qualification for the New York State Agricultural District is severally limited for equestrian activities. An equine operation must either be a large scale boarding operation or be involved in breeding. Should an operator run a riding school or offer hack horses to ride on nearby trails or an onsite facility such revenue cannot be applied to meet the state's standards, though these activities are considered agritourism.

Recently, this matter was brought up with the New York State Farm Bureau who voted to endorse a recommendation that NYS amend its law so that 'income from Equine related activities such as hack horses, trail riding, and lessons and training be included in the gross sales receipts of those operations to qualify for agricultural assessment and inclusion in the Agricultural District.'" The resolution has been approved by the New York State Farm Bureau and will be listed in the NYS Farm Bureau Policy Book.

Given the growth of agricultural tourism and its importance to our economy, and the acceptance and embrace by the New York State Farm Bureau the Task Force recommends the expansion of the Agricultural Districts Law to include hack riding, riding lessons and training. By providing greater diversity of those equine business activities that are considered agricultural, we will provided greater access to equine operations for the benefits that come with the Agricultural District membership.

Equine Zoning

Local zoning directly impacts the number of equines that can be kept on a property, the viability of a property as a professional operation and even the ability of a recreational owner to maintain a small barn for personal uses. Additionally, those zoning standards vary greatly across Suffolk County. The Task Force recommends the implementation of Equine Zoning allowing horse density to be based on the intended property use (professional and recreational) and proposed site plan. Once a property is granted equine status, it should retain such status in perpetuity. However, equine properties should be subject to biannual inspections to ensure compliance with approved use and site plan.

The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District developed a Best Management Practices for Horse Farms, based upon a pasture management regiment for providing the equine with its nutritional requirement (Appendix VI). However, there are few if any equine operations in Suffolk County that follow a pasture management regiment and such a standard would cause many equine operations to close.

Rather, Equine Zoning should be based upon a manageable site plan, based on the horse, its activity level and uses, and space availability. For the recreational owner keeping the horse on a drylot or pasture may be the best choice. For a professional whose equine will be worked regularly and with staff capable of performing daily maintenance of the property then the use of stalls in a barn may be appropriate.

Taking all of these factors into consideration in designing a site plan for an equine property, the Task Force also recognizes that in Suffolk most equine properties will be close to or in residential areas. Therefore, site plans should include means to minimize any potential conflicts.

The Task Force has developed a Horse Keeping guide (Appendix VII) for reference when evaluating potential site plans to help guide a site plan reviewer as to the needs of an equine operation.

The Task Force recommends that municipalities grant both professional and recreational equine zoning. Professional equine status should be subject to stricter standards of operation and in turn granted more intense equine densities (Appendix VIII). The recreational equine status should be granted with a minimum property size of a half-acre with a more relaxed operational standards and much less intense equine density.

Suffolk County Equestrian Center

The Task Force recognizes the need to create a full service equestrian center to help foster the industry's growth. Previously, Suffolk County operated an equestrian barn and indoor arena at Southaven Park through a contract with a private vendor. After years of mismanagement on the part of a former operator; the facility eventually closed, fell into disrepair and is no longer viable. In addition, its location is within the Core Pine Barren District making the restoration and expansion of the facility unfeasible.

A full service facility should have at minimum an indoor riding and showing arena with the ability to handle the needs of any of the disciplines. It should have sufficient indoor and outdoor arenas and pens to comply with the requirements of national show organizations such as the United States Equestrian Federation, the Federation Equestrian International, and the United States Hunter Jumper Association.

In addition, it would be an excellent location to re-establish the 4H Equine Club, and if centrally located within the county a perfect location for new hack rentals.

Should Suffolk County be able to identify an appropriate location with sufficient acreage and adequately distanced from a residential area there is interest from individuals within the equine community to operate a full service equestrian center. Entering into a license arrangement as exists at many Suffolk County park operations would present an opportunity for Suffolk to create a state of the art equestrian facility capable of meeting the needs of the local equestrian community and attracting out of state riders for shows and competition.

Start High School Equestrian Teams

One of the most effective means to encourage new involvement in the equine industry is to open the activity up to our young people while in high school. Presently, there are only a few high school teams in Suffolk County, but they are growing and hope to begin to hold interscholastic competitions in the future. Such programs provide the opportunity for students to learn how to ride, show and compete in various equine disciplines. In addition, the young people are also provided an opportunity to see firsthand the level of care and involvement in owning a horse. By increasing exposure to young people the industry will be able to attract new people.

One successfully established team is the Patchogue-Medford Equestrian Club. Since liability risk are an issue, most schools do not officially sponsor an equestrian team, but rather allow them to form as clubs and assign a teacher to be the liaison. The Patchogue-Medford Equestrian Club has partnered with two local equine operations, Whispering Pines and Oakwood Farms, who provide the horses and facilities to practice English and Western disciplines respectively (Appendix IX).

Expand and Create New Trail Access

The most common equine activity is trail riding, yet it is also one that is becoming more and more difficult in which to partake. Multi-use trails that once permitted hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding have begun to exclude the horse and as parcels are acquired for open space, the trails that existed have been closed off.

The Task Force recommends a comprehensive inventory of publicly held open space parcels to be compiled in an effort to create long distance linear trail networks with multiple trail heads that are most conducive to equine uses. It is recognized that all users create impacts on the environment. To address environmental concerns and potential erosion issues we recommend the use of equine trail building and maintenance resources such as "*Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds*" which was written in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service, United States Department of Transportation, and Federal Highway Administration. These resources include information that provides a clear understanding of the potential threats of recreational users on trails and the best management practices for careful planning of trails and recreation sites. They also look at many questions regarding erosion, water quality, and invasive species and provide planning and management recommendations to prevent potential impacts from horseback riding, along with recreational activities in general. In addition, partnerships should be sought with equine organizations for trail maintenance agreements similar to those that exist with hiking and mountain biking organizations.

Equestrian Survey

In addition, to the potential actions that can be taken to provide assistance to the equine industry in Suffolk County our first priority should be to better identify its exact size and scope. The Task Force recommends that a Suffolk County Equestrian Survey be conducted, similar to the 2005 New York Equine Survey so that we can better determine the number of equines owned in Suffolk County. It should also help provide a better picture of the number of properties currently in use for equestrian activities; their size, value and specific discipline or use. The survey should also attempt to determine the overall impact on the economy by reaching out to retail outfits that service the equine community, including tack shops, feed and hay suppliers, farriers and veterinarians. Ideally, the Task Force suggests that the Survey be conducted as a partnership with all of the equine organizations and the Long Island Farm Bureau and stress that survey responses will be kept confidential. Having the private, not-for-profit organizations with established and trusted relationships in the equine industry, we will be more likely to obtain an accurate accounting of its full size and scope. It is the Task Force's belief that a clear picture of the actual size of the equine industry in Suffolk County will grant it greater legitimacy as an important and vital part of our economy.

Resolutions 187-2009, 810-2009, 509-2010, 1018-2010 & 371-2011

Intro. Res. No. 1076-2009
Introduced by Legislator Eddington

Laid on Table 2/3/2009

RESOLUTION NO. 187 -2009, ESTABLISHING AN EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, equestrian activity has been an established part of Suffolk County's culture and economy for generations; and

WHEREAS, according to the Long Island Farm Bureau, the equine industry represents nearly \$1 billion in the Long Island economy and Suffolk County ranks eighth (8th) among the counties of New York in horse population size; and

WHEREAS, while the equestrian community is a large economic force in Suffolk County, many of its members maintain small properties for their equestrian businesses and activities with high operating costs, which has led to difficulties in maintaining these companies as economically viable; and

WHEREAS, many individual equestrian businesses in Suffolk County are located on properties less than seven (7) acres in size, preventing them from qualifying as farms; and

WHEREAS, the problems attendant to running small and medium size stables and equestrian businesses within Suffolk County are compounded by local zoning boards, which have individualized standards as to how many horses may be allowed per acre of property; and

WHEREAS, in order to address the variety of issues facing the average member of the equestrian industry in Suffolk County, representatives from local government, equestrian organizations, and County officials need to come together to discuss the problems faced by this community and devise possible solutions; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that a special Suffolk County Equestrian Task Force is hereby created to study and analyze issues relating to the benefits of maintaining the equine industry in Suffolk County, as well as the economic and zoning issues associated with said maintenance, including, but not limited to: the creation of horse intensive zoning, the expansion of government preservation programs that consider the size and location of the property as well as the number of horses maintained there, the feasibility of developing shared or cooperative programs to reduce the costs of necessary purchases, and to examine ways to allow horses easier and access to various parks and trail systems; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that this Equestrian Task Force shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:

- 1.) a representative from the County Legislature, to be selected by the Presiding Officer, to serve as Chairperson;
- 2.) the Suffolk County Director of Planning, or his designee;
- 3.) the Suffolk County Environment and Energy Commissioner, or his designee;
- 4.) the Suffolk County Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, or his designee;

- 5.) a representative from the Suffolk County Supervisors Association representing the five (5) west end towns;
 - 6.) a representative from the East End Supervisors Association;
 - 7.) two (2) representatives of the equestrian community, to be selected by the Suffolk County Legislature, with one (1) of those representatives recommended by the Nassau Suffolk Horsemen's Association;
 - 8.) a representative of the Suffolk County Village Officials Association;
 - 9.) a representative from the Long Island Farm Bureau, to be selected by the Suffolk County Legislature; and
 - 10.) a representative of the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the Equestrian Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the oaths of office of all members have been filed, which meeting shall be convened by the chairman of the Task Force, for the purpose of organization and the appointment of a vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the members of said Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that the Equestrian Task Force shall hold regular meetings, keep a record of all its proceedings, and determine the rules of its own proceedings with special meetings to be called by the chairperson upon his or her own initiative or upon receipt of a written request therefor signed by at least three (3) members of the Task Force. Written notice of the time and place of such special meetings shall be given by the secretary to each member at least four (4) days before the date fixed by the notice for such special meeting; and be it further

6th RESOLVED, that six (6) members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

7th RESOLVED, that the Task Force may submit requests to the County Legislature for approval for the provision of secretarial services, travel expenses, or retention of consultants to assist the Task Force with such endeavors, said total expenditures not to exceed Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) per fiscal year, which services shall be subject to Legislative approval; and be it further

8th RESOLVED, that the Task Force may conduct such informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purpose of obtaining necessary information or other data to assist it in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary; and be it further

9th RESOLVED, that the Task Force may delegate to any member of the Task Force the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

10th RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall cooperate with the Legislative Committees of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee's use, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

11th RESOLVED, that said Task Force shall issue a written report, after a comprehensive study and analysis of the impact of the equestrian industry in Suffolk County, the potential for losses associated with the gradual disbanding of the local equestrian community, the problems

facing the equine industry and the potential solutions and costs associated with aiding the equine industry to ensure their continued existence and prosperity in Suffolk County; and be it further

12th RESOLVED, that this Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than one hundred eighty (180) days subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

13th RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of December 31, 2009 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

14th RESOLVED, that this study shall not be performed by any outside consultant or consulting firm unless explicit approval and authorization for such consultant or consulting firm is granted pursuant to a duly enacted resolution of the County Legislature; and be it further

15th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: March 24, 2009

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy

County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 27, 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 810 -2009, TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 187-2009, "ESTABLISHING AN EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE"

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 187-2009 established an Equestrian Task Force in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, the composition of the Task Force needs to be modified; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force requires additional time to complete their report; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the 2nd RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2nd RESOLVED, that this Equestrian Task Force shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:

* * * *

8.) [a representative of the Suffolk County Village Officials Association] a member at-large with experience on a town or village planning or zoning Board;

* * * *

and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the 12th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12th RESOLVED, that this Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than [one hundred eighty (180) days subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution] March 31, 2010 for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the 13th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009 is amended to read as follows:

13th RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of [December 31, 2009] June 30, 2010 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that all terms and conditions of Resolution No. 187-2009 shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations,

rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

[] Brackets denote deletion of existing language

___ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED: September 17, 2009

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy

County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 25, 2009

**RESOLUTION NO. 509 -2010, AMEND DEADLINE FOR THE
EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 187-2009 established an Equestrian Task Force in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 810-2009 amended the deadline for the Task Force to complete their report; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force requires additional time to complete their report; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the 12th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009, as amended by Resolution No. 810-2009, is hereby amended to read as follows:

12th RESOLVED, that this Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than [March 31, 2010] September 30, 2010 for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the 13th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009, as amended by Resolution No. 810-2009, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13th RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of [June 30, 2010] December 31, 2010 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that all terms and conditions of Resolution Nos. 187-2009 and 810-2009 shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

[] Brackets denote deletion of existing language

___ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED: June 8, 2010

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy

County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: June 18, 2010

Introduced by Legislator Eddington

RESOLUTION NO. 1018 -2010, EXTEND DEADLINE FOR THE EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 187-2009 established an equestrian task force to study and analyze issues relating to the benefits of maintaining the equine industry in Suffolk County, as well as the economic and zoning issues associated with said maintenance, including, but not limited to: the creation of horse intensive zoning, the expansion of government preservation programs that consider the size and location of the property as well as the number of horses maintained there, the feasibility of developing shared or cooperative programs to reduce the costs of necessary purchases, and to examine ways to allow horses easier access to various parks and trail systems; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force requires additional time to complete their report; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the 12th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009, as amended by Resolution Nos. 810-2009 and 509-2010, is hereby amended as follows:

12th RESOLVED, that this Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than [September 30, 2010] December 31, 2010 for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the 13th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009, as amended by Resolution Nos. 810-2009 and 509-2010, is hereby amended as follows:

13th RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of [December 31, 2010] March 30, 2011 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that all other terms and conditions of Resolution No. 187-2009 shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

[] Brackets denote deletion of existing language
___ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED: November 16, 2010

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: November 24, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. 371 -2011, EXTEND DEADLINE FOR THE EQUESTRIAN TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 187-2009 established an equestrian task force to study and analyze issues relating to the benefits of maintaining the equine industry in Suffolk County, as well as the economic and zoning issues associated with said maintenance, including, but not limited to: the creation of horse intensive zoning, the expansion of government preservation programs that consider the size and location of the property as well as the number of horses maintained there, the feasibility of developing shared or cooperative programs to reduce the costs of necessary purchases, and to examine ways to allow horses easier access to various parks and trail systems; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force requires additional time to complete their report; and

WHEREAS, the composition of the Task Force needs to be modified; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the 2nd RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009, as amended by 810-2009, is hereby amended as follows:

2nd RESOLVED, that this Equestrian Task Force shall consist of the following eleven (11) members:

* * * *

8. [a member at-large with experience on a town or village planning or zoning Board] a member at-large with educational equestrian experience.

* * * *

and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the 12th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009, as amended by Resolution Nos. 810-2009, 509-2010 and 1018-2010, is hereby amended as follows:

12th RESOLVED, that this Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and determinations together with its recommendations for action, if any, to each member of the County Legislature and the County Executive no later than [December 31, 2010] June 30, 2011 for consideration, review, and appropriate action, if necessary, by the entire County Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the 13th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 187-2009, as amended by Resolution Nos. 810-2009, 509-2010 and 1018-2011, is hereby amended as follows:

13th RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall expire, and the terms of office of its members terminate, as of [March 30, 2011] December 31, 2011 at which time the Task Force shall deposit all the records of its proceedings with the Clerk of the Legislature; and be it further

and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that all other terms and conditions of Resolution No. 187-2009 shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

5th RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

[] Brackets denote deletion of existing language
___ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED: May 10, 2011

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steve Levy
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: May 20, 2011

Glossary of Terms

Agricultural District – Either a contiguous or noncontiguous area of land within which predominately viable agricultural lands exist and receive various benefits, as outlined by Article 25-AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law.

Agriculture – The science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.

Agritourism – Farm-based activities that are open to visitors for recreational purposes and serve to promote awareness of farming and farm life

Blacksmith/Farrier – A blacksmith or farrier is a person who cares for or shoes a horse or other equine. The blacksmith or farrier service is an important need as all equines require regular treatments of their hoofs, with the application of horseshoes and trimming hoof growth. This regular service is as critical to a horse's health and wellbeing as a regular oil change is to an automobile.

Equestrian – Any activity relating to horseback riding or an individual engaged in such activity.

Equestrian Disciplines – There are a number of equestrian disciplines that are specific standards of set of rules that govern a type of horseback riding and/or competition.

Equestrian Industry – All activity and business related to horseback riding.

Equine – Any horse or member of the horse family; including light horse breeds, draft horse, pony, miniature, donkey and mule:

Light Horses – As opposed to heavy horses (draft horses), light horses are the average riding horse and includes many different breeds.

Draft Horses – A draft horse (US), draught horse (UK) or dray horse (from the Anglo-Saxon dragan meaning to draw or haul) is a large horse bred for hard, adapted for heavy tasks such as drawing heavy loads, plowing and farm labor.

workhorse - a horse used for plowing and hauling and other heavy labor

cart horse, carthorse, drayhorse - draft horse kept for pulling carts

Clydesdale - heavy feathered-legged breed of draft horse originally from Scotland

Percheron - one of a breed of grey or black draft horses originally used in France to draw heavy coaches or artillery

shire horse, shire - British breed of large heavy draft horse

poler, pole horse - a draft horse harnessed alongside the shaft or pole of a vehicle

wheel horse, wheeler - a draft horse harnessed behind others and nearest the wheels of a vehicle

coach horse - strong draft horse for drawing coaches

Pony – is a small horse (*Equus ferus caballus*), no taller than 68 inches with a specific conformation and temperament. There are many different breeds of ponies. Compared to horses, ponies often exhibit thicker manes, tails and overall coat, as well as proportionally shorter legs, wider barrels, heavier bone, thicker necks, and shorter heads with broader foreheads. On occasion, people who are unfamiliar with horses may confuse an adult pony with a foal, which is a young, immature horse. Ponies are generally considered intelligent and friendly, though sometimes they also are described as stubborn or devious. The differences of opinion often result from an individual pony's degree of proper training.

American Miniature Horse – A horse measuring 34 inches or less at the withers that meets all requirements for registration with the American Miniature Horse Association (AMHA).

Mule – is the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse. Horses and donkeys are different species, with different numbers of chromosomes. Of the two F1 hybrids between these two species, a mule is easier to obtain than a hinny (the offspring of a male horse and a female donkey). All male mules and most female mules are infertile. The size of a mule and work to which it is put depends largely on the breeding of the mule's dam. Mules can be lightweight, medium weight, or even, when produced from draught horse mares, of moderately heavy weight. An aficionado of the mule claims that they are "more patient, sure-footed, hardy and long-lived than horses, and they are considered less obstinate, faster, and more intelligent than donkeys.

Donkey or Ass – The donkey or ass, *Equus africanus asinus*, is a domesticated member of the Equidae or horse family. The wild ancestor of the donkey is the African Wild Ass, *E. africanus*. In the western United States, a small donkey is sometimes called a **burro** (from the Spanish word for the animal). A male donkey or ass is called a **jack**, a female a **jenny**, and offspring less than one year old, a **foal** (male: colt, female filly). While different species of the Equidae family can interbreed, offspring are almost always sterile. Nonetheless, horse/donkey hybrids are popular for their durability and vigor. A mule is the offspring of a **jack** (male donkey) and a **mare** (female horse). The much rarer successful mating of a male horse and a female donkey produces a **hinny**. Asses were first domesticated around 3000 BC, approximately the same time as the horse, and have spread around the world. They continue to fill important roles in many places today and domesticated species are increasing in numbers, but the African wild ass and another relative, the Onager, are endangered. As "beasts of burden" and companions, asses and donkeys have worked together with humans for millennia.

Equine Industry – All activities and businesses related to all horses and members of horse family.

Equine Professions – The equine professional is any person who works in the equine or equestrian industry.

Trainer - There is a fine almost invisible line between a trainer and an instructor, as they often teach both horse and rider. Racehorse trainers train and maintain the physical condition of the horses, but also instruct jockeys in the techniques of riding each of their horses. Show horse trainers bring horses along the discipline at which they are proficient, but also teach riders to ride these horses.

Instructor - The word instructor is usually associated with the professional who teaches the novice rider at lesson barns or camps.

Equine Property – An equine property is any property on which one or more equines are being kept.

Equine Uses - The New York State Equine Survey provides six distinct categories of uses for which each different type of equine may be utilized: pleasure, breeding, racing, competition or sport, lesson and specialty uses:

Pleasure - Any equine used primarily for recreation use such as, trail riding, hunting, pleasure riding, pleasure driving, 4-H and other youth programs

Racing - Any horse kept primarily for the intention of racing whether or not a pari-mutuel event.

Competition - Equine are used primarily for showing, polo events, as well as both eastern and western competitions.

Breeding - Broodmares, stallions and foals born within the calendar year

Lesson – Any equine used primarily for instruction or training

Specialty - includes equines riding stables, therapeutic riding, day camps, and driving type activities

Handicap or Therapeutic Riding Programs - offer therapy to handicap children and adults. Some riding schools offer these programs in addition to the regular lesson schedule, while others are strictly for handicap riders. These riding schools can have their own facility or can operate out of another lesson/boarding barn.

Lay-up Barns - offer boarding and care for horses that are recuperating or convalescing, and will need veterinarian attention or specific care.

Professional Equine Operation - The professional use property is one through which the owner maintains equines or equestrian activities that are related to a business and the production of revenue. The major professional uses in Suffolk County are riding schools, boarding stables, show-grounds, along with other smaller uses such as breeding, track, retirement, lay-up and rescue barns.

Recreational Equine Operation – Typically, these properties are in residential neighborhoods and are 1 to 5 acres in size with a very limited number of equines. They do not generate revenue from their horse nor from the equestrian use of their property, though they may board extra horses on their property as a means to help offset their own costs.

Rescue Barn - usually operated by a good-hearted soul who takes on horses bound for an unpleasant end. They usually find the equines at sales and after rehabilitation try to relocate them with permanent homes. These barns can be privately owned or operated out of larger facilities.

Retirement Farms - offer inexpensive board to those who would like to retire their older horses, however, due to cost, they are very few in number, and many horse owners choose to send their horses out of Suffolk County for retirement.

Riding Schools or Academies -The riding schools on Long Island also offer boarding, and usually have summer day camps. They provide horses for lessons for riders of all skill levels from beginners through advanced. Many offer the opportunity to show at in-house shows as well as shows off the farm property. They are usually staffed with professionals and other qualified personnel.

Show Grounds - Most of the privately owned properties that host competitions, of which there are about 12 in Suffolk are limited. Some offer just large fields with grass footing; manicured or not. Others have facilities such as fencing, space for competition offices, lavatory facilities, and various footings. Others have rings with sand or other manufactured footing, designated with fencing, small buildings equipped with electricity and plumbing for the use of office work and bathrooms. And still, others have large enough indoor arenas for winter events. Most are limited in space, making it difficult to have adequate parking for trucks, trailers, and cars.

Stable:

full service, full board show barn - offers all the amenities including comfortable lounges, indoor arenas, grooms, manicured outdoor rings, very large grass turnouts, extreme aesthetics, etc. Boarding and lessons are their primary source of income. Board cost at these types of stables will range from \$1,500 upwards to excess of \$3,000.

basic large boarding barn – about 50 or more stalls offering fewer services, but still very comfortable surroundings. These offer the choice of several boarding packages and trainers, indoor/outdoor arenas, a few grass turnouts, many smaller pens, etc. Again, boarding is their primary source of income; however, some may do a large camp program. Board prices at these facilities can range from \$900 to \$1,500.

smaller barn - about 12 to 25 stalls usually offers a variety of boarding options and full or rough board are both possibilities. Some barns are owned and operated by lesson professionals and others invite or allow freelance instructors and trainers. Some have grooms and additional help while some are fully operated by the owners. Some are strictly boarding, or lay-ups, while others offer a multitude of involvement. Most have nice, large, lit, outdoor rings and other amenities, but only a few have indoor arenas. Board costs at these barns can range from \$400 to \$900.

recreational residential properties - barns of 10 stalls or less usually house the owners' horses and some boarders; full or rough, to offset the expenses of owning horse property. Some are located near parks with equestrian access for those interested in riding on the trails, and some are equipped with rings or other amenities for different disciplines. Some owners teach out of their yards, and often freelance professionals frequent these barns. Full board at these barns can range from \$350 to \$600, depending on the barn's location and proximity to parks and trails. Rough board is determined by the amount of manual work to horse needs ratio. Some people can get free board in exchange for their labor.

Zoning Ordinance – A tool composed of the ordinance text and use district classification map designed to express a community's values, goals, objectives, and policies, and to separate incompatible land uses thereby protecting private investments as well as the health, safety, and well-being of the community's residents. The ordinance text specifies the use, intensity and density, dimensional, general development, and nonconformity standards as well as the development review, appeal and variance, enforcement, and amendment procedures for each of the zoning districts (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial), while the official map illustrates the boundaries of the zoning districts.

Appendix

Equine Estimate Averages

New York State Equestrian Survey

According to the Survey, in 2005 Suffolk County was home to 6,200 equines, an increase of 400 or 7% from the 2000 Survey counts. Suffolk's total equine head count represented 40.5% of the total LI NYC region count of 15,300. Many individuals throughout the community will dispute these numbers as low based upon reasons previously discussed. However, lacking other resources to rely upon these two ratios will be carried forward to assist in the determining estimations.

Strictly relying on the Survey, the Task Force suggested applying the 5 year growth rate found between the last two survey years to estimate the 2010 equine population. Suffolk experienced a reported 7% growth during this period, which if continued at the same rate in the following five years would result in an estimated population of slightly over 6,600 equines in Suffolk in 2010.

Equine Estimate based on USDA, NASS, NYS Equine Survey

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Number of Equine</i> |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2000 | 5800 (reported) |
| 2005 | 6200 (reported) |
| 2010 | 6628 (estimated)* |
| <small>*6200(1 + r), where r = 6.9%</small> | |

Blacksmith Estimates

An active, local farrier, Jerry Tripiani, stated; "some farriers are busier than others and we never work a 40 hour week, usually 6 days and 10 to 12 hours a day in the season, maybe 40 in the slower winter months. Not all horses are shod with 4 shoes. It takes approximately 1 hour for 4 shoes, 2 front and just trimmed hind feet takes 30-35 minutes" Following Mr. Tripiani's suggestions, the calculation based on the farrier-based estimate of the population was separated into an 80/20 split. Eighty percent of the equines on Long Island would have shoes and trims performed every six weeks as an average normal hoof need and the remaining 20% would only get the hoofs trimmed two times a year. There are approximately 75 to 80 farriers in business in LI NYC region, who all travel from farm to farm to ply their trade. Given a typical 40 hour work week and taking travel time into consideration, a farrier will see one horse per hour. We derive our estimates for the maximum and minimum ranges and took the average. By applying Suffolk's Survey proportion of 40.5%, we estimated that the total farrier-based population estimate in Suffolk is 13,000 equines.

Estimated Calculations using Practicing Farriers

| | Low | High |
|------------------|------------|-------------|
| # of blacksmiths | 75 | 80 |
| # of hours/week | 40 | 40 |
| total hr/week | 3,000 | 3,200 |
| | | |
| # horses/hr | 1 | 1 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| # horses/week | 3,000 | 3,200 | | |
| # of weeks/year | 52 | 52 | | |
| # of horses/year | 15,6000 | 16,6400 | | |
| | | | | |
| A 80/20 split, repeat | <u>124,800</u> 8 | <u>31,200</u> 2 | <u>133,120</u> 8 | <u>33,280</u> 2 |
| 6 week visits/repeat | | | | |
| 2x/year visits | | | | |
| | | | | |
| horse population on Long Island | 15,600 15,600 | | 16,640 16,640 | |
| | | | | |
| Mean: | 31,200 + 33,280 / 2 | | | |
| average horse population in LI NYC Region | 64,480 / 2 = 32,240 | | | |
| Estimated Equines in Suffolk County (40%) | 32,240 x .40 = 13,000 | | | |

Veterinarian Estimates

We took testimony from Dr. Howard Flynn, a local veterinarian and member of the Long Island Veterinarian Association. According to Dr. Flynn there are approximately 17 to 20 active veterinarians who serve the equestrian population on Long Island. Like the farrier the equine veterinarian often travels and works a typical 40 hour work week. Just considering the normal routine visit a veterinarian will typically see an average of 2 horses per hour. Therefore, using a similar procedure as we did with farriers, we were able to estimate a veterinarian-based total of estimated 15,500 located within Suffolk County.

Equine Estimate based upon practicing Veterinarians

| | Low | High |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| # of vets | 17 | 20 |
| # of hours/week | 40 | 40 |
| | | |
| total hr/week | 680 | 800 |
| # horses/hr | 2 | 2 |
| | | |
| # horses/week | 1360 | 1600 |
| # of weeks/year | 52 | 52 |
| | | |
| # of horses/year | 70,720 | 83,200 |
| Repeat visits 2x/year | 70,720 / 2 | 83,200 / 2 |
| | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| horse population on Long Island | 35,360 | 41,600 |
| Mean: | $35,360 + 41,600 / 2$ | |
| average horse population in LI NYC Region | $76,960 / 2 = 38,480$ | |
| Estimated Equines in Suffolk County (40%) | $38,480 \times .40 = 15,550$ | |

Final Estimate

It is clear that the estimates based upon known existing businesses far surpass any estimates produced by the Survey; even after applying the Suffolk or New York growth rates, 7% and 17% respectively. Therefore, to produce a final estimate an average of the three different methods to derive Suffolk County's equine head count was taken providing a total of 11,700. It is likely that the estimate is low by industry standards, yet, it remains a significant number that would place Suffolk County among the top ranking of equines throughout New York State.

Average Equine Estimates

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Survey | 6,0 |
| Farrier | 13,000 |
| Veterinarian | <u>15,500</u> |
| | 35,100 |
| Task Force Estimate | 11,700 |

Equestrian Organizations

| Organization | County | Website | Missions, Goals, & Equestrian Community it Serves |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| East End Livestock & Horsemen's Association | Suffolk | http://eelha.org | The "EELHA" was formed in 1980 to protect the rights of livestock and horse owners. The club is open to all livestock owners, enthusiasts and equestrians. Our goals are to promote and encourage members, youth of the community, and the general public, in the enjoyment, care, showing and recreational use of horses and livestock. |
| Island Long Riders | Suffolk/ Nassau | http://WWW.islandlongriders.com | Our mission is to promote participate and compete in the equestrian sport of Cowboy Mounted Shooting and promote responsible horsemanship through demonstrations, training clinics and competitions. |
| Islip Horsemen's Association | Suffolk | http://isliphorsemensassociation.com | The Islip Horsemen's Association is to be involved in community affairs that may affect horse ownership, to educate horse owners and horse lovers, to sponsor horse shows, and just have fun! |
| Lloyd Harbor Equine Association | Suffolk | http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lloyd-Harbor-NY/Lloyd-Harbor-Equestrian-Center/101693936397 | |
| Long Island Dressage & Combined Training Association | Suffolk/ Nassau | http://lideta.com | The purposes for which the association was formed are to raise the standards of horsemanship in the area which it derives its members, by developing educational programs consisting of clinics, seminars and other educational activities and by promoting Dressage competitions and Combined Training events. |

| Organization | County | Website | Missions, Goals, & Equestrian Community it Serves |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Long Island Riding for the Handicapped Association | Suffolk/ Nassau | http://www.lirha.com | Provide therapy on horseback, cost free, to individuals with physical, emotional and/or cognitive disabilities. And to also offer recreation and education with our certified riding instructors and licensed physical therapists. To contribute positively to the well-being of our students. |
| Long Island Professional Horsemen's Association | Suffolk/ Nassau | http://www.lipha.org | Professional |
| Meadow Brook Hounds Pony Club | - | http://www.ponyclub.org | |
| Meadow Brook Polo Club | | http://www.meadowbrookpolo.com | |
| My Shine | Suffolk/ Nassau | http://myshineprogram.com/ | Our goal is to foster a relationship between individuals with Special Needs and Horses. |
| Muttontown Horsemen's Association | Nassau | http://mттontownhorsemen.com/ | Our goal is to gain local support for this organization by increasing the membership and participation of the area residents, to protect the integrity of the existing trail system, obtain easements in new subdivisions, keep the trails free of debris and overgrowth, to educate the public and raise awareness of the advantages (both economic and ecological) in having a horse population in the community. |
| Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association | Suffolk/ Nassau | http://www.nshaonline.org | The Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association is an all- volunteer non-profit 501C-3 charitable, educational & service organization that has worked since 1967 to promote humane equine practices, to educate horse people and the public concerning equine matters and to represent the concerns of all equine activities and interests. |

| Organization | County | Website | Missions, Goals, & Equestrian Community it Serves |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New York Natural Equestrians, Inc. | New York | http://www.nynaturalequestrians.com | The New York Natural Equestrians are a group of people who use and encourage natural horsemanship principles in riding, training and handling our horses. We strive to help our members create strong relationships with their horses, based on communication, fun and creativity. |
| Old Westbury Horsemen's Foundation | Nassau | None available | |
| Old Field Farm, LTD. | Suffolk | http://www.oldfieldfarmltd.com | Old Field Farm, a historic Long Island show grounds with a long equestrian tradition is being reclaimed and brought back to life as a center of Long Island equestrian and community activities by Old Field Farm, Ltd., a nonprofit organization specifically created to restore and operate Old Field Farm county parkland. Working closely with Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and following its stated mission, Old Field Farm, Ltd. has recently made many improvements to bring more equestrian and community events to the public. |
| Olde Suffolk Pony Club | Suffolk | http://oldesuffolkponyclub.org/ | The mission of the United States Pony Club is to provide a program for youth that teaches riding, mounted sports and the care of horses and ponies, thereby developing responsibility, moral judgment, leadership and self-confidence. |
| Paumanock Driving Club | Suffolk | http://paumanokdrivingclub.org/ | The main mission of the club is to educate people in the pursuit of safe driving as a sport as well as a hobby. |
| Ridge Civic Association Recreational Land Use & Trails Committee | Suffolk | http://www.ridgecivic.org | Land preservation, land-use management, and trail maintenance. |

| Organization | County | Website | Missions, Goals, & Equestrian Community it Serves |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Smithtown Hunt | Suffolk | http://www.smithtownhunt.org | The Smithtown Hunt was founded in 1900 as a fox hunting club. Riding to hounds is a sport steeped in tradition, the Smithtown Hunt maintains the time honored traditions and etiquette associated with the sport by using artificial scent to simulate the fox. Our mission focuses on: Conservation, Preservation, and Education. |
| Southampton Trails Preservation Society H.O.T.S. (Horses on Trails) Committee | Suffolk | http://www.southamptontrails.org/ | The Southampton Trails Preservation Society (STPS) was founded in 1986 by a group of horseback riders when they discovered that the scenic trails they rode were being lost to development. Since its beginning, STPS has worked actively with the Town of Southampton government, other government bodies, neighboring trail groups and other environmental organizations to promote and create a system of public use trails. |

Sales Tax Estimates

Estimated Sales Tax Generated in Suffolk County

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Shipping and Traveling | 157 | |
| Bedding | 164 | |
| Grain | 240 | |
| Hay | 283 | |
| Mixed or Formula Feeds | 79 | |
| Medicine | 75 | |
| Supplies | 129 | |
| Manure Disposal | 32 | _____ |
| Advertising and Marketing | 38 | |
| Maintenance and Repair | 355 | |
| Utilities and Fuels | 178 | |
| | | |
| TOTAL | \$1,730 | |
| Sales Tax | x 8.625 | |
| Total Sales | \$149.21 | |
| | | |
| Number of horses Suffolk: | 6,200 | |
| Sales Tax per horse | x 150 | |
| Total Income Tax/year | \$930,000 | |

Estimates are based upon reported expenditures as listed in Table 18 of the USDA-NASS-NYS DAM 2005 Equine Survey

Suffolk County Town Equestrian Codes

| Town | Zoning District(s) that Allow Equine Uses as a Primary Use | Zoning District(s) that Allow Equine Uses as an Accessory Use in the District | Equine Uses Allowed by Special Use/Special Exception | Town Lot Size Requirements for Equine Uses | Town Equine Density Restrictions | Additional Restrictions | Zoning District(s) that Allow Equestrian Uses as a Primary Use | Zoning Districts that Allow Equestrian Uses as a Accessory Use in the District | Equestrian Uses allowed by Special Use/Special Exception | Additional Information/Notes | Town Lot Size Requirements for Equestrian Uses |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Babylon | | | | | | No horses housed within 100 feet of any dwelling house or place of human habitation. | | | | | |
| Brookhaven | HF (Horse Farm) District Zoning | Residential district | | HF: Not listed Residential: 40,000 sq ft minimum | | Residential: Boarding or rental of equine livestock not permitted in residential districts. | HF as a principal use as a business type use | Residential | | Contact: Joe Sanzano, Planning (631) 451-6400 | |
| East Hampton | Residential: No zoning law for horses kept as pets | | Animal Husbandry (stables, shelters, etc.) | Residential: (By special permit) Minimum of 5 acres, inclusive of any lot area requirement for | | No Horses permitted on the beach | | | | Contact: Eric Shanz (631) 324-2178; Town considers 3 classifications: Pets, Riding | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|--|
| | | | | single-family residence on property | | | | | | Academy and Farms | |
| Huntington | | Residential: R-80 district | | | | Horse riding only permitted on designated trails; Residential: No boarding or rental of equine livestock permitted | | | | | |
| Islip | B-3 Zoning (with town approval) | | | | No more than 2 horses per 1/2 acre | No Horses permitted on the sidewalk | RS-G Zoning (commercial stables and riding academies) | | | | |
| Riverhead | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Shelter Island | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Smithtown | R-43 1 acre R-21 1/2 acre | 1 Horse per additional 1/2 acre | Yes, with Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals approval | | | Horse riding only permitted on designated trails | Only for Horsemanship School or Stables: R-15 R-10 R-10S | | All, but no longer than 5 years without renewal of authorization | | No less than acres |
| Southampton | Not specified but Town Code suggests primarily residential district usage | | | HF: Minimum of 10 acres (except where there is existing pastoral or farmland that will be preserved in perpetuity or that there are less than 10 horses for private use). | | | | | | HF structure must be designed in a similar architectural style to surrounding residences; horse shows, rodeos or any other equestrian spectator events shall be prohibited, except that on parcels of 10 acres or greater, three equestrian events per year lasting no longer than an accumulated total of nine days may be held subject to | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | Town Board review |
| Southold | LIO (Light industrial/Planned Office park) District | LI (Light Industrial) District | | | | | LIO (Light industrial/Planned Office park) District; AC (Agricultural Conservation) and Low Residential R-80, R-120, R-200, R-400 Districts--By special permit | AC and Low Residential R-80, R-120, R-200, R-400 Districts | Stable/Riding Academy | |

Note: This table was prepared by the Suffolk County Department of Planning. Sources included online adopted town zoning ordinances as well as town staff members.

Equestrian Trail Access

| Public-Managed Lands with Existing Equestrian Trails for Public Use Fees and permits required for access are as follows: DEC - Free permit NYS Parks - Empire Pass (\$60) S.C. Parks - Green Key (\$35) and Equestrian Permit (\$50/Family or \$25/Individual) (Individual park fees are included in the park description.) | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Name | Managing Agency | Description (Managing agency, Long Island Convention Bureau and/or Long Island Exchange websites were referenced for descriptions.) | County |
| Belmont Lake State Park | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation | 495 acres of fishing, boating, bicycle and bridle paths, hiking trails, softball fields, and picnicking. (North Babylon) | Suffolk |
| Bethpage State Park | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation | 1,475 acres featuring golf, tennis, softball fields, bicycle and bridle paths, hiking and picnicking. (Farmingdale) (Horse rentals \$20 an hour) | Nassau |
| Blydenburgh County Park | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | Hiking, picnicking, camping, freshwater fishing, rowboat rentals, bridle paths, playground, dog run, and historic trust area. | Suffolk |
| Bohemia Equestrian Center | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | A link was not available from the Parks Department park list. The Bohemia Equestrian Center has three equestrian rings and parking available for cars and trailers. Horseback riding is permitted on marked trails, but a county permit is required. The center also offers opportunities for horse shows and trails. | Suffolk |
| Brookhaven State Park | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation | This 2,300 acre area has a trail network that allows for bridle paths, hiking and bicycle trails, and picnicking. | Suffolk |
| Cathedral Pines County Park | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | Hiking, camping, mountain biking, bridle paths, picnicking. This 320 acre site is situated along the headwaters of the Carmans River. Facilities include campsites for individuals, youth group camping and club camping (10 or more units) and family camping, including 10 sites with water and electric hookups. Picnic sites and the George Broome Memorial Activity Building are also available. Adjacent to Cathedral Pines Park is Prosser Pines Nature Preserve, which features a majestic stand of white pines planted in 1812. Prosser Pines is a popular site for hikers and photographers. | Suffolk |
| Caumsett State Park | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation | 1,500 acres of saltwater fishing, bridle paths, and hiking/exercise trails. (Lloyd Neck) | Suffolk |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Connetquot River State Park | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation | 3,473 acres featuring fly fishing, bridle paths and hiking. (Oakdale / Bohemia) (\$50 annual permit) | Suffolk |
| David A. Sarnoff Pine Barrens Preserve | Department of Environmental Conservation | Trails through classic pine barrens habitat provide opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and seasonal hunting. Directions: Rt. 495 (L.I.E) to exit 71, Rt. 24 east to Riverhead, 1 mile south of traffic circle on Rt. 104. Access by free permit only. Contact the DEC Region 1 Sporting License Office for more information. (Equestrian access is threatened.) | Suffolk |
| Former Lustgarten Nursery | Department of Environmental Conservation | Not listed on website. This 500+ acre area contains marked trails for equestrian use. Access from the east side of the above mentioned RCA Management Area is possible and provides for a linear trail. | Suffolk |
| Hempstead Lake State Park | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation | 775 acres of ball fields, bicycle and bridle paths, fishing, hiking and picnicking | Nassau |
| Jamesport State Park | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation <i>Partial support is provided by Suffolk County under the auspices of the Office of Cultural Affairs and the NYS Council of the Arts.</i> | Presently undergoing a management plan review. Historically, trail rides and other events have been held at this site and East End Livestock & Horseman's Association has played a role in the preservation and maintenance of this facility for 20 years. Although, equestrian use is under consideration, equestrian access is threatened. | Suffolk |
| Manorville Hills | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | This area is not listed on the Parks Department park list. A management plan for a trail network which will allow for hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails is in progress. Happily, a ten-year-old project has come to fruition and a multi-use, including a handicap mounting ramp for equestrians, trailhead was recently installed. Adequate parking for vehicles and trailers. | Suffolk |
| Peconic Headwaters Natural Resource Management Area | Department of Environmental Conservation | Formerly Navy Cooperative Area/Otis Pike Preserve: Mixed oak, pine barrens, and open habitat. Trails provided for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Excellent seasonal hunting. Directions: Rt. 495 (L.I.E.) to exit 69 north. 2 miles north on Schultz Road. Permit station for property is located at the Ridge Conservation Area. Access by daily permit Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 & January deer season (reservations are required for weekends, holidays, and January deer season) by seasonal permit Jan. 2 - Oct. 31. Contact the DEC Region 1 Sporting License Office for more information. (Equestrian access is threatened.) | Suffolk |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Robert Cushman Murphy County Park | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | Robert Cushman Murphy, the county's first natural park, offers fishing, boating, hiking, hunting, and a biological research center. This area is part of an ongoing LI Pine Barrens Management Plan being done by the Pine Barrens Protected Lands Council; a committee formed by the Pine Barrens Commission. Historical equestrian use of this area has been recognized and we have not been "denied" access, but marked equestrian trails have not been designated. | Suffolk |
| Rocky Point Natural Resources Management Area | Department of Environmental Conservation | 5,100 acres of oak woodland and pine barrens habitat. Trails provide access for hiking, biking, and horseback riding as well as dog training and a variety of seasonal hunting opportunities. Directions: Rt. 495 (L.I.E.) to exit 67 north, north on Rt. 21, 6 miles to Whiskey Road, right on Whiskey Road, main entrance to property on left. Permit station for property is located at the Ridge Conservation Area. Access by daily permit Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 & January deer season (reservations are required for weekends, holidays, and January deer season) by seasonal permit Jan. 2 - Oct. 31. Contact the DEC Region 1 Sporting License Office for more information. | Suffolk |
| Sears Bellows County Park | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | Hiking, camping, picnicking, freshwater fishing, rowboat rentals, hunting, and bridle paths. Home of the Big Duck. The equestrian center closed. Trails are still available. | Suffolk |
| Smith Point County Park | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | Smith Point - the county's largest oceanfront park - offers swimming, scuba diving, surfing, saltwater fishing, camping, outer beach access, food concession, playground, showers, & special events in season. Horseback riding is permitted on the outer beaches when scheduled as a group (Minimum of 5 / Maximum of 40) activity. | Suffolk |
| Southaven County Park | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | Hiking, camping, picnicking, freshwater fishing, rowboat rentals, canoeing, hunting, the Long Island Live Steamers and bridle paths. The equestrian center has been the focus of recent discussions to find an appropriate use for this site. This vacant site would provide a good home for the 4H Club equestrian activities. The 4H would have the capabilities of offering hack rides and care for abused animals, while providing a venue for equestrian education. Needed services for the County of Suffolk. | Suffolk |
| Sunken Meadow State Park | New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation | 1,266 acres of golf, saltwater fishing, swimming, softball fields, bicycle and bridle paths and picnicking. | Suffolk |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Theodore Roosevelt County Park | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | Horseback riding, hiking (self-guided nature trail brochure available), biking, canoeing, picnicking, fishing, hunting, outer beach access and camping (for self-contained campers only NO TENTS), Spanish-American War Exhibit and gift shop. | Suffolk |
| Former AVR 1, 2, & 3, Ridge | Unknown | Not listed on a website. Recent acquisition located south of Lustgarten nursery property. This area does not have a management plan, but contains a network of trails that will allow for hiking, biking, and bridle paths. | |
| West Hills County Park | Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation | Hiking, youth group camping, picnicking, playground, meeting hall, bridle paths, dog run, and horseback riding facility. Home to Sweet Hills Stables. (Horse rental \$35 an hour) | Suffolk |

Suffolk County Soil and Water Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices for Horse Farms

The following are generalized recommendations for the environmental management of horse farms. Our office can provide site specific recommendations on a site by site basis. These specific recommendations will address any sediment and erosion control issues in addition to water quality concerns.

Roof Runoff Management

Install gutters and downspouts on all buildings. Downspouts should be directed into drywells or stormwater chambers.

Sacrifice Area

Create a sacrifice area (or drylot) that will serve as your horses' outdoor living space. Note that multiple drylots may be required in order to accommodate differences in horse social behavior. Sacrifice areas are used in order to protect pastures from overuse at critical times, i.e., winter months, wet soils, and times of slow pasture re-growth. Sacrifice areas should be located on well-drained soils. Typically wood chips, gravel or sand can be used as footing material. For extremely troublesome areas it may be necessary to lay a geotextile fabric down and then 6-8 inches of footing material on top. A vegetated grass buffer of at least 15 feet wide should be maintained around the sacrifice area to act as a filter for any runoff leaving the area.

Pasture Management

"As a general rule, pasture quality can easily be maintained with stocking rates of 2 or more acres per horse with limited management. Higher stocking rates can be obtained by limiting the time that horses are allowed to graze and by rotating grazing pastures." Source: Rutgers Cooperative Extension, *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations*. See this publication for further information regarding stocking rates for a pasture based management regime.

Maintain pasture productivity by controlling the number of horses and the amount of time they spend in each pasture. If necessary, divide existing pastures into smaller areas to facilitate grazing in rotation. The movement of horses onto and off paddocks at critical times will prevent the formation of bare areas and allow for sustainable pasture growth.

Pasture Management cont.

When grazing cool season grasses, grazing should begin when the grasses reach about 8 inches in height. The animals should be removed from the paddock when the grasses have been grazed down to a height of 3-4 inches. Pasture grass should never be grazed below this height because it will diminish the root reserves of the plant and as a result the plants will decline in vigor.

Please note that it is also possible to maintain horses on a drylot regime. Please see the publication titled, *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations*, for an explanation of this type of management.

Manure Management & Storage

Manure must be removed from sacrifice areas and stalls regularly and either stored in a proper facility or composted. The base of the manure storage or compost area should be impervious to prevent leaching of nutrients into the groundwater. Manure on pastures can either be removed or dragged (spread out on the pasture) periodically. Manure disposal options include removal from the farm by a hauler, direct land application or compost. Manure that is to be hauled off site should be stored in an appropriately sized dumpster.

Manure pile areas should be utilized to temporarily store manure for later use (i.e., land application). Locate manure on a firm, flat (or slightly sloped) impervious surface in a dry area away from wetlands. Runoff water should be diverted away from the pile and any leachate leaving the pile should be filtered over a grass buffer. Ideally the pile area should be covered (with a tarp or other means) to exclude precipitation and minimize leachate. The addition of a buck wall will aid in unloading material from the pad. It is recommended to screen the manure pile area with trees in an attempt to minimize odors.

When spreading manure on fields or pasture it is crucial to apply only what the crop requires when it is needed. This is accomplished by conducting a soil and manure analysis and knowing the fertility recommendation for the crop. In order to minimize runoff it is wise to lightly incorporate the manure.

Table 4. Minimum distances between manure storage/composting areas and other activities

| Sensitive Area | Minimum separation distance (feet) |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Property line | 50 |
| Residence or place of business | 200 |
| Private well or other potable water source | 100 |
| Wetlands or surface (streams, pond, lakes) | 100 |
| Subsurface drainage pipe | 25 |
| Water table (seasonal high) | 3 |
| Bedrock | 3 |

(Adapted from *On-Farm Composting Handbook*, NRAES 54, 1999)

Source: Rutgers Cooperative Extension, *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations*

Compost Facility

In the case of larger horse operations that wish to compost their manure on-site, a more formal composting facility may be needed. This type of facility will require grading the land to provide a 1-2% slope. The installation of a non-woven geotextile and 6-8 inches of compacted gravel or RCA (recycled concrete aggregate) on top of that is suggested. The compost pad should be large enough to form windrows but also to store the raw material as well as the finished product. All oncoming runoff must be diverted away from the pad and runoff leaving the pad itself should be filtered over a grass filter strip. It is recommended to screen the compost pad with trees in an attempt to minimize odors.

Filter Strip

Separate barns, paddocks and manure storage areas from any waterway or wetland with buffer strips of vegetation. This will filter sediments and absorb nutrients in runoff. The recommended minimum width of a buffer strip is 15 feet.

These recommendations have been prepared in cooperation with

 USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Riverhead New York.

Equine and Equestrian Property Needs

Horsekeeping is managed on different levels and is influenced by the individual needs of the horses kept at the facility. The individual equine needs coupled with the constant introduction of new products, development of new aids, and revised land management recommendations make it necessary and sometimes a requirement to make changes to a facility's site-plan. Elaborate, expensive facilities do not guarantee good horsekeeping; equally, simple facilities do not indicate poor care. Good management and proper care requires knowledge, dedication, and a sincere interest in the well-being of the equine. (Hill, 1994)

Horse ownership is a substantial financial investment that requires time, hard work, and sincere dedication. As with any domestic animal or livestock maintained by humans, horses are completely dependent on their owners. It does not matter if the owner, hired barn help or farmhand tends to the daily chores; all needs are fulfilled by the caretaker. The following are some realities of horse ownership provided for the purpose of defining the needs of horses.

There are the human factors that will influence the site-plan and the amenities included in that site-plan and should include some of the following questions. *Time.* A horse requires a minimum of two visits a day to tend to his needs and a general look over. How many hours a day does your schedule allow for repairing facilities and tack, feeding, cleaning, grooming, and exercising your horse? *Hard work.* The daily needs mentioned above include shoveling manure, toting bales of hay, carrying water, giving a vigorous grooming, and an exercise program for your horse. Are you physically fit or capable of hiring the personnel to perform these sometimes "back-breaking" labors yourself? *Trade-offs.* Owning a horse may mean giving up other things you like to do, need, or want; including sleep, warmth, and comforts. It is inevitable your horse will become ill at bedtime, get injured as soon as you have plans, or slip on the ice during the fiercest storm of the century. Are you willing to make the sacrifices and put your horse first when necessary? *Legal.* Horse owners have a legal obligation to their horse and members of the community. Have you educated yourself with the laws and rules and met all requirements for your area?

Horses are organic creatures with behavior patterns that have been a part of the horse for 60 million years. To make coping with these behavioral traits worse, humans set a dangerous anthropomorphic trap by treating their horse like a human. The horse is not a human, nor should he be thought of as a pet; rather a partner. Understanding the following behavioral traits and the special needs of horses will assist with, if not dictate, planning a facility. *Gregariousness.* Gregarious animals are social, find safety in numbers, and prefer to move in groups. *Herd bound.* Often referred to as "barn sourness" occurs when a horse has not been socialized with the owner, this lends to insecurity away from other animals in the barn. *Pecking order.* As with people, not all horses get along. One horse in the group may battle for the alpha mare position by asserting dominance over the other horses and their owner. *Routines.* A horse has a very strong biological clock. Once a routine is established a horse's eating, drinking, and sleeping habits are set. *Nomadic.* The horse is an active born wanderer. A horse that does not receive sufficient exercise or have access to an ample amount of space to stretch his legs may develop vices (wood chewing, cribbing, pawing, weaving, tail and body rubbing, or stall kicking). *Senses.* Horses have keen senses for sounds and smells; absorb information through their lips, skin, and hairs (i.e.-is the electric fence on or off); dexterous lips that are capable of opening gates; always on alert; slow ocular adjustments for light; sees with both monocular and binocular vision which will cause image jump and visual distortions; and have an avid sense of curiosity.

Flight. A horse that senses danger will more times than not, choose to flee over reassessing the situation. *Memory.* A horse has an excellent memory making it essential to do things right the first time.

A horse cannot be healthy and content without the basic needs: a clean environment, feed, water, shelter, exercise, rest, companionship, and veterinary and farrier care. *Cleanliness.* *Feed.* The type and ration of feed is determined on a per horse basis. Horses generally cannot eat feed together and must be separated during feeding time. The choice of grass and/or hay is dictated by availability, the amount is also determined on a per horse basis; but usually 20 pounds a day. Supplements can be provided as needed. *Water.* Horses drink between 4 and 20 gallons of water a day. *Shelter and protection.* Horses do not require air-tight heated barns; actually this is an unhealthy environment for a horse. Basically, all they need is a place to get out of the wind, hot sun, and avoid staying wet in cold weather. *Exercise.* Exercise is very important to a horse's well-being, but not all horses need to be ridden every day or require daily exercise. For non-riding days, ponying, lounging, electric horse walkers and treadmills are alternative exercise options. Individual exercise programs are developed for each horse. *Rest.* Horses rest in one of three positions: standing, sternal recumbent, and lateral recumbent. It is rare that a horse will lie down to rest or sleep. *Companionship.* Horses are social creatures that require interaction with its own species. *Veterinary and farrier care.* Good health management practices will keep veterinary and farrier costs down. There are some requirements to meet when a horse is being shipped out of the state he lives in. *Appreciation.* No one can live happily without it.

Horses and other equines come in many sizes from the petite, miniature horse to the large Clydesdale. Each breed has its own unique needs, often influenced not only by its size but also for the type of activity it is used for. However, in an effort to provide general baseline guidance, the Task Force will assume an average equine size to be 1,000 pounds. Based upon the average horse, the following provides a general overview of what any equestrian owner must provide.

Diet

The average horse needs to consume 1.5% to 3% of their body weight in food per day, or for the average equine between 15 and 30 pounds of food. The amount of food fluctuates based upon the equines daily regime as well as the season. A horse's diet should consist primarily of pasture grass and/or hay (70% to 100%) (Foulk, Mickel, Chamberlain, Margentino, & Westendorf, 2004) and can be supplemented by cereal grains such as corn, oats, barley, wheat. In addition, minerals such as calcium and phosphorus are important to a horse's health, which are most often provided to the equine to through the availability of saltlicks. A horse also requires vitamins A, D and E which may be added into its diet through the use of supplements (University of Kentucky, 1988). A mature horse will also consume upwards of 10 to 12 gallons of water per day depending on its size and specific make up of its diet (North Dakota State University, 2001).

While these averages provide a basic understanding of the nutritional needs of a horse, the means to provide those needs and the specific use of the horse will produce variations. Horses that are pasture fed will certainly require less hay, and likely ease the burden of stall manure removal. Horses that are in training for racing will require higher quantities of feed or higher mix of cereal grains. (North Dakota State University, 2001)Exercise

Exercise, or turn out time, is an important need to the equine and plays an important role in the digestive system of a horse. However, given the variety of uses for equines how it receives this necessary movement also varies. Pasture grazing not only reduces the need for hay and eases manure management but also provides for the exercise needs of the animal. In instances where

pastures are not available, turn out in drylots or paddocks is an option. Provided that the drylots are properly cared for with adequate erosion control measures, proper drainage and manure management an active farm property can easily hold many horses in this capacity. Lastly, for those equines that are in training for shows or racing, or utilized for driving or riding programs turnout may be unnecessary all together as the animal will receive sufficient exercise through such uses. (Foulk, Mickel, Chamberlain, Margentino, & Westendorf, 2004)

Veterinarian and Dental Care

As do their human companions, horses benefit from annual health checkups and need to be vaccinated against tetanus and other diseases. Keep in mind medical emergencies, which are always an unfortunate possibility, is an added health care expense that can cost several thousand dollars to treat. Therefore, veterinary visits are an essential part of the routine horse care required to maintain a healthy horse. The veterinarian will assist you to establish vaccination and de-worming programs, genital care, recommend appropriate dental care and hoof care schedules, and monitor your horses overall health and condition. In addition, the veterinarian will make recommendations for the individual needs of each horse.

The veterinarian will also recommend that you know your horses “normal” and that you conduct a daily check of the horse’s wellbeing. As far as the horse’s general health and monitoring for health related issues, the veterinary examination will include recommendations for health care essentials, a check of the horse’s temperature, pulse, and respiration. It may also include any or all of the following:

1. The horse is bright and alert with ears pricked and taking interest in his surroundings.
2. The coat is smooth and shiny and lying flat over the body.
3. Eyes and nose are free of any discharge.
4. Limbs are free of any heat and swellings.
5. Stands squarely on all four feet.
6. Eating well and chewing properly.
7. Manure should resemble damp balls that break up when hitting the ground and will vary in color slightly depending on diet.

Health Care Essentials

Keep up to date with vaccinations: Vaccinations are an inexpensive way to ensure your horse's long term health. Most horses are vaccinated twice a year. Spring and fall shots should be considered standard practice for all responsible horse owners. Show horses that travel to many events should be given additional booster shots (i.e. Equine Infectious Anemia (E.I.A.)) because they come into contact with so many horses.

Included in most vaccination programs are inoculations for: influenza (flu), rhinopneumonitis (rhino), eastern and western strains of encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness), and tetanus. Other inoculations are available for common illnesses like rabies and equine distemper (strangles), EPM and West Nile Virus. Your veterinarian will recommend additional vaccines based on your geographical location and level of activity and travel. In addition to helping ensure that your horse will remain healthy, these vaccinations will give you a chance to meet with your veterinarian and get his informed opinion on your horse's condition.

Follow a suitable worming program: Since horses are constantly exposed to intestinal worms from the ground they graze on, they must be de-wormed every six to eight weeks. Carrying a heavy burden of worms can cause serious illness or death in equines, so regular and timely

treatment is crucial to your horse's health. Tube worming in the late fall and late spring may also be recommended.

Have your horses teeth checked regularly: Regular dental care has become an important part of health maintenance for today's horse. Proper teeth care can increase feed utilization, maximize horse comfort, and improve the overall health and performance of your horse. Examination of the horse's mouth is an important part of the routine veterinary visit. It should be noted that not all veterinarians perform the procedures, such as rasping or floating, utilized to manage the horses continually growing teeth; in which case a horse dentist would be recommended.

Genital care: Mares, geldings, and stallions will require genital care. In addition to examinations, the care and cleansing of the genitalia is a necessary part of your horse's hygiene routine. If the owner is unable to perform the procedures for genital care, the veterinarian will take care of it once a year. Usually at the time spring shots are given. (Equine Veterinary Services)

Farrier Care

The farrier and his or her services are a critical component to the care and well-being of any equine. The specific hoof care that each equine will require varies from horse to horse and even from foot to foot on the same horse. It is important to have a skilled farrier capable of evaluating each foot, trimming hoof growth and applying shoes as needed. Equines kept in pasture may not require shoes, but only regular trimming. Certain competition and draft horses may require shoes that provide for additional traction, while a reining horse would not. The typical show horse will require shoeing every five to six weeks while, the casually ridden horse may be able to wait up to eight weeks. As with so many other equine needs, the specific use and type of equine will determine the frequency of farrier visits. (Inczewski CJF, 2010)

Shelter

A healthy equine, either horse or mule, is by nature capable to living outdoors. However, they will require shelter from extreme weather conditions. While shelter could potentially be natural, such as a grove of trees for a well fed animal, it is much preferable to provide a man-made structure. Barns and stables with stalls should have adequate space for the equine to lie down and freely move its head, be ventilated, dry, with safe and reasonably clean flooring. If the flooring is made from cement then bedding such as straw, wood chips or other material should also be provided. (Foulk, Mickel, Chamberlain, Margentino, & Westendorf, 2004) Run in and covered sheds may also provide adequate shelter from the elements.

Fencing

Horses are free-ranging herbivores and so naturally like to roam. They can and will often jump over or run through fences if they are spooked or decide that the 'grass is greener on the other side'. Therefore it is important to utilize fencing material that is clearly visible to the horse. The classic paddock fence style, made of wide wooden planks or a split rail style, demonstrate just that. However, diamond mesh fence and high tensile wire fence can be used, but it is recommended that streamers be placed along the wire to help improve visibility. Equines are known to struggle and fight significantly if caught in fencing material, so barbed wire is highly discouraged as it could cause significant damage to the horse. It is also recommended that fencing be installed set back from property lines to prevent a horse from nibbling on a neighbor's tree and avoid unwanted neighbors from approaching the horse.

Feed Storage

Taking into consideration the diet of a horse, appropriate accommodations should also be given to maintain the needed food for the animal for a two week period of time. Hay should be stored in a dry location to prevent molding and loss of material. Store grain feeds in metal or plastic bins to deter attraction of rodents and to protect them from insects – and your horse.

Manure Management

Given the quantity of food and water that a typical horse consumes in one day it is quite understandable that the horse will also produce a substantial amount of waste in a single day. In fact, the average horse will produce approximately 50 pounds of raw waste every day (around 35 pounds of feces and 2 gallons of urine). However, also given their diet, the majority of this waste is comprised of water and 12.5 pounds of solids (EnviroHorse).

As mentioned above, pastured horses do much of their waste creation in the fields which may reduce the need for collection and removal. However, those equines that are kept in stalls or drylots will require a more active management approach. The average horse in a stall will produce between 60 and 70 pounds of waste per day once soiled bedding is accounted. The type of bedding will impact the density of the material, but on average it will create 2.4 cubic feet of material that will need to be removed and properly disposed. (Fouk, Mickel, Chamberlain, Margentino, & Westendorf, 2004)

How to handle and dispose of this material has been studied and recommendations issued by many leading institutions including Rutgers, Penn State, and to assist in the preparation of this Report, Suffolk County's Soil and Water Conservation District in conjunction with the USDA. Concerns around the disposal of manure center on three important items; run off and pollution, odor and pest control measures.

Manure has high levels of nitrogen, phosphates and potash, all which make it an excellent fertilizer. However, all also are pollutants once they enter ground or surface waters. Therefore, a dedicated area should be located on a property to either compost the material or for storage until it can be removed. Preferably the storage location should have an impervious base, with a backstop, located away from surface water and with sufficient drainage to a grass buffer area. It should be protected from rainfall to prevent leachate from forming. Leachate is the brown liquid that is the primary means for the pollutants to enter surface and ground water. Some owners have found the use of dumpsters, which can be carted away as an effective alternative to a manure pad (Penn State).

In addition, flies are often associated with manure in warmer months as their breeding season begins once temperatures exceed 65 degrees. A fly will lay its eggs in the top few inches of fresh manure, as it has the desired moisture for its larva to develop. A single fly can produce up to 300 million flies within 60 days in ideal conditions, which fresh manure reflects. Therefore it is important that any manure storage location remain fly proof either through the use of a tight fitting lid to the storage area, or something as simple as a tarp. (Penn State University)

In addition, as we all know manure odor can be offensive to the un-acclimated nose, especially in warmer months. To prevent odors from affecting neighbors, the manure storage location should be kept downwind from the stable facility and adjacent residential areas as best as possible. If prevailing winds shift with the season, placement should be based upon the direction of winds in the spring and summer when neighbors are most likely to be outdoors. It is also recommended to plant trees, large shrubs or even install fencing around the facility to control the odor and to improve the aesthetic look of the area. (Penn State University)

Lastly, proper setbacks should be considered when choosing a location to store the manure to minimize all of these potential problems. Optimally it should be located at least 50 feet from the property line, 200 feet from a residence or place of business and 100 feet from wetland, surface water and well sources.

Table 4. Minimum distances between manure storage/composting areas and other activities

| Sensitive Area | Minimum separation distance (feet) |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Property line | 50 |
| Residence or place of business | 200 |
| Private well or other potable water source | 100 |
| Wetlands or surface (streams, pond, lakes) | 100 |
| Subsurface drainage pipe | 25 |
| Water table (seasonal high) | 3 |
| Bedrock | 3 |

(Adapted from *On-Farm Composting Handbook*, NRAES 54, 1999)

Rutgers Cooperative
Extension, *Agricultural
Management Practices for
Commercial Equine
Operations*

Recommended Professional Site Plan

Suggested Professional Barn Site Plan

A professional barn or facility shall be one that provides a gross income of at least \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars*) annually from such equine related activities as lessons, training, boarding, sales, etc.

Site Plan Requirements for the Professional Barn

- 1) The property's exterior fencing must be at least 4.5 feet high, enclosing any pasture, riding arenas, or other horse related areas, and must be located more than five feet from any side or rear yard line, and have openings no more than 10 inches in width. Electric fence is not permitted. Any road frontage must be double fenced, with no less than 10 feet between the fence lines and be off the road/street by at least twenty feet.
- 2) Any barns or other buildings used to house horses shall not be located within 25 feet of any side or rear yard line, and shall not be located between principal residential structure and road/street. There shall be at least 110 square feet of barn area for each horse.
- 3) There shall be no less than 8000 square feet per horse of designated horse areas, which may consist of pasture, turnouts, arenas, exercise pens, indoor arenas, barn driveways, barn parking, and any other area used for the purpose of the business.
- 4) All manure must be removed on a timely basis and is not to be stored or composted for longer than 30 days.
- 5) There must be a main resident structure on the property which must be occupied by the property owner, the barn professional, or other person(s) involved with the business.
- 6) There must be adequate parking for any farm machinery, equine activity vehicles, client/boarder vehicles, etc. and any parking of large horse/farm related vehicles, such as trailers, tractors, must be in an obscure location, not to be seen from the road, if possible.
- 7) Arena lights are permissible, but must not be used from 10PM to 6AM.
- 8) Dust from arena, dirt paddocks, tracks, etc. must be controlled.
- 9) The business needs to be operated in accordance with local noise regulations.

*Example: Four horses boarded at \$500= \$24,000 annually.

Establishing High School Equestrian Teams

Due to the risk factor of riding horses high schools do not want to include horseback riding in their athletic program. Equestrian teams must establish that they are independent of the school using the school name only for representation. To do this insurance and a high school liaison must be established.

- First a Crew can be formed through the BSA to establish by-laws and insurance.
- Then a teacher or school staff member can be approached to be the liaison.
- Once these two items are established the request for the team to become a club in the school district can be brought to the principle for board approval.
- If there is a liaison before the crew establishment then reverse the first two bullets, as long as these two items are in place then board approval can be requested.

There are many ways to insure a horseback riding team. However the low cost is what gives a school team a wonderful opportunity to actually run. The students that will ride on this team have not started riding at an early age for many reasons but mainly economic ones. Team riding is always done in group lessons @ \$30.00/student for an hour with opportunity to work for practice riding. They have school team sweatshirts, hands on learning of horse husbandry, access to a common meeting place, and in some districts bus transportation. Showing is also done at discounted rates following the collegiate style of show rules.

If there are any further questions please contact Elaine Wagoner at 516-672-8471, the Equestrian Coach at Patchogue-Medford High School, an NSHA board member, a member of the USTA, holding a drivers/trainers license of standard breed racing, USEF, and IEA.

Works Cited

- Horses on the Long Island Rail Road *Long Island Forum* 148
- Horsekeeping on a Small Acreage* 1994 Courier
- Long Island Our Story* 1998 Melville, NY Newsday
- 2000 *Agritourism in New York: A Market Analysis Fact Sheet* Syracuse New York Sea Grant and Cornell University
- 2001 *Agritourism in New York: Management and Operations* Oswego, NY New York Sea Grant and Cornell University Farming Alternatives Program
- 2004 *Agricultural Management Practices for Commercial Equine Operations* Brunswick Rutgers Cooperative Extension, The State University of New Jersey
- Agritourism Legislation Signed into Law, Measure adopted as more farmers turn to tourism to strengthen operations, keep farms viable Albany NY New York State Legislative Commission on Rural Resources
- 2007 *New York Equine Survey 2005* Albany United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Services and New York State Department of Agriculture
- The Farrier's Role in Horse Hoof Care*
- The Hampton Classic *Long Island Pulse* 45-47
- North Dakota State University 2001 *Feeding Management for Horse Owners AS-953* Fargo North Dakota State University
- Penn State University *Horse Stable Manure Management G-97* University Park, PA Penn State University, College of Agricultural Sciences
- University of Kentucky 1988 *Basic Horse Nutrition* Frankfort, KY Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky