

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
February, 2016

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Participated in the Agricultural Forum
- Held a follow-up meeting with NC Agriculture Magazine
- Assisted a group of North Carolina State University Engineering Students who wish to design an innovative composting system for equine farms
- Attended a fund raising event for the Commissioner of Agriculture
- Completed an educational Grant application for RTP funding in support of the National Equestrian Trails Conference (NETC)
- Submitted a proposed contract to the Federal Highway Program in support of the NETC
- Established the program for the "rolling conference" at NETC
- Participated in a Horse Field Day at Southern States in Creedmoor, NC.
- Negotiations to complete the Lumberton Stall Project were on-going during this time period
- Trail Challenge sites have been identified

DISCUSSION:

February was primarily a month of planning. Several major agricultural events took place including the Commissioner's annual Breakfast which included his "State of NC Agriculture" Address. The presence of the North Carolina Equine Industry was recognized by the Commissioner. These events were helpful for the equine industry to remain visible to our partners and to provide informal discussion on the completion of several projects including the Lumberton Stalls. The NCHC Foundation completed their review of financial holdings for the Stall Project and will be forwarding those dollars on to the NC Department of Agriculture.

Planning for the National Equestrian Trails Project continued through February with a "Save the Date" card being distributed to past participants. Web development is on-going and we hope to have the remainder of the site finished and ready to receive registrations by mid-march. A complete conference outline was finalized and the rolling conference schedule was identified. The major task ahead is to identify speakers for the conference.

Two sites for Regional Caucuses have been identified, one in the Burgaw area and one in Yadkin County. More sites will be selected during the upcoming months. In addition the venues for the Trail Horse Challenge have been identified and first place awards have been selected.