

Annual Report 2018

"Working together...Stronger than Ever"

North Carolina Horse Council

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“We appreciate all horsemen and women across the state who help us grow a strong equine community.”

*Tom Thomas,
President*



“Nothing would get done if we didn’t work together. The Horse Council truly represents all aspects of the industry.”

*Rose Cushing,
Secretary*



To Our Members

Strategic Highlights

- A new Equine Economic Impact Study was completed for North Carolina
- New revenue dollars are collected to serve our equine needs
- Increased Grants in all award categories
- The NCHC sponsored the NCSU-CVM Health Symposium, NC Agricultural Awareness Day at the State Legislature, the 4-H competition jackets, the Coalition of State Horse Councils’ June and Fall Meetings, the FFA Equine Program and the undergraduate vet-pac
- Continued activity with Wildlife Resource Commission and Outdoor Cultural Resource Board to increase public access to equine trails and create new trails
- Continued work on the Mason Point Trail
- Developed a new Marketing Proposal to re-brand the NCHC

Financial Highlights

- Increased grant dollars awarded including \$5000 set aside for Hurricane Relief
- The budget projection on the sale of the new NC Equine License Plate was exceeded.
- A new warning sign was added to our NCHC Store

Legislative Highlights

The Legislature was in short session during 2018. The Horse Council did not submit any changes in the 2018 NC Farm Act. Our lobbyist maintained our presence in the general assembly and we built allies in joining the Agricultural Alliance.

Looking Ahead

Many legislative issues still exist as we move into the next legislative long session. We will be working on adding equine to all existing legislation regarding improved access to public land. We remain committed to improving equine business and working towards becoming the most legislatively friendly state in the nation. “Come Join the Herd”.

Sue M. Gray
Executive Director
2018

North Carolina
remains in the top 10
states in the nation
for number of Equine



1.2 million
households contain
horse enthusiasts



Horse Ownership,
Equine Institutions &
Profit-Making
Organizations, and
Tourism spending by
participants and
spectators combine
for \$3.44 Billion
economic impact



Equine Economic Impact Study

The NC Horse Industry remains a stable and vital force in our State's economy. The Horse Industry directly contributes over \$1.1 billion to the state's economy, along with 25,072 jobs.

From those direct effects, the horse industry's contribution ripples out into other sectors of the economy. Adding these ripple effects results in an estimate of the total contribution of the horse industry to the North Carolina economy of \$2 billion.

The Racing Sector:

- Adds \$120 million in value to the state economy
- Supports 1,916 jobs
- Total economic impact of \$190 million

The Competition Sector:

- Adds \$423 million in value to the state economy
- Supports 7,976 jobs
- Total economic impact of \$734 million

The Recreation Sector:

- Adds \$478 million in value to the state economy
- Supports 9,076 jobs
- Total economic impact of \$812 million

The Equine Therapy:

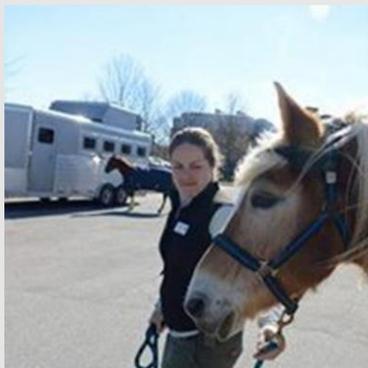
- Adds \$14.9 million in value to the state economy
- Supports 346 jobs

The Equine Rescues & Sanctuaries:

- Adds \$2.3 million in value to the state economy
- Supports 48 jobs

There are 559,000 acres of land in North Carolina used for horse-related purposes.

Special Partnerships



Everything Equine
presented by Cushing Media Productions
August 26-27
Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Southeast Agriculture Center, Lumberton, NC

For more information go to:
www.CushingMediaProductions.com

**ENTERTAINMENT
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CLINICIANS
DEMOS
ART SHOW
GREAT FOOD
SHOPPING**

TICKETS \$25 WEEKEND \$15 DAY
KIDS 12.50 WEEKEND \$7.50 DAY

College of Veterinary Medicine

The North Carolina Horse Council and the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine have begun work on improving the educational opportunities and facilities for students interested in pursuing careers in the equine industry.

NC Wildlife Resources

The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to develop an equine trail on wildlife resource managed land. This agreement will be ground breaking for future trail development.

North Carolina State Fair

The NCHC participated in the NC State Fair but in a limited capacity. The NCHC remains committed to assisting the NCDA&CS in identifying ways to highlight the horse industry during this largest agricultural event in the State.

Other Special Events

The North Carolina Horse Council would like to give a special thank you to Rose Cushing and Cushing Media for providing multiple opportunities for the NCHC to be highlighted.

“Thanks to local horse owners for helping build new trails at Mason Pointe.”



Barb Oslund, Trails Consultant, NCHC

“We must preserve and protect our historic right to ride. Working together with other trail groups improves are success!”



Sue Gray, Executive Director, NCHC

Trail Report

Back Country Horsemen of NC Chapters:

The Back-Country Horsemen of North Carolina are a strong partner with the NC Horse Council and have a wide-reaching impact across this state. Also, the Back-Country Horsemen of America National Conference will be held in Asheville next April 8-10, 2019. As of the end of September, NC chapters have logged over 1500 volunteer hours and maintained over 1200 trail miles, at a value of nearly \$140,000.

Local and State Trail Programs:

Mason Point Trail (Jordan Lake Trails Conservation Association)

The Jordan Lake Trails Conservation Association (JLTCA) prepared a grant application that resulted in an award of over \$4,500 from the NC Horse Council for trail markers, tree paint, contracted forestry mulching, and aggregate to repair holes. The JLTCA held 8 workdays as of the end of October 2018. The work included hiring the forestry mulcher (paid for by grant funds) to clear over 1 mile of densely vegetated trail corridor, and a volunteer who bush-hogged close to 1.5 miles. Two JLTCA members received chainsaw training in December, in a class sponsored by the Mountains to Sea trail volunteers.

Nearly the entire corridor of the 5.5 mile upper loop has been completed, and the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) has nearly completed the large parking lot. Execution of the Memorandum of Agreement between the WRC and the NC Horse Council was completed in 2018. They hope to have a “soft” opening of the upper loop sometime in early 2019.

Proctor Farm Trail (Wake County Parks and Recreation)

Proctor Farm is an equestrian trail project for several miles of trails in eastern Wake County (near Lizard Lick). It has been in conceptual development for several years due to permits and administrative challenges. However, Wake received approval from the Board of Commissioners in September 2018. Their facility engineers are working on design agreements so they can get started on the design work.

Elkin Valley Trail Association and Yadkin Valley Trail Riders

These two groups work closely together on the Elkin Valley Trail System and connections to Stone Mountain State Park. The equestrian focus right now is on connections to Stone Mountain State Park, where connections to the Valley trail system have been under consideration for several years. EVTA, Yadkin Valley Trail Riders, Wilkes County, and others constructed almost 2 miles of trail to join the park's trail, but there is a “missing” section that needs additional work to be a sustainable connection.

Legislative Actions



The North Carolina Horse Council wishes to thank our lobbyist for another successful year.

The North Carolina Horse Council was once again represented by John Copper and Jackson Stancil as our lobbyist. During the early part of 2018, the Council researched new regulations on Electronic Logging Devices. The issue became more about the licensing status of drivers. The NCHC lobbied for a delay in the implementation and two extensions were granted. Negotiations continue to better take into consideration the needs of livestock haulers.

The Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council recommended that every state create an Office for Outdoor Recreation. And while North Carolina currently has a legislatively appointed committee on our Outdoor Cultural Recreation, the Governor created a new NC Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry. David Knight was appointed as Director. The NCHC met with Mr. Knight to help explain the role of equine activities and how important the recreational section of our industry is to North Carolina.

A highlight of legislative activities this year included a national roundtable on agriculture and the impact of recent court cases on farm nuisance suits. The Equine Industry is highly concerned that these suits could impact our equine farms. The NCHC will remain allied with other livestock commodities as we move to improve and protect our agricultural interests. The NC Legislature passed an amendment to the 2018 NC Farm Act to protect livestock farmers from excess nuisance awards. Our Lobbyist will continue to monitor this issue throughout 2019.

Legislative discussions and preparing for the upcoming Long Session occupied the middle part of the year. Our Lobbyists continue to position the Equine Industry issues to the forefront as we have worked with multiple legislators on potential legislation including protecting and including equine access to public land.

Meetings including our lobbyist and representatives from North Carolina State University were held. Several topics were discussed including the enhancement of the Equine Educational Unit and the new research hospital and programs at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Ideas on how to increase legislative funding for equine programs were highlighted during this year.

Hurricanes and Emergency Preparedness were front and center during the late Summer and early part of Fall. Our lobbyist and staff worked with many other livestock commodity groups to help and support equine owners impacted by the Storms. Commissioner Steve Troxler called a special “barnyard” meeting of all agricultural commodity groups to discuss the effects of the two powerful Hurricanes which devastated parts of North Carolina. Recovery procedures were reviewed, and each commodity shared what they thought was good and what areas may need some work. Overall, the group was pleased with the hurricane response. However, the needs remain great. Each group addressed their issues and what long term needs may result. The Commissioner was adamant that we give dollars directly to the farmers to assist with a more immediate recovery. The group concurred with his opinion. Representatives from State Government shared procedures to receive unemployment benefits due to a catastrophe.

While the Equine Community is included in the Statewide Disaster Recovery Process, it remains clear that our industry must continue to improve and find resources from within ourselves to assist in the recovery.

Grants are a major function of the NCHC and this year we awarded dollars in all grant categories



Special grant recognition for our youth groups included the FFA Horse Judging Competition



Health and Research Grants Awarded to NCSU/CVM

Grants and Scholarships

The North Carolina Horse Council was able to substantially increase grants, sponsorships and scholarships during 2018 thanks to an increase in our referendum dollars. All grants that were submitted were partially or fully funded. The following is a synopsis of those awards:

GRANTS:

- Multiple Safety Net Grants were awarded. These grants purchased feed and hay
- Gelding Grants were awarded
- A total of \$5000 was set aside for Hurricane Assistance to Equine owners
- Health Grant was awarded to Dr. Shannon Pratt-Phillips of NCSU, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to study the effects of exercise and equine hormones
- A Health Grant was awarded to Dr. Schnabel of NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine to study the generation of fluorescent equine mesenchymal stem cells for in vivo tracking
- A Health Grant was awarded to Dr. Callie Fogle for a Prospective clinical trial to assess epidural analgesia in horses with colic
- A Health Grant was awarded to Dr. Schnabel to study the Preparation of platelet-rich plasma lysate (PRP-L) for clinical trial combating infectious arthritis in horses
- An Educational Grant was awarded to the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center for their Outdoor Arena project
- An Education and Community Grant titled "Power of Horses to Heal-A Horsemanship Clinic with Tim Hayes" was funded
- An Educational Grant to St. Andrews University was awarded. The Grant allowed faculty and students to attend the 2018 Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) Conference and Annual Meeting
- A Trail Grant submitted by the BCH of NC requesting chain saw scabbards was funded
- A matching dollar grant was awarded to the NCSU Equine Educational Unit

SPONSORSHIPS: The NCHC supported the following events:

- The NCSU-CVM Equine Health Symposium
- The NCSU APVMA Annual Meeting
- FFA Horse Evaluation CDE
- FFA Equine Science Entrepreneurship & Placement Proficiency Awards
- Stall Plates for completion of the Lumberton Stall Project
- NCCE Livestock Agent Training Conference
- 4-H Horse Program: Purchase of the Team Jackets
- The National APVMA Symposium

SCOLARSHIPS:

- The NCHC established the Charles Albritton Scholarship during 2018. This memorial scholarship was partially funded through donations made to the NCHC in honor of Mr. Charles Albritton, a life-long supporter of the equine industry. The first awards will be made in 2019.
- A scholarship was awarded to a youth applicant to be able to participate in the annual State 4-H Horse Show

NCHC Officers

2018 Elected Board Members

Allan Harper
Allison Gay
Casey Armstrong
Chris Burtner
David Brooks
Dottie Burch
Gayle Nifong
Jerry King
Jim Thomas
Lucinda Human
Mary Constantino
Mary Myers
Michael Benner
Michael Boucher
Nancy Ferguson
Nathan Tabor
Neil Ward
Pat Benton
Patty Nunnery
Rick Penniston
Sammy Jenkins
Todd Erickson
Tom Bennett
Tracey Scheltinga
Tracy Tinsley
Virginia Godwin

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Cheryl Bennett



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NCHC Information

North Carolina Horse Council

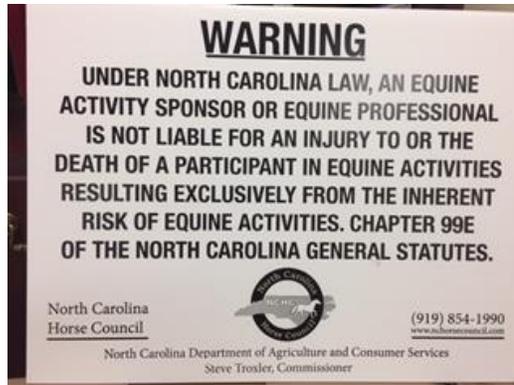
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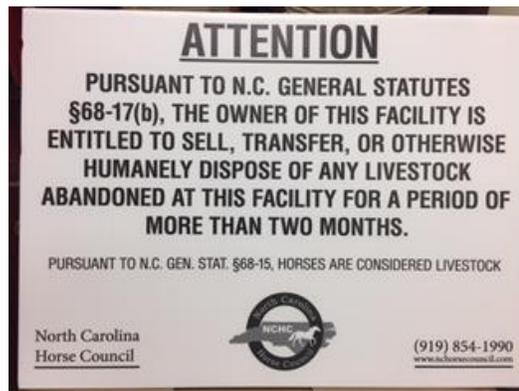
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Important Information for all Horse Owners

If you own horses and they are located on your property, you should post the following sign in multiple locations:



If you board horses on your property you may wish to post the following sign on your property and include this information in your boarding agreements.



These signs are available to NCHC members at a discount and can be purchased on-line at www.nchorsecouncil.com