



# NEWSLETTER

## MICHIGAN EQUINE PARTNERSHIP ALL BREED STALLION AUCTION

*Now through January 11, 2007!*

Visit our web site to find a detailed listing of the stallions available for access. See the insert for a listing of stallions and their breed. The stallion auction funds many of the projects and marketing that Michigan Equine Partnership is currently working on. Please support the Michigan equine industry and make your bid on a stallion today. (See insert for full auction listing).



## EQUINE CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Feasibility Committee has sent out the RFP (Request for Proposals) and expects to review those proposals on Tuesday, December 19th and report to the MEP Executive Board at their December board meeting. This study will determine what to include in the Center (Park) such as: number of arenas, number of stalls, types of disciplines, parking, other activities, race track, corporate offices, restaurants, and location to name a few.

MEP welcomes everyone's participation and encourages you to e-mail your suggestions to [val@miequine.com](mailto:val@miequine.com). If you would like to be a member of the feasibility committee please let Val know of your interest.

## MICHIGAN EQUINE SURVEY

Michigan Equine Partnership, Michigan State University, Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Horse Council have constructed the survey questionnaire and announce that the Comprehensive Equine Survey will begin in June of 2007 conducted by the National Agriculture Statistical Service.



If you receive a questionnaire it is very important that you complete and return your survey as soon as possible. This survey is being conducted to serve the equine industry. It has been 24 years since a comprehensive equine survey was conducted and this information is needed. The information garnered will show areas of need, the revenue the industry creates, health concerns of the industry and much, much more. All completed questionnaires are confidential and are not released for any purpose.

**PLEASE** participate in the equine survey.



### Mission:

Through an energized, broad based, grassroots coalition representing all facets of the equine industry, the Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP) is committed to increasing the public awareness and support, influencing public policy to strengthen the industry, and heightening recognition of the economic opportunities and value of the Michigan equine industry.

### Vision:

A leader, partner, and the voice of the Michigan equine industry.

### Philosophy:

Provide leadership through commitment, empowerment and accountability. Build partnerships with respect, trust, cooperation and respond to the needs of the equine industry with information, assessment, innovation, communication and coordination of services.

### Value:

A proud non-profit organization of advocacy through integrity, collaboration and member driven cooperative spirit.

## FOUNDING MEMBERS

- \* C.A.N.T.E.R.
- \* Equine World Insurance
- \* Int'l Draft Horse Association
- \* M.T.O.B.A.
- \* Campbell Farms
- Jerry & Lisa Campbell
- \* Tom Cole
- \* Larry Julian
- \* Mast Thoroughbreds
- Henry Mast
- \* Val Vail-Shirey
- \* Horsemen's Benevolent & Protection Association
- \* Great Lakes Downs, Muskegon

## BOARD MEMBERS

- \* Kim Fricke  
*President*
- \* Aaron Rice  
*Vice-President*
- \* Ronald Hitzler Jr.  
*Treasurer*
- \* Claudia Cary  
*Secretary*
- \* Carrie Barr
- \* Dr. John Shelle
- \* Rick McCune
- \* Dale Zahn
- \* Ernie Birchmeier
- \* Patricia Hooker
- \* Karen Waite
- \* Dan Rakieten
- \* Tom Tyler
- \* Hank Vaupel
- \* Margie Henley
- \* Irwin Martin
- \* Lori Ross

## INGHAM COUNTY 4-H HORSE JUDGING TEAM TAKES HIGH HONORS AT NATIONAL COMPETITION IN KENTUCKY

The Ingham County 4-H Horse Judging Team competed at the Eastern National 4-H Contest held November 4, 2006 in Louisville, Kentucky. The Eastern National judging contest is held in conjunction with the North American Livestock Exposition. A total of 23 teams from across the nation and over 90 4-H members competed in the contest. For this competition, all rules, horse judging procedures, class patterns, conformation, and performance standards must be committed to memory for multiple breeds.



Team members from left to right: Ryan Cate (coach), Gwyn Heyboer (coach), Brooke Fuchs, Lauren Hoehn, Charlsey Hoehn, Frances Dahl, Hannah Dahl and Ashley Baird.

4-H Horse Judging programs teach youth that evaluating horses, whether for purchase or show, is an objective process containing many components. This contest provides youth the challenge of placing classes of horses of all breeds and uses in accordance with industry standards. The experiences provided by the judging programs are very valuable to young men and women whether it is for business or pleasure.

## EVENT WINNERS!

Michigan Equine Partnership enjoys participating in the various association and trade shows and events. It is a pleasure to meet the many people involved and interested in the equine industry. We are proud to announce the winners of the Treat Guessing Game and drawings from the Michigan Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show and the North American Horse Spectacular.

*Congratulations Event Winners!*

Name	Event	Item Won
Max Utsler	MGLI	MEP Golf Shirt
Khale MacKenzie	Novi Expo	5#'s Horse Treats
Charles Hughes	Novi Expo	Leather Western Clock
Darlene Conley	MGLI	5#'s Horse Treats
Harley Westdorf	MGLI	Draft Horse Halter and Lead
Anna Denton	Novi Expo	One Year MEP Membership
Tracie Clough	MGLI	One Year MEP Membership

## REMINDER

### Michigan Equine Partnership Legislative Committee Meeting

*Tuesday, January 16 @ 5:30p.m.*

Michigan State University Equine Teaching and Research Facility  
Collins Rd.  
Lansing



MICHIGAN EQUINE PARTNERSHIP AND THE PITTSFORD LIONS CLUB PRESENTS:  
TEXAS HOLD 'EM!

*Saturday and Sunday, May 5th and 6th at Great Lakes Downs in Muskegon, Michigan*

We will also host a Kentucky Derby Party for the Derby Weekend.

Please put this on your calendar and join us as a guest, participant, or volunteer. For more information contact the MEP office at 517-372-1500.



NEW ONLINE HORSE BEHAVIOR AND WELFARE COURSE AVAILABLE FROM MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Every horse owner has at some time wished that his or her steed could suddenly turn into Mr. Ed and talk about its likes, dislikes, pains and fears. Because that's not likely to happen, a new online educational program is available to help horse owners better understand equine behavior and welfare.

The four-unit horse behavior and welfare online course is the first offering of "My Horse University," a new educational program from Michigan State University (MSU) Global and MSU Horse Programs.

Students in the program can log on to learn and complete hands-on exercises developed by equine scientists. Camie Heleski, an animal behavioral scientist in MSU's animal behavioral and welfare group, is the lead instructor. The material is designed to help horse owners better understand how horses learn, why they react in various situations and how to use this information in handling and training.

"There are a lot of horse owners who are very busy or who aren't located near a college or university, but they want to know how better to manage and handle their animals," says Christine Skelly, MSU Extension equine specialist and one of the program's developers. "We can use technology to give these folks, no matter where they are, access to university experts and to the most up-to-date findings on how horses respond to care and what makes them happiest and healthiest."

Participants can work on the course whenever and wherever it's convenient. They have up to six months to complete all the units to earn a certificate of completion.

Future "My Horse University" programs will focus on equine nutrition, conformation and selection, horse health, reproduction and exercise physiology.

Registration for the horse behavior and welfare program is \$200. To enroll or learn more, visit [www.myhorseuniversity.com](http://www.myhorseuniversity.com).



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Does your organization have events you would like posted in our publications and website? Please submit the event, date, times, and contact information to [val@miequine.com](mailto:val@miequine.com).

USDA and the State of Michigan are equal opportunity providers and employers.



**Insurance for  
Equine Enthusiasts**

*Farm and Ranch Specialists*  
*Protect Yourself and Your Horse*

---

**866 | 954 | 0555**  
[www.equineworldins.com](http://www.equineworldins.com)

---

**Michigan Equine Partnership  
235 North Pine Street  
Lansing, Michigan 48933**