

January 19th, 2012

Subject: Endorsement of the establishment of a Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Board

Dating as far back as the mid 1800's and our country's westward movement, Kansas has been a leading equine state. Today, we rank eighth, nationwide, in the number of American Quarter Horses, the largest breed organization. The horse industry is an important contributor to the state's economy as it not only provides recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors, but is a vital part of our cattle industry as they work on ranches across the state. Due to the recent economic downturn and other compounding factors like the unwanted horse issue, the state's horse industry has suffered and is in decline. Therefore, it is vitally important that the state partners with the horse industry by providing legislation and a funding opportunity to increase education and public involvement in the horse industry, expand participation in equine events, support equine research and improve the welfare of our state's horses, mules and burros. The establishment of a Kansas Equine Education and Promotion Board, self funded by the state's horse owners through their purchasing of commercial horse feed, will do just that.

Therefore, as a past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, a trustee of the American Horse Council, and the founding chair of the Unwanted Horse Coalition I wholeheartedly support the establishment of this vitally important Board and the assessment of commercial equine feed to support its activities. Thank you.

Tom, R. Lenz, DVM, MS
26760 State Line Rd
Louisburg, KS 66053
816-668-9820