

DELAWARE EQUINE NEWS

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www.delawareequinecouncil.org or .com

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President's Message

Several officers and Board members recently attended a portion of the American Horse Council conference in Washington, D.C. We were especially interested in the Trails Summit. Although Delaware has no federal land with trails, many of the lessons on the value of developing partnerships with state and federal are appropriate to help the Delaware Equine Council fulfill its mission.

DEC continues to have booth setups at various events throughout the state. We could use more help from our membership. Please volunteer to spend some time with us to promote DEC and the keeping of equines on Delmarva.

The recent adoption of mustangs and burros that was a joint effort of the AMBA (American Mustang & Burro Association) and BLM (Bureau of Land Management) is history now. As we got ready to go to press, this event and the Delaware State Fair were yet to happen. We hope you got to both and had a great time!

Stan Vonasek

When is it TOO HOT to ride?

Check out this formula:

$$\text{Air Temperature} + \text{Relative Humidity} - \text{Wind Speed} = \text{Answer}$$

Evaluating your answer:

- 180 or above - Don't Ride!
- 130 to 170 - Use Caution
- 130 or below - Ride!



Safety Column

The June Delaware Equine News featured information in this column about helmets. This issue will focus on chest protection. The following information is from www.safetied.org.

A horse safety vest is, as the name implies, meant to provide riders with a safety measure against the horses kick or fall. These vests are made of a special material that absorbs large impacts. Before purchasing one, be sure it meets the BETA standards, and you or whoever you are buying it for can ride in it comfortably. Remember that no vest can prevent spinal injuries, as they are not caused by direct impact, but rather of sharp movements of the spine.

One of the most popular types of these vests in the United States is the Tipperary. They provide vests for different sports such as rodeo, jockeys, polo players, and more, while also providing color coordination and material standards. There are many other popular brands in other countries.

As long as the vest has met BETA safety standards, the only deciding factor should be comfort. If you are purchasing one for a child, their growth comes in to play. These items can be quite expensive, and investing in one that will last longer by growing with your child may be the best option. If it is comfortable, purchase it. It could save your life, or the life of your child.

The most popular vests have been Tipperary, Intec and Charles Owen. Prices start around \$100 and go up to about \$300.

Something new is coming to the American market from overseas. The Point-Two Pro Air vest comes to us from the United Kingdom (England) and Hit Air Airbag (France) vest works like the airbags in our automobiles. These vests use a lanyard attached to the vest and the saddle. When the rider gets a set distance from the saddle, an inert gas cartridge fills the vest with air before impact.

Point-Two and Hit Air both have great websites with videos so you can see how their products work. Point-Two is at www.point-two.co.uk/ and Hit Air is www.air-vest.com. The Point-Two vest is available at SmartPak for about \$699. I recently saw the Hit-Air product at Dover Saddlery in Hockessin. It retails for about \$399.

I use the Tipperary Eventer when I jump. I should really use it all the time, but it's very uncomfortable in hot weather. I'm giving some serious consideration to the Point-Two Pro Air.

Mary Everhart