

# EQUINE LINE



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## Benefits for Horse Industry in Economic Stimulus Bill

President Obama has signed into law the Stimulus Bill, which is intended to provide a jump-start to the U.S. economy. The Stimulus Act continues the bigger write-off for horses and other property purchased and placed in service during 2009. These benefits were part of the 2008 Tax Stimulus bill, but expired at the end of 2008. The Stimulus Bill also includes a few other provisions that may impact horse owners.

### Expensing Allowance

The first incentive allows an owner who purchases a horse or other business property and places it in service in 2009 to expense up to \$250,000 of the cost. This so-called "Section 179" expensing allowance applies to horses, farm equipment and most other depreciable property. Once total purchases of horses and other eligible property reach \$800,000, the expense allowance goes down one dollar for each dollar spent over \$800,000.

To illustrate the expensing allowance, assume a horse business purchases \$750,000 of depreciable property in 2009, including \$650,000 for horses. That business can write off \$250,000 on its 2009 tax return and depreciate the balance. If instead, purchases were \$900,000, the expense allowance would go down by \$100,000. In either case, the amount of the purchases not expensed may also be eligible for bonus depreciation, as explained below.

### Bonus Depreciation

The second incentive continues the 50% first-year bonus depreciation for horses and most other depreciable property purchased and placed in service during 2009. It

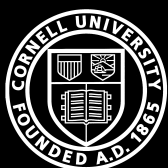


applies to any property that has a depreciable life of 20 years or less. Also, the property must be new, meaning that the original use of the horse or other property must com-

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mence with the taxpayer. For a horse to be eligible, it cannot have been used for any purpose before it is purchased.

To illustrate expensing and bonus depreciation, assume that in 2009 an owner pays \$500,000 for a colt to be used for racing and \$50,000 for other depreciable property, bringing total purchases to \$550,000. The young colt had never been raced or used for any other purpose before the purchase. The horse business would be able to expense \$250,000 (as explained above), deduct another \$150,000 of bonus depreciation (50% of the \$300,000 remaining balance), and take regular depreciation on the \$150,000 balance.

### Other Provisions

*State and Local Sales Taxes.* The Stimulus Bill provides all taxpayers with a deduction for state and local sales and excises taxes paid on the purchase of new cars, light trucks, and recreational vehicles through 2009. The deduction phases-out for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$125,000 and \$250,000 for taxpayers filing a joint return.

*NOL Carryback.* Current law permits net operating losses (NOLs) to be carried back to the two years before the operating loss occurs and carried forward to the twenty years after the loss. For 2008, the bill would extend the maximum NOL carryback period to five years for small businesses with gross revenue of \$15 million or less.

*Estimated Tax Payment Relief.* The Stimulus Bill reduces the 2009 required estimated tax payments for some small businesses.

Please call the AHC if you have any questions. 1616 H Street NW 7th Floor, Washington DC 20006. 202-296-4031. Fax 202-296-1970. Email: [AHC@horsecouncil.org](mailto:AHC@horsecouncil.org)  
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## New York Statistics

*From the American Horse Council, [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org)*

- ◆ The New York horse industry produces goods and services valued at \$1.4 billion.
- ◆ The national industry has a \$2.4 billion impact on the New York economy when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers and employees is taken into account. Accounting for off-site spending of spectators would result in an even higher figure.

- ◆ 152,000 New Yorkers are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees, and volunteers. Even more participate as spectators.
- ◆ The New York horse industry directly provides 12,700 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs. Spending by suppliers and employees (in New York and other states) generates additional jobs in New York for a total employment impact of 35,200.
- ◆ There are 202,000 horses in New York, over 70 percent of which are involved in showing and recreation.

## Commissioner Alerts Horse Owners of Contagious Horse Disease

*Department of Agriculture & Markets News  
[jessica.chittenden@agmkt.state.ny.us](mailto:jessica.chittenden@agmkt.state.ny.us)*

### Nine New York Horses Potentially Exposed to Contagious Equine Metritis

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today alerted horse owners and breeders to the potential exposure of their horses to Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), a contagious venereal disease of horses. Currently, there are nine known stallions outside of New York State that have tested positive for CEM and that have potentially exposed hundreds of other horses, including nine mares in New York State.

Contagious Equine Metritis can be spread when horses are bred, or congenitally from mares to their foals. While natural breeding is more likely to spread the infection, horses involved in artificial breeding can also be exposed to CEM. Infected stallions seldom, if ever, show outward signs of infection, but may act as carriers of the disease.

To date, there are nine mares in New York and approximately 300 other potentially exposed horses in 37 other states. As potentially exposed horses are identified, they are placed under strict restrictions by state and federal animal health authorities, pending three consecutive negative test results. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and USDA veterinarians have quarantined the nine exposed mares in New York State and have begun testing. None of the potentially exposed mares in New York State or other states have tested positive for CEM at this time.



There are nine stallions that have tested positive for CEM. Used for breeding purposes, these stallions are suspect for possibly exposing mares to CEM. Following are the names of the known stallions that have tested positive for CEM:

*Gentlemen Send Roses*, a Paint Horse from Indiana

*Hot Lopin Sensation*, a Paint Horse from Kentucky

*Indian Artifacts*, a Quarter Horse from Kentucky

*Invited Back*, a Paint Horse from Indiana

*Nanning 374*, a Friesian from Wisconsin

*Potential Asset*, a Quarter Horse from Texas

*Potential Investment*, a Quarter Horse from Kentucky

*Repeated in Red*, a Quarter Horse from Kentucky

*Zips Heaven Sent*, a Paint Horse from Indiana

CEM may render mares infertile or may cause horses to spontaneously abort, however the disease can be treated with antibiotics and disinfectants. There is no evidence that CEM affects people.

New York farms owning mares, which have been bred to or have come into contact with any of the positive stallions, and who has not yet been contacted by state or federal animal health officials should contact the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets' Division of Animal Industry at 518-457-3502.

For more information and regular updates on Contagious Equine Metritis, visit:  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot\\_issues/cem/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/cem/index.shtml)

## *Attention All Palisades Equestrian Riders*

By Terri McNeil, Assistant Park & Recreation Supervisor, 845-255-0752

As we fast approach the 2009 season, I wanted to touch base about the status of the carriageways for this spring season at Minnewaska. On December 12th, 2008, Minnewaska experienced a significant ice storm that closed the park for a month. During that time of closure, park staff worked on removing trees from the carriageways so that we could safely open for patron use. We were able to open up the Lake Minnewaska, Upper Awosting and the Castle Point carriageways, and support winter operations

on these carriageways. Park staff has diligently been removing trees and brush from other areas. Currently, the following areas are open Lower Awosting, Upper Awosting, Castle Point, Lake Minnewaska, Sunset, Beacon Hill and the Millbrook carriageways.

The preserve is currently open for hiking on these carriageways and remains closed to bikers and equestrians because of ice and muddy conditions. The melting snow has caused muddy conditions that must dry completely prior to equestrian and bike use. The carriageways will need to dry out before park staff can drive to locations that are in need of clean up and repairs. Premature use of the carriageways by park vehicles, bikers or equestrians can create more damage, delaying opening. Park Management is concerned for the safety of park patrons and will keep these areas closed until all clean up and repairs are done.

Last year, we informed equestrian users that designs were being made to repair the causeway on the Lower Awosting carriageway and once the construction began in the fall, the carriageway was going to be closed. This project has been delayed but remains a high priority and is planned to be completed this operating season. Once construction begins, the Lower Awosting carriageway will remain closed until all construction work is completed. This closure could be for most of the season. Once the Lower Awosting carriageway closes equestrians will need to use the Sunset carriageway to get up to the top of the mountain by the lakes.

We are sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation.



# Rabies Has Many Faces

By: Ann Dwyer, DVM

[www.theHorse.com](http://www.theHorse.com), Article # 12790

Rabies. The word conjures up chilling images from old movies: a snarling dog, foaming at the mouth, attacking anything that moves. But did you know horses are very susceptible to this disease?

Skunks, foxes, bats, and raccoons are the main wild animals that transmit rabies. These all can live in habitats bordering typical horse farms. Wild animals with rabies behave abnormally, and as horses are curious, it is easy to imagine how they can be bitten by a rabid wild carrier. A single bite can transmit enough virus to kill.

Once a horse shows signs of rabies it invariably dies within a few days. Early signs range from colic and lameness to depression and agitation. There is no treatment. Horses with rabies are a great risk to their handlers, as saliva from an affected horse carries virus that can potentially transmit the disease to a person.

New York State has reported 51 cases of horse rabies over the past 19 years. I was involved in diagnosing three of them. All were fatal. All were very different, illustrating that rabies can "look like anything."

The first was a mare living in a pasture bordering a wooded area. Her owners called, saying she was "bellowing like a pig" and acting strangely. When I asked about her rabies status I was told she had never been vaccinated.

On arrival I found the mare in a pen. Long ropes of drool dripped from her mouth. She was tossing her head, flinging saliva everywhere. She had chewed a large hole in one leg through the skin (presumably where she was bitten and exposed). Her aggression was terrifying--she would attack anyone and anything that came near her. Strongly suspecting rabies, I convinced the family to put her to sleep. Subsequent testing confirmed the disease. The family members and I underwent post-exposure immunization.

Case number two was very different. This horse was seen at a routine appointment because she just wasn't right. I did a physical exam and found nothing major other than a mild fever and dull attitude. I opened her mouth during the exam and handled her tongue and gums. I took some blood and prescribed anti-inflammatory. The next day the owner called back--overnight the mare had lost the ability to swallow and she was getting wobbly. She was sent to Cornell for advanced care, but her condition deteriorated and she became recumbent. She was euthanized. She

had never been vaccinated for just wasn't right. I did a physical exam and found nothing major other than a mild fever and dull attitude. I opened her mouth during the exam and handled her tongue and gums. I took some blood and prescribed anti-inflammatory. The next day the owner called back--overnight the mare had lost the ability to swallow and she was getting wobbly. She was sent to Cornell for advanced care, but her condition deteriorated and she became recumbent. She was euthanized. She had never been vaccinated for rabies and was found positive for the disease. More than 20 people from the farm and Cornell required post-exposure treatment, including me.

The third case involved a 3-year-old gelding experiencing difficulty walking. Our practice's intern found the horse was febrile, had signs of colic, and had some incoordination in his hindquarters. We monitored him for several hours; his signs varied--he would fall down and act painful and wobbly, get up and act semi-normal, then repeat the cycle. Over time he got worse and that evening he became recumbent. We queried his vaccination status and were told that he was purchased from someone out West who "gave him all his shots." We later found out he had not been vaccinated against rabies because it was not considered a problem disease in his state of origin. The horse was euthanized that night and confirmed rabid the next day. Eight people who handled the horse (including me and our practice intern) pursued post-exposure treatment.

If there is a bright spot in this story, it is that modern vaccines are very effective in providing rabies immunity. The American Association of Equine Practitioners has recently listed rabies as one of the "core vaccines" that should be given to all horses. Current recommendations are to begin immunization when a foal reaches 6 months of age, then follow with a booster dose in four to six weeks. Horses should then receive boosters at annual intervals starting at 10 to 12 months of age. Broodmares should be vaccinated four to six weeks prior to their delivery dates. Most state health departments mandate that the vaccine be given by a licensed veterinarian who will keep detailed records on the vaccination history of the horse.

And just to be safe ... if your horse starts acting odd, please don't put your hands in his mouth! Strange behavior is always a valid reason to call your veterinarian.



# Biosecurity – the Key to Keeping Your Horses Healthy

United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection Service, Program Aid No. 1825

*Editor's Note:* Mention of companies or commercial products does not imply recommendation or endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or Cornell Cooperative Extension over others not mentioned. USDA and CCE neither guarantees nor warrants the standard of any product mentioned. Product names are mentioned solely to report factually on available data and to provide specific information.

**Biosecurity** means doing everything you can to reduce the chances of an infectious disease being carried onto your farm by people, animals, equipment, or vehicles, either accidentally or on purpose.

## Showing Your Horse

- ◆ Use your own trailer. Don't ship your horses with horses from other farms.
- ◆ Ship only in a trailer that has been cleaned and disinfected. If you can "smell horse" in the empty trailer, it has not been cleaned and disinfected properly.
- ◆ Don't let your horse touch other horses, especially nose to nose.
- ◆ Don't share equipment (e.g., water, feed buckets, brushes, or sponges).
- ◆ Wash your hands, especially after helping other people with their horses.
- ◆ Don't let strangers pet your horse, especially those with horses at home or people who have been out of the country in the past 2 weeks.
  - Before leaving the show grounds, clean and disinfect tack, boots, equipment, and grooming supplies. Brush off dirt or manure; then disinfect (spray or wipes are easy to take with you).
  - When you get home, shower, blow your nose, and put on clean clothes and shoes before going near other horses.

## Visiting Other Farms, Horse Shows, or Auctions

- ◆ Have a pair of shoes or boots that you save for visiting and don't wear around your own horse.
- ◆ Wear plastic shoe covers. Plastic bags from newspapers work well.



- ◆ If you are going to be working with horses on another farm, wear coveralls or plan to change clothes before returning to your horse.
- ◆ If there are farms you visit all the time and you can't change clothes and shoes, be sure their vaccination program and biosecurity practices are as good as your own.

## For Visitors to Your Farm or Horse

- ◆ It is best to have only one way into your farm. Mark this as the main entrance.
- ◆ Park away from the horses. Doing that will help keep disease-carrying organisms from being tracked from car floors or tires to your horses.
- ◆ If the farrier or veterinarian needs to park closer, be sure their tires and shoes have been disinfected.
- ◆ Ask all visitors to wear clean clothes and shoes. Give visitors plastic shoe covers, or brush dirt off their shoes and spray them with disinfectant.
- ◆ If you have many visitors, such as at a farm tour or open house, make a footbath for them to walk through.

## Bringing Horses Back From a Show

- ◆ If one horse has been shown, all your horses need to be vaccinated. Horses that show can bring home germs. Discuss what vaccinations the horses need, and how often, with your veterinarian.
- ◆ If possible, keep horses which were off the farm isolated for at least 2 weeks. Make sure there is no nose-to-nose contact.



## Bringing in New Horses

This is the most likely way for infectious diseases to come in.

- ◆ Keep every new horse isolated for 30 days. Don't use pitchforks, grooming tools, or feed and water buckets on any horse but the new one. Mark these with red tape, or use red brushes, etc., only for the isolation area.
- ◆ Work with the isolated horse last each day. Alternatively, wear boots and coveralls when working with the isolated horse and remove them before working or going near other horses. You can keep these in a plastic-covered tub near the horse.
- ◆ Always wash your hands and blow your nose after working with the new horse. You could carry germs to your other horses in your nose.

## Using Disinfectants

### How To Disinfect

Surfaces must be clean for disinfectants to work. Brush off loose dirt and manure. If possible, wash the item with detergent first (laundry or dish soap works well) and then use a disinfectant. Most grooming tools can be dipped in disinfectant. Tack can be wiped with a disinfectant wipe or a disinfectant-dampened cloth. Shoes can be brushed or scrubbed off and then sprayed with disinfectant.

### Examples of Disinfectants

**Household Bleach**—Mix  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of bleach per gallon of water. If you don't have a measuring cup handy, you can mix 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. This formula works for shoes, grooming equipment, buckets, shovels, and pitchforks. When you use bleach, make sure all dirt and manure have been cleaned off first.

**Spray Disinfectant**—Be sure the label says it kills bacteria and viruses. Sprays can work well on shoes, grooming equipment, and tack. Try to remove all manure and dirt before spraying.

**Waterless Hand Sanitizers**—They come in gels or hand wipes. These are good for use at a show or after visiting other horses. Be sure to work the cleaner all through your fingers and under the nails.

**Other Disinfectants**—Always mix and use according to the label. Two examples are One Stroke Environ® (available from Steris Corporation) and Tek-trol® (from Bio-Tek Industries). These both work well even if there is a little manure or dirt left on the surface. These are good

choices for disinfecting trailers and car tires, and they also work well in footbaths.

*Note: Trade names used in this publication do not constitute an endorsement, guarantee, or warranty of these products. USDA bears no responsibility resulting from the use of the described products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your horses; however, they will reduce the risks.*

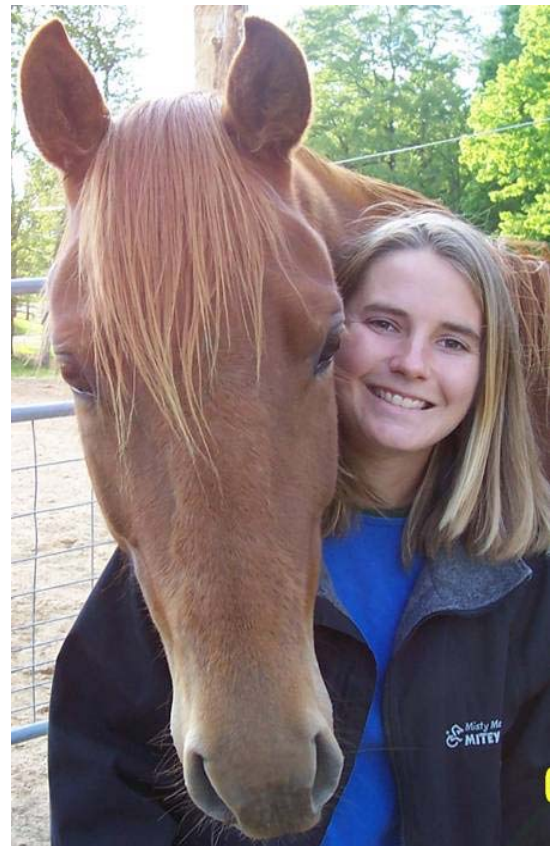
## Making an Easy Footbath

You will need:

1. A low plastic pan or bin, wide enough to fit an adult's foot, shallow enough to step into easily
2. A plastic doormat (the "fake grass" mats work well)
3. A disinfectant that works when manure or dirt is present, such as Tek-trol or One Stroke Environ
4. Water

Mix the disinfectant with water following label instructions. Put the doormat in the plastic pan. Add disinfectant so that the bottom of the "grass" is wet. Ask visitors to walk through the footbath, wiping their feet on the mat. The "grass" scrubs their shoes a bit as they wipe them, and applies the disinfectant. When the liquid starts to get dirty, empty it and put in new disinfectant.

## You Are the Best Protection Your Horses Have!



# Upcoming Events

For more information call 845-344-1234.

Get your copy of the 2009 Equine Activity Calendar online at [cce.cornell.edu/orange](http://cce.cornell.edu/orange)

## APRIL 2009

15	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
17	Friday & Saturday Racing	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
18	Clover Hill Team Penning	Clover Hill Farm, Wallkill, NY
18	Saratoga Horse Symposium	4-H Training Center, Ballston Spa, NY
19	Greystone Schooling Show	Greystone Stables, New Hampton, NY
19	Lucky C Circuit Show	Lucky C Stables, New Paltz, NY
19	Saratoga Horse Symposium	4-H Training Center, Ballston Spa, NY
20	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
22	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
24	Friday & Saturday Racing	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
25	Willow Hill Schooling Show	Willow Hill Farm, Montgomery, NY
25	Rutgers Day	Rutgers' Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ
25	Spring Tack Auction. Benefits Ulster 4-H Program	Town of Thompson Park, Monticello, NY
26	HVDHA Spring Plow	Stonykill Farm, Wappingers Falls, NY
26	10th Annual NAERIC Yearling Horse Auction	Rutgers' Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ
26	Orange County 4-H Riding Clinic (members only)	Orange County Park, Montgomery, NY
26	Gardnertown Farms C Rated Show	Gardnertown Farm, Newburgh, NY
26	Hunter Jumper Schooling Show	Whisper Wind Farm, Warwick, NY
27	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
29	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY

## MAY 2009

1	Friday & Saturday Racing	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
1	Weekend Dressage Clinic With Holger Bechtloff	Frog Hollow Farm, Esopus, NY
2	Clover Hill Team Penning	Clover Hill Farm, Wallkill, NY
2	Saturday & Sunday Racing	Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY
2	Dressage Clinic With Doreen Vandermost	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
2	WHH Spring Pace I	Florida, NY
3	Dressage Clinic With Doreen Vandermost	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
3	SPARC Ride at the Stewart Buffer Lands	Stewart State Forest, Montgomery, NY
3	Gardnertown Farms B Rated Show	Gardnertown Farm, Newburgh, NY
3	SDHPA English Hunter Show	Hosner Mt Road, Hopewell Jct., NY
4	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
6	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
7	Thursday - Saturday Racing	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
9	Saturday & Sunday Racing	Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY
9	SDHPA Gymkhana Show	Hosner Mt Road, Hopewell Jct., NY
9	Children's Workshop	Harness Racing Museum, Goshen, NY
9	Open Horse Show - Western	Stone Wall Farms, Jeffersonville, NY
10	NYSTQHA Open Show	Orange County Park, Montgomery, NY
10	Tri-County Horse Show	Whisper Wind Farm, Warwick, NY
10	Open Horse Show - English	Stone Wall Farms, Jeffersonville, NY
10	Gardnertown Farms B Rated Show	Gardnertown Farm, Newburgh, NY
10	WHH Spring Dressage Show	Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta, NJ
11	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
13	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
14	Thursday - Saturday Racing	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
16	Clover Hill Team Penning	Clover Hill Farm, Wallkill, NY
16	Saturday & Sunday Racing	Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY
16	Equine Science Center Spring Open House	Rutgers' Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ
16	Willow Hill Schooling Show	Willow Hill Farm, Montgomery, NY
17	Equifest 2009 Show. Benefit Ulster 4-H Horse Program	Ulster Cty. Fairgrounds, New Paltz, NY
17	MS Walk - Orange County	Goshen Historic Track, Goshen, NY
17	19th Annual Duck Derby to benefit Winslow Therapeutic Ctr.	South Street, Warwick, NY
17	G & M Riding Club Playday	Orange County Park, Montgomery, NY
17	SDHPA Open Western Pleasure Show	Hosner Mt Road, Hopewell Jct., NY
17	WHH Spring Pace II	Florida, NY
18	Monday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
20	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
21	Thursday - Saturday Racing	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
22	Friday - Sunday Racing	Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY
22	NYSTQHA Spring Blast w/AQHA Classes-4 Days	Orange County Park, Montgomery, NY
23	Schooling Show	Brook Edge, Ferndale, NY
24	Blue Sky Polo Club Polo Matches	Blue Sky Polo Club, Middletown, NY
24	Empire Breeders Classic 3YO NY Bred	Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY
24	Open English and Western Schooling Show	Hilltop Equestrian Center, Goshen, NY
25	Empire Breeders Classic 3YO NY Bred	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
25	Stone Ridge Memorial Day Parade	Stone Ridge, NY
26	Tuesday - Thursday Racing	Monticello Raceway, Monticello, NY
27	Cow Sorting Practice	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
29	Friday - Sunday Racing	Tioga Downs, Nichols, NY
29	Friday & Saturday Racing	Vernon Downs, Vernon, NY
30	Clover Hill Team Penning	Clover Hill Farm, Wallkill, NY
30	Cow Sorting Competition	Falcon Ridge, Walden, NY
31	Blue Sky Polo Club Polo Matches	Blue Sky Polo Club, Middletown, NY
31	Horses and Hounds Dressage Schooling Show	Horses and Hounds Stables, Gardiner, NY



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# EQUINE LINE



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