



2016

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Docket No. APHIS-2011-0009
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD
APHIS
Station 3A-03.8
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

To Whom it May Concern:

In January 2012 a new farrier association was launched – the American Association of Professional Farriers Inc. (AAPF) (and thereafter, sister organizations – the Canadian Association of Professional Farriers and International Association of Professional Farriers). It was determined that the foundation of these new associations would rest on knowing that farriers would be recognized based upon his or her accomplishments as a professional. Further, the associations will promote the integrity of the farrier industry by strengthening the knowledge and skills of its members through the promotion of continuing education opportunities, while improving overall equine health through collaboration with other industry professionals. Today the association has over 800 members through the United States.

The AAPF Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to support the position of the American Horse Council, as well as our Alliance member – the American Saddlebred Horse Association – in relation to the proposal to amend the horse protection regulations.

Like the American Horse Council, the AAPF has always opposed soring of horses and supports the enforcement of the HPA. We emphatically agree that soring is an abusive practice and should not be tolerated. Unfortunately, the practice of soring continues in the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse and Spotted Saddle Horse industries. Improvements to the HPA enforcement program are clearly warranted.

However, while supporting the need to enhance the enforcement program for these specific and identified equine industries, we are adamantly against any rule or regulation which would adversely impact or unnecessarily burden other segments of the horse show industry that are not soring horses and have demonstrated no history of soring horses.

Additionally, we are concerned that any rule or sub-section which does not specifically address the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse or Spotted Saddle Horse industry, could run the risk of legal interpretation to include other segments of the horse show industry. Your clarification would be appreciated.

Respectfully,

Steve Prescott CJF APF
2016 – 2017 President