

The North Carolina Equine Feed Assessment

What does the funding do for North Carolina?

The assessment vote was passed by the horse owners of North Carolina in March 1999. The first assessment check came to the NC Horse Council in November 1999.

The second vote was passed in March 2002 and it will be voted on again in March 2005.

The original estimate was that the assessment would cost a horse owner \$1.80 per horse, per year. Over the past four years, the assessment has generated an average of \$225,000 per year. There are an estimated 225,000 horses in N.C. The NCHC has received and honored payment of one refund request in the amount of \$5.05.

The NC Horse Council identified several areas of intended utilization for the assessment funds in a brochure published prior to the first vote in March 1999. Listed below are the areas of intended utilization followed by the results since the assessment began. The majority of 2004 grant requests will be awarded in the late fall of 2004. Consequently, the 2004 grants listed below do not reflect the total grant awards at this time.

A. Additional funding for 4H programs:

For 2000: NC 4-H Horsemanship & Showmanship School - \$4550 grant
For 2000: NC State University Student Interns - \$2870 grant
For 2001: NC 4-H Horse Program Promotional Projects - \$7275 grant
For 2001: NC 4-H Horsemanship School & Camp - \$15000 grant
For 2001: NC State University Student Interns - \$ 3120 grant
2002: Pitt County Horse Bowl Buzzer System - \$631.95 grant
2002: NC 4-H Development Fund - \$250.00 sponsorship
For 2002: NC 4-H Horse Program Promotional Projects - \$5200 grant
For 2002: NC 4-H Horsemanship School & Camp - \$12,800 grant
For 2002: Youth & Volunteer Leader Educational Programs - \$10,500 grant
For 2002: NC State University Student Interns - \$6,000 grant
For 2003: Youth & Volunteer Leader Educational Programs - \$10,500 grant
For 2003: NC 4-H Horsemanship School & Camp - \$12,800 grant
For 2003: NC 4-H Program Promotional Projects - \$6,600 grant
For 2003: NC 4-H Development Fund / Hippology Contest - \$2,000 sponsorship
For 2004: NC 4-H Horsemanship School & Camp - \$12,800 grant
For 2004: NC 4-H Horse Program Promotional Projects - \$6,600 grant
For 2004: Youth & Volunteer Leader Educational Programs - \$10,500 grant
Subtotal: \$129,996.95

B. REINS adult extension education programs in counties across the state:

For 2000: REINS Scholarship Program - \$4170 grant
For 2000: REINS Promotional Brochure - \$1286.59 grant
For 2000: REINS Regional Training - \$1131.05 grant
For 2000: REINS Certification Training Course Dinner- \$346.41 grant
For 2001: REINS Promotional Brochure - \$3,000 grant
For 2001: REINS Organizational Mini Grants - \$7,000 grant
For 2001: REINS Operating Funds - \$5,000 grant
For 2003: REINS Operating Funds - \$5,000 grant
For 2004: REINS Certification Training Course & Scholarship - \$3,000 grant
For 2003 – 2004: REINS Staff Position Enhancement - \$35,000 grant
For 2004-2005: REINS Staff Position Enhancement - \$35,000 grant
Subtotal: \$ 99,934.05

C. Trails advocacy, to protect our access to horse trails:

2001: Hired a trails consultant, initially at 20 hours per month and later changed to 40 hours per month to work with start up and established trail projects:

- Croatan National Forest
- Rendezvous Mountain State Forest
- Jordan Lake Trails Conservation Association
- Person County Horseman's Association
- Benefitting Intracoastal Trails Association
- Dismal Swamp Wildlife Area
- Wildlife Refuges in northeastern NC
- Eno River Trails Association
- Moses Cone Trails
- Sandhills Gamelands

2001: First NCHC Trails Conference – Raleigh – 125 attendees

2002: NCHC Trails Conference – Greensboro – 100-125 attendees

2003: Two NCHC Trails Conferences - Concord & New Bern – 75 each location

2004: NCHC Trails Field Workshop – Pittsboro – 60 attendees

For 2002: Jordan Lake Trails Conservation Association Set-up - \$500 grant

For 2003: Benefitting Intracoastal Trails Set-up - \$500 grant

Subtotal: \$ 1,000.00

D. Equine Research Programs:

2002: Identification of the cause of Pericarditis in horses - \$3600 grant

2003: Developing an Equine Model to study Nutritional Health Interactions - \$13,995 grant

2003: Developing an Equine disease surveillance program in NC - \$9,992 grant

2003: Risk factors /development of incisional infection following colic surgery - \$2,769 grant

2003: Role of forage type and quality in equine colic - \$5854 grant

Subtotal: \$ 36,210.00

E. Better representation of our horses' welfare interests in local, state and federal legislatures

2000: Legislative Breakfast - \$200 sponsorship

2000: Lobbyist for NC Horse Council hired

2000: Commissioner of Agriculture Library Fund - \$500 sponsorship

2001: Lobbyist continued

2001: Legislative Breakfast - \$200 sponsorship

2001: American Horse Council / State Horse Council Reception - \$500 sponsorship

2001: NC Agricultural Foundation - \$500 sponsorship

2002: Lobbyist continued

2002: NC Agricultural Foundation - \$400 sponsorship

2002: Congressional Staff Tour - \$600 sponsorship

2003: Lobbyist continued

2004: Lobbyist continued

Subtotal: \$ 2,700.00

F. Marketing programs to make the public aware of the benefits of horse ownership

2000: Hired full-time Administrative Staff person

- Secured office space
- Set up toll-free telephone line
- Set up web-site
- Released newsletter 6 times per year initially to dues paying members and now to everyone listed on the database
- Visits to horse association meetings throughout the state

2001: Presidents' Counsel Meeting – Raleigh

2001: Agribusiness Meeting – Raleigh

2002: Secured "in excess" personal liability insurance coverage for individual and life members. Out of the \$25 individual membership dues, \$19 goes to insurance premiums.

2002: Agribusiness Meeting – Winston Salem
 2002: Presidents’ Counsel Meeting – Greensboro
 2003: Horse Professional’s Workshop - Concord
 2004: Presidents’ Counsel Meeting - Asheboro
 2000: Carolina Countryside TV Production - \$1000 sponsorship
 2000: NC Dept.of Agriculture & Consumer Services Product Dinner - \$500 sponsorship
 2001: NC Assoc.of County Agricultural Agents Annual Mtg. - \$400 sponsorship
 2001: NC Agricultural Promotions - \$100 sponsorship
 2001: NC FFA Foundation Meeting - \$50 sponsorship
 2002: NC Assoc. of County Agricultural Agents Annual Mtg. - \$400 sponsorship
 For 2001: Enhancement of Extension Horse Husbandry Operating Funds - \$ 12,000 grant
 For 2002: Enhancement of Extension Horse Husbandry Operating Funds - \$ 12,000 grant
 2002: NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry - \$2532.53 grant
 For 2003: Enhancement of Extension Horse Husbandry Operating Funds - \$ 13,500 grant
 December 2003: First Southern Horse Festival: This was a 3 day event held at the NC State Fairgrounds that offered a combination of clinicians, vendors, educational seminars and horse show.
 For 2004: Enhancement of Extension Horse Husbandry Operating Funds - \$ 13,500 grant
 2000- 2004: Continuation of co-sponsored short course and clinic series offering instruction in everything from feeding, forage, nutrition, hoof care, etc.

Subtotal: \$ 54,982.53

G. Stricter enforcement of laws controlling horse and tack theft rings, inter-state transport of horses, and humane treatment of all equines

2000: Secured legal counsel for the NCHC
 2000: Secured legislative representative for the NCHC
 2001: Added the SHIN (Stolen Horse Information Network) to the NCHC website
 2001: Winston Salem Large Animal Response Team - \$500 sponsorship
 2001: Large Animal Rescue Clinic - \$500 sponsorship
 2001: State Animal Response Team - \$1500 sponsorship
 2003: State / County Animal Response Team - \$15,000 grant

Subtotal: \$ 17,500.00

H. Improved public awareness of Equine Infectious Anemia and other threats to our horses’ well-being

2000 – 2004: Horse Health Awareness Week – posters sent to feed and tack stores throughout the state reminding horse owners of the need to vaccinate.
 For 2002: Equine Health Program Research Externship Project - \$ 4050 grant
 For 2004: Equine Health Program Research Externship Project - \$1594.30 grant
 2003: NCSU – CVM, SCAAEP Lameness Symposium - \$500 grant
 2003: Southern Animal Health Association Annual Meeting - \$1000 sponsorship
 2004: NCSU – CVM, SCAAEP Equine Reproduction Symposium - \$500 grant

Subtotal: \$ 7,644.30

IV What does it do for the horse owner in North Carolina?

Cindy Wadford, Executive Director

In addition to being part of the staff of the NC Horse Council, I am also a horse owner. I have seen the Council grow tremendously in the past four years. We have become a combination of a “411 center” and a “911 center”. We truly have become the hub of the horse wheel.

The people who provide volunteer leadership on the Council are the reason the funds have made a tremendous impact on our horse industry. Our Board of Directors genuinely care about the Council, the impact to the industry, and the individual horse owners in our state. I continue to be amazed at the level of talent, integrity, time and commitment they offer on a volunteer basis. They are individually and corporately very good at what they do. Without them, regardless of how much money there is, it would not be possible.