



Friends of Sound Horses, Inc.

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Dr. Chester Gipson  
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USDA APHIS

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**Re: Commendation**

The FOSH Board of Directors, Executive Advisory Committee, and general members would like to commend both of you for the recent decisions you have publicized effective for the 2009 inspections.

First, the "saddle off" requirement: although it adds complexity for all exhibitors, it is a necessary step to avoid the unscrupulous use of bit burrs and other aggravations under the tack during inspections.

Second, the USDA proclamation announced at the recent DQP Joint Training that "no scars will be allowed" is fantastic. Stick to your guns! You have created huge shock waves through those exhibitor circles that will be affected by this.

Thank you for your decisions, and hard work to bring an end to soring.

Bob Blackwell  
Vice President of Inspection

Lori Northrup  
President