

## Turner, Whitney I - APHIS

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**From:** David Green <dgreen.dgc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:09 AM  
**To:** Cezar, Rachel - APHIS  
**Subject:** Fwd: UPDATE: USDA APHIS Horse Protection Listening Sessions

PLEASE NOTE I HAVE ANSWERED IN ( )...THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ MY COMMENTS.

UPDATE: USDA APHIS Horse Protection Listening Sessions

USDA APHIS Horse Protection Program

Listening Sessions

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Animal Care Program will hold listening sessions throughout the United States to obtain public feedback on the Horse Protection Program. In particular, APHIS is interested in hearing feedback on the questions below:

- Congress passed the Horse Protection Act in 1970 to eliminate the cruel and inhumane practice of soring horses. How close are we to achieving the goal? ( Not any closer. 40 years!!!! The horse protection act and all that has followed has driven all soaring practices deeper into the animal)
- Can the industry achieve a consensus on how to carry out a self-regulatory program to enforce the Horse Protection Act in a consistent way? (No. Again 40 years is enough time to show that the TWH industry is not interested in change.)
- What responsibilities should USDA-certified Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) have within the industry? (NONE)
- How can the industry reconcile its inherent competition aspect with ensuring compliance with the Horse Protection Act?

(Implement life time bans for pressure showing, man made scar, two feet soar, and any twitching devices found on the animals while going through inspection. This is the only way any change will come. Our industry is too weak and divided to implement it. It needs to come from a higher source. That being said though if those breaking the rules are caught the rule must be carried out. It will clean up the industry overnight.)

- What can USDA do now (and in the future) to ensure compliance? (see above)
- What responsibilities should USDA have within the industry with respect to enforcement and what hinders oversight of the HIOs and/or industry? (see above. Use the KISS principle)
- Should there be a prohibition of all action devices? ( no one will be able to remove this. The battle will be too long and expensive)

- Should there be a prohibition of pads? ( see above)
- Currently the Horse Protection regulations have a shoe weight limit on yearlings. Should there now be a shoe weight limit for all aged horses? (yes)

The listening sessions are planned for the following dates and locations:

- March 7 – 9am to 1pm; Springhill Suites, 5800 High Point Drive, Irving, TX 75038
- March 8 – 9am to 1pm; University Plaza Hotel, 333 John Q Hammons Parkway, Springfield, MO 65806
- March 15 – 9am to 1pm; Kentucky Horse Park (South Theatre), 4089 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511
- March 22 – 9am to 1pm; Doubletree Ontario Airport, 222 N. Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, CA 91764
- March 23 – 9am to 1pm; Phoenix Inn Suites, 3410 Spicer Road SE, Albany, OR 97322
- March 27 – 9am to 1pm; Renaissance Asheville Hotel, 31 Woodfin Street, Asheville, NC 28801
- March 29 – 9am to 1pm; Mississippi State University – College of Forest Resources/Forest and Wildlife Research Center Department of Forest Products Facilities, 100 Blackjack Road, Starkville, MS 39759
- April 4 – 9am to 1pm; Doubletree Murfreesboro Hotel, 1850 Old Fort Parkway, Murfreesboro, TN 37129
- April 10 – 9am to 1pm; USDA APHIS Headquarters, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737

Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes in order to ensure everyone registered will have the opportunity to have their comments heard. If you have written comments, you may leave them with the USDA officials at the session.

Online registration is available on the APHIS Animal Care website at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/events\\_reg.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/events_reg.shtml)

We look forward to your comments in order to ensure the success of the USDA APHIS Horse Protection Program. If you have any questions, you may contact Dr. Rachel C ezar at (301)851-3746 or [rachel.cezar@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:rachel.cezar@aphis.usda.gov) .

Further information is also available at: [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/hp](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/hp)

Hallie Zimmers  
National Stakeholder Liaison

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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