



2024 Maryland Horse Forum Agenda

Thursday, August 8th
McDonogh School, Owings Mills, MD



8:00 am	Registration and light refreshments. Visit with Sponsors - Edward St. John Student Center		
9:00 am	Welcome - Edward St. John Student Center's Paterakis Dining Hall		
Location	Klein Lyceum	1873 Room	Esther Ann Dining Hall
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Social License & Public Perception <i>How does the public currently perceive our industry? What is the reality? What steps can be taken to enhance its social license? What changes in policy and practices need to be made?</i>	Operating & Sustaining a Horse Business <i>What are the biggest challenges of operating a horse business in MD (insurance, land, costs, staff, etc.)? What resources do stables need? How do we address staffing and labor shortages?</i>	Quality of Horse Competition Facilities <i>What features attract and keep high-level and local events? What makes a quality competition venue? How can facilities ensure a positive experience for all? How do we enhance the prestige of our facilities and events?</i>
10:45 am - 11:45 am	Incentives for MD Horses: Competitions, Breeding, Keeping Horses in MD <i>What incentives would encourage more Maryland breders? What incentives could attract more competitions & events? What would make MD more attractive to horse businesses, owners and breeders?</i>	Workforce Development & Careers <i>What skills and qualifications are most in demand? How can educational institutions and industry stakeholders collaborate to prepare individuals for careers? How do we improve access to education? How do we retain our young professionals?</i>	Trail Riding & Public Land Use <i>How can we convey the importance of maintaining access to public horse facilities? What current issues challenge keeping public facilities available? How can horse riders collaborate with other user groups to promote shared stewardship and maintenance of public facilities?</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch, Speakers, Networking and Visit with Sponsors - Paterakis Dining Hall		
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	Recruitment, Retention, Expansion <i>What does the current horse industry look like? What is our future given MD's demographics? What are barriers to entry? How can we ensure equitable participation and leadership roles for underrepresented groups? How can we be more welcoming?</i>	Unwanted Horses and Rescue Resources, Cost of Horse Ownership <i>What does our current unwanted horse population look like? How does cost of ownership contribute to rescues? What resources are needed to reduce unwanted horses? How does education come into play?</i>	Land Availability & Land Preservation: Public, Private and Environmental Concerns <i>How can we maintain horse farms in the face of urbanization? What would best support environmental concerns? What efforts are necessary to influence policies that affect land use and preservation for the horse industry?</i>
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Spectators & the Fan Experience: Promotion, Marketing, & Tourism <i>How is the public hearing about events? How should we be promoting them? Who is attending equine events? How can we enhance the fan experience? How can we reach local communities and tourism agencies?</i>	Horse Health and Climate <i>Outbreaks of infectious disease, access to horse health care professionals, horsemanship, environment concerns, and extreme weather. How can we improve bio-security? What practical steps can create a healthier environment for horses?</i>	Legislation and the Horse Industry <i>How can horse owners effectively advocate for favorable legislation? How does our industry stay aware of upcoming legislation? How can we foster better relationships with our representatives? How do we build our grassroots advocacy efforts?</i>
3:30 pm	Summary remarks and Touch of Class Award presentation to MyRacehorse - Paterakis Dining Hall		
4 pm - 6 pm	Reception - McDonogh Equestrian Center sponsored by B & D Builders Music by bluegrass band T-58s, tours of school and stables Door Prizes for those in attendance - Must be present to win!		