

SAVE THE HORSE FARMS

During the 2009 Maryland Horse Forum, over 300 members of the from the Maryland horse industry met to outline issues facing the industry and strategize how to resolve those issues. The Maryland Horse Council, representing 30,000 horse people, developed an Action Plan in response, and one of the key issues became the Save the Horse Farms Campaign. There are currently over ten county committees actively involved in this effort; Prince Georges County is one of them.

Why Do Definitions Matter?

Agricultural businesses have different permit requirements compared to commercial businesses. When horse farms are incorrectly labeled commercial, their ability to function...to stay in business...can be threatened. For example, some Maryland farms have been denied permits to build indoor arenas because the facilities did not follow all the required guidelines for commercial businesses, although they met all the agricultural requirements. Proper definitions can help determine local planning and zoning equine issues.

For additional information, please contact:

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY SAVE THE HORSE FARMS COMMITTEE

Harry Ketts

hckiii@yahoo.com

(301-509-1150)

Erica Lancaster

EricaLancaster@championrealty.com

(443-538-6796)

Valerie Ormond

valerieormond@aol.com

(443-994-5651)

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY SAVE THE HORSE FARMS CAMPAIGN

The Maryland
Horse Council



OUR MISSION

Why Save the Horse Farms?



Prince Georges County's master plans recognize "open space" and "equine activities" as important to our county's cultural and historic heritage. In 2009, the Maryland State Assembly passed legislation (HB 955) considering equine as agriculture, yet many citizens and counties are unaware of this change. Horse farms struggle with restrictions making it difficult to remain in business. Our mission is to keep our horse farms.

OUR GOALS

Ensure Farms Large and Small Stay Viable as Urban Outgrowth Continues

The goals of the Prince Georges County Save the Horse Farms campaign follow:

- Ensure the definitions used by local planning and zoning authorities are compatible with the realities of horse farming, horse keeping, and horse businesses.
- Educate citizens and farmers of their rights with horses as agriculture in Maryland.
- Partner with the County Farm Bureau, Agricultural Preservation Working Group, and other entities with similar interests to maintain open spaces and a rural tier.
- Provide facts and statistics to inform county residents and legislators of the need to save remaining horse farms for now and for the future.

OUR ACTIONS

New Definitions, Partnerships, and Contributions to the Statewide Report



Following our research and meetings with local and county officials, we plan to deliver a proposed bill of new definitions to the County Council this fall. We will work with the County's Equine Industry Task Force on complementary initiatives. The Maryland Horse Council will also receive a full report for use in the statewide campaign.

Today, land sales show that Prince Georges County has only 25% of its large lots available as compared to just 10 years ago.

Open land means choices are still available...let our children inherit options.