

## Group One

### Legal Issues, Legislation, Regulations

- Workperson Camp
  - Enough horse farms and to be in pool
    - Understandable money issues
    - “our industry not large enough”
- Current use taxation – land vs buildings
- Umbrella original non profit to help with liability costs – allow to promote tourism, get butts on horses
- Insurance of individual events – restricts number of events

### Insurance

- Can legislation protect horse activities further?
- Attractive nuisance issue
- State land use plans – opp to inc
- Growing use of “horse power” – logging etc.
  - Unique uses of horses
- One definition of Equine for agricultural purposes
- Statutes relating to animal welfare – EDUCATION
  - Livestock/pet?
  - If companion animal – removes government agricultural support
  - Relates to current use
    - Must consider more than breeding
  - How do we separate hobby from business?
- Look to places where horses are part of culture in different ways
- **consistency of “label”** (livestock vs pets)
  - different tax rate
    - horses “recreation” not farming
    - no “product” unless breeding
  - Inconsistency
    - Land/manure management guidelines
- Work camp – farm group (liability issues)
  - Umbrella non-profit ie, bicyclists plus other insurance products
- Can horses be agricultural\*
  - Not specifically either livestock or pet
- Acreage as a qualifier – emphasize interdependence with other agricultural businesses

### **Present – 2 years Goals**

#### Statistics

- How many in state?

- Tax generated by workers, business etc.
- What uses

(3-5 years projection analysis)

How are other agricultural industries marketing? Is it working?

Change designation to agriculture instead of commercial for loans etc. – start up fees

Research:

- What laws already work in industry
- Favor?

LT – change!

\*Work with dairy industry - existing support system

- VT farm bureau
- Outreach to dairy
- Define/research existing legislation
- State marketing of equine

\*over-regulation works against sm. Owners

High impact change and low effort

- Make it easier for outside horses to come to Vermont to compete
- “Labeling” of industry plus equines – what are they?

High impact change and high effort

- statistic gathering
- designation (stand alone, not L or P) as agriculture

Low impact change and high effort

- close loopholes that allow same horse “businesses” to function as non-business
  - not pulling their weight