EQUINE INDUSTRY UPDATE

VERMONT HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

MAY 2, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Christina Rohan – [Christina.Rohan@uvm.edu](mailto:Christina.Rohan@uvm.edu) (802) 279-7829
3. Mindy Hinsdale – [mhinsdale5@gmail.com](mailto:mhinsdale5@gmail.com) (802) 922-3529
4. Positive Impacts and Strengths of the Horse Industry in Vermont
   1. Brief History of Horses in Vermont – UVM Morgan Horse Farm
   2. Highlights of the 2018 VT Economic Impact Study done by VHC in partnership with UVM College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and UVM Center for Rural Studies
   3. Highlights of the American Equine Economic Impact Study: Strength of the Horse Industry in the US
   4. Dorset Equine Rescue
5. Challenges Facing Horse Farmers in Vermont
   1. Mindy’s Story – Steeple Ridge Farm
   2. Equality of Taxation/Current Use
   3. Equines in the Definition of VT Agriculture
   4. Workers Compensation
   5. Perception of Horse Ownership
   6. Loss of our VT Equine Professional Specialist – no longer have UVM Extension for Horses
6. Role of the Vermont Horse Council (VHC)
7. Agritourism
   1. The University of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm
   2. Vermont Summer Festival, East Dorset
   3. Green Mountain Horse Association, South Woodstock
   4. Pond Hill Ranch, Castleton
   5. The Bunk House, Washington
8. Our Wish List
   1. An updated definition of Agriculture - more inclusive of Equines
   2. Fair and Equitable Taxation
   3. Legislation to help with Workers Compensation
   4. A stronger voice in VT Agriculture issues
   5. A well-funded, more comprehensive, VT Equine Economic Impact Study
   6. An Equine Professional Specialist – either returning to UVM Extension or employed through the VT Department of Agriculture