



Maryland Horse Council

Farm Stewardship Committee

Established November 15, 2011

Committee Objectives

Assist horse farm owners to reach their land stewardship goals through providing user-friendly information, community support, access to information on financing and other incentives.

Gain positive attention for Maryland's horse farms as stewards of about one-quarter of all agricultural land in the state, about 587,000, much of which is in grasslands and forests, contributing to reducing run-off for clean streams and rivers and providing wildlife habitat.

Bring the voice of the horse community into discussions of laws, regulations and incentive programs for agriculture and for the environment.

Action Plan

Increase the number of horse farms that are certified under the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program of the Soil Conservation Districts.

Hold quarterly meetings on farm stewardship issues including energy conservation and alternative energy sources, manure management, healthy pastures, "green" stable construction and promoting habitat for native flora and fauna.

Maintain a blog with meeting reports and news on incentive programs and other issues on horse farm stewardship.

Link horse farm owners and managers to public and private resources available to upgrade their farm stewardship.

Survey the horse community on manure management and promote low cost, high-quality options for horse farm owners and managers.

Provide a platform for horse farms with quality farm stewardship practices to share their experiences and best practices.

Coordinate with the legislative committee to track legislation and regulations with an impact on horse farm stewardship and assist in the presentation of ideas, concerns and options from the horse community.

Chair: Jane Thery

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