

Notes from the Secretary

Competitions at Stone Gate Farm will be here before you know it. I'd like to share some info that will make processing your entries and check in go smoother for all concerned. Please be patient and read ALL the following information.

Volunteers for the event are always needed and deeply appreciated. Please use the online form to volunteer. Also, there are many tasks that need completed well in advance of the competition. Please adopt a fence, volunteer to mow, weed wack, weed, or in general help to prepare the farm for any of the various competitions. We cannot do this without your help! The future of the sport depends on you.

There is a new rule for 2016 from the USEF. Please read below and be prepared to provide the required proof of vaccination with your entry. Horses may not come on grounds without this proof of vaccination. **This includes all entries at our recognized Horse Trials from Starter through Preliminary.**

USEF Equine Vaccination Rule

From the USEF Communications Department

Lexington, Ky. - In January, the USEF Board of Directors approved an addition to the rule book, which outlines equine vaccination requirements at licensed competitions. Beginning December 1, 2015, all horses entering the grounds of a Federation-licensed competition must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables.

When you are getting the above vaccination, it is a great time to make sure your horses Coggins is current. Please make sure you provide a legible copy of a current Coggins with your entry. If you uploaded a Coggins via X-entry in the past, please make sure you upload the new current Coggins to Xentry. We recommend that you take a photograph of your Coggins reports when received so you will always have it with you. That way, if you forget it, you can easily email it to show secretaries. Another way, is to request your results electronically from your vet/lab and store this electronic (and hopefully legible) copy on your phone.

Please read the entire omnibus listing. It will make your entry process go smoother. Please pay careful attention to the early bird discount dates and closing dates and pay accordingly. If you are dropping

your entry into a remote post office drop off point, please note it may not get postmarked until the following day. That could make the difference in the amount due on your entry.

All competitors will be required to have a current Stone Gate Farm Release Form on file. If you have filled one out prior to the first Horse Trial and I don't have it in hand, I may need to ask you to fill out another one. Please be patient. Please make sure the name of the person on the waive is legible. I do not always have the originals from lessons and schooling shows. It is much easier to fill another one out and send it with your entry. This way, we won't have a problem with a competitor under 18 arriving at a competition without their parent or legal guardian with them to sign for them. A trainer **MAY NOT** sign in place of a parent or legal guardian on any release form or waiver.

Speaking of those pesky signatures – please make sure you sign ALL the mandatory signature blanks on your entry forms - Rider, Owner and Trainer and if you are under 18, your parent or legal guardian must sign your entry. If you are under 18, you need a parent or legal guardian listed as the horse owner and trainer. Also, please provide an adult emergency contact name and phone number.

The Winona Horse Trial opens on 3/29/16. Please enter early if you require on grounds stabling. If you have a large group that wants stabled together – please mail your entries together using only one name in the “stable with” requests. If you have a group that is stabling together and they all enter on time and one is added late, I cannot guarantee I can get the late person on grounds even though they may be trailering with someone who is on grounds. It is not fair to the other competitors who entered earlier. Call me and I will try my best to accommodate.

You must provide a \$25 stall deposit check. I cannot accept cash for stall deposits. Please fill out and send a USEA Stabling form. If you pay for the stall cleaning service, you do not need to send a stall cleaning deposit check. We provide chopped straw bedding. If you want to purchase shavings, please include it with your entry. If you do not want the straw, please indicate on your Stabling Form.

TIP cards must be submitted to be eligible for the TIP awards. Please get a copy and provide it well in advance of the competition. I try to note TIP eligible in the status. If you have sent in your TIP card and I don't show you as TIP eligible in the comments on your entry, please let me know asap.

We will be using permanent bridle numbers and paper pinnies for the recognized events. Please make sure you have purchased a permanent bridle number and have a paper pinny holder.

If you are riding Preliminary – please provide a copy of your USEF membership card with your entry.

For Mini Trials

Please enter early. In recent years, the entries have trended towards arriving the last few days before closing. 1 week out we may only have 30 or 40 entries and over the next 5 or 6 days will receive well over 100 entries. Since I work a full time day job, this makes it very difficult to process this volume received in the required amount of time. Know your opening dates and enter early.

You must be on the list of members of the Mini Trial Association or you must pay the non-member fee. Join early to make sure you are on the current list well before the competitions. Much easier to join ahead of time. If you choose not to join, you will be charged a non-member fee at each Mini trial. You only need to pay the non-member fee once per competition, even though you may have multiple rides. Negative Coggins reports will be required for all Mini Trial competitors at Stone Gate Farm. I do not retain copies of Coggins through the competition season. It is too time consuming to keep them filed and cross referenced by multiple names (barn name, mini trial name, USEA name, rider name etc.) It is much more efficient to just send a new copy for each competition. It makes entry processing much easier for everyone.

We have recently added four additional stalls near the day parking area and are in the process of expanding the regular stabling parking area. Hopefully these improvements will be ready for the Winona HT.

Parking - please be respectful of others in the following areas. In the regular stabling area, please unload your horse and park – then unload the rest of your equipment. Do not block the through traffic lanes around the barns. They need to be kept open at all times. Please do not take excessive room or time to park your trailer. In the day parking area – the rear of your trailer must face the center aisle. If trailers are not parked this way, it takes up a lot more room making the traffic lane in the middle too narrow and congested. Again, please take as little room as possible to allow adequate parking for everyone. If you are not driving a tow vehicle, please park in the parking area behind the main house. You may pull into the barn area to unload, but please do not leave your vehicle in the main stabling area. This area is reserved for trailers and their tow vehicles only.

Please provide a legible email address that you check on a regular basis on your entry forms. That is my first line of contact. I will email you if there is a problem with your entry and I need additional information. Also, please check the farm website and Start Box to confirm your entry has been processed and is correct. Entries with missing information will not be processed until information is received. This can affect your stabling status. Therefore, please try to make sure you have all information completed and submitted correctly.

We will be using our motor home again this year for the secretary office. We will probably have our great danes with us in the motor home. Therefore, please do not bring your dog with you to pick up your packet or come prepared to leave it outside. Thank you!

As always, I am available in the evenings during the week between 7 – 10 p.m. and all day on the weekends leading up to the competitions. Please do not call me during daytime working hours. I work a full time day job and cannot take personal calls during work hours. I will be happy to help you with any questions you may have. Please show courtesy and patience to show management and we will do our best to help you have a good competition experience. Cell 724-544-7394 and email secretary@stonegatefarm.org.