



Dear MHHA and Scarborough Downs Horsemen:

This letter is to make you aware of the situation we are facing with our barn area here at Scarborough Downs. You may or may not have heard that we had a visit from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding a complaint that manure was somehow finding its way into the marsh. It was researched and traced back to our barn area. Unfortunately, folks stabled in our barn area are not depositing their horses' manure in the designated areas. As a result, the manure apparently ends up in streams and ultimately the marsh.

Manure placement is not our only problem. The barn area suffers consistent mistreatment by folks stabled there, including damage to water hydrants, consumption of alcohol and driving in and out of the barn area during restricted times.

We had meetings with the Department of Agriculture regarding the manure findings, and we have been cited for the manure handling problem. The only way we move forward with a barn area is to fashion and implement a Nutrient Management Plan. I was given some phone numbers of people who fashion a NMP. The best price quoted to craft a plan was approximately \$5,000. Additional funds for implementation would be required.

The Downs cannot finance this project without help from the industry, especially since most folks in the barn area are not paying their stall rent. Accordingly, we will have to close the barn area unless the MHHA, the folks stabled in the barn area or others propose a method to finance a solution to the manure handling problem that satisfies the Downs and the regulatory authorities. Accordingly, as of November 1<sup>st</sup> horsemen and woman stabled in the Downs' barn area will have to vacate the premises unless they have proposed and helped to implement a solution acceptable to the Downs and the State of Maine -- and the plan will have to work.

All suggestions are welcome. Although we regret the circumstance, the problem arises from the conduct of folks in the barn area. They will have to be central to any solution.

Regards,

  
Denise Terry

*Get to the track!*