January 2021
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Congress Renews “Paycheck Protection Program,” Caters to Rural Businesses

Pursuant to pandemic relief measures folded into the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021” enacted on December 27, on January 13, the Small Business Administration (SBA) announced it would re-open the online portal for PPP to first-time and “second draw” applications in two phases. Beginning Friday, January 15, SBA will focus its efforts on small lenders which hold $1 billion or less in assets. On Tuesday, January 19, PPP will fully open to all participating lenders regardless of size. Fortunately for large segments of the horse
industry, SBA is implementing the two-tiered roll out to focus on smaller banks such as credit unions, farm credit institutions, and minority depository institutions. Highlights of the new program include the following:

- Borrowers may apply for first-time and second draw loans through March 31
- While focusing on second draw borrowers, the program will allocate $35 billion for first-time borrowers; second draw borrowers must demonstrate a 25 percent drop in revenue spanning at least “one 2019 quarter to the same quarter in 2020.” Under the original CARES Act, borrowers only had to attest to economic hardship.
- SBA will cap loans at $2 million, down from $10 million under the CARES Act.
- SBA restricts second draw applications to businesses that employ no more than 300 personnel. The agency imposes a 500-employee cap for certain first-time borrowers.

SBA defines “first draw” borrowers as those businesses that did not receive a PPP loan before August 8, 2020. From late March through early August, SBA awarded loans to approximately 5.2 million businesses. On January 12, the agency announced that it had forgiven 1.1 million PPP loans totaling more than $100 billion. While the CARES Act and subsequent legislation authorized over $650 billion for PPP, the federal government has repurposed more than $130 billion of un-used funding, as demand for loans and grants plateaued during the summer.

First time borrowers may review the five-page application at the following link: Paycheck Protection Program: Borrower Application Form Revised January 8, 2021 (sba.gov). Second draw borrowers can review the six-page application here: Paycheck Protection Program: Second Draw Borrower Application Form (sba.gov). Other resources are available at www.sba.gov/ppp and www.treasury.gov/ cares.

For more information, contact Bryan Brendle at bbrendle@horsecouncil.org.

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**AHC offers Internship opportunities to member organizations**

With COVID driving virtual learning, AHC has been overwhelmed with applicants for our internship opportunities. Historically, AHC has hosted 1 or 2 interns each quarter. However, with so many requests AHC has been able to host 4-6 interns each quarter all working remotely (and doing fabulous work we might add!)... and still we couldn't accommodate all the worthy students!

If your association, organization or business has interest or opportunities for interns, please contact us so we can send those that we can't accommodate your way. Applicants are from all disciplines including political science, animal science, equine mgmt., journalism and communications, computer science, statistics, social media, etc. We're happy to serve as conduit to help match students and you!

To learn more, contact AHC President Julie Broadway at jbroadway@horsecouncil.org

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**ASAE Asks Congress for Guidance on Future In-Person Meetings**

On Jan. 5, ASAE sent a letter to Congress asking for guidance regarding the future of in-person constituent meetings in the House and Senate.
Addressed to the leadership of the House and Senate Rules and Administration Committees, the letter states, “We understand and wholeheartedly agree that the safety and security of Members of Congress and their staffs are paramount, and that guidance from the Capitol physician will help inform an eventual return… As we enter a new year, however, trade associations and professional societies are planning legislative conferences that rely heavily on constituent participation. Therefore, Congressional guidance as it relates the future of in-person meetings in Congress is greatly needed to support organizations’ planning and promote Americans’ expression of their First Amendment rights.”

Congressional meetings moved to virtual in March after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the many offices to work from home. In-person constituent meetings are not anticipated until the vaccine is comprehensively rolled out. Many associations are planning virtual legislative conferences, but questions remain as to if in-person meetings will be permitted this summer and fall.

AHC seeks input for 2021 conference planning

Please complete our survey to help us make plans for 2021 annual conference. Responses are due by January 25, 2021. Thanks in advance for your input!

AHC Meeting Planning Survey

EWDC Data Drive

Complete the current EWDC survey to be entered to win a $150 VISA gift card sponsored by AHC Advantage Plan and our partner, Equine Discounts

What great things could your equine welfare organization do with $150?

The United Horse Coalition (UHC) and Equine Welfare Data Collective (EWDC) are excited to announce the January 2021 Data Drive. In tandem with the EWDC biannual survey update, any EWDC eligible organization that completes the current EWDC survey by January 23, 2021 will be entered in a raffle to win a $150 VISA gift card sponsored by AHC Advantage Plan and our partner, Equine Discounts! The current EWDC survey is collecting data for July 2020-December 2020. Organizations that have already met the requirements will be automatically entered.
Complete the EWDC survey, become a UHC member, and learn more at: unitedhorsecoalition.org

Morris Animal Foundation seeks Grant Administrator

Morris Animal Foundation is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of animals through scientific innovation, education and inspiration. Our investment in research has yielded life-saving vaccines, new treatments for critical diseases, superior screening tests, and advanced diagnostic tools.

The Grants Administrator is an integral member of the Morris Animal Foundation Scientific Grants Program (SGP) team. The Grants Administrator manages the complete grant application, award and management process for the large animal (equine and llama/alpaca) grant portfolio, from receiving proposals through post-award grant closeout. The Grants Administrator also will provide administrative and logistical support to the SGP team.

Most of the duties for this position can be fulfilled remotely. To learn more go to https://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-12/MAF_JobDescription_GrantsAdministrator_122220_FINAL_lw_lrw.pdf
Etalon Diagnostics researchers have successfully determined a strong genetic component to Kissing Spines thanks to the success of our recent Kissing Spines study. Since so many sport horses include Thoroughbred ancestry, we feel an expanded study with a focus on Thoroughbreds is necessary. To do this well, we need to include older horses (9 years and up) with radiographs and diagnostics both horses with and without Kissing Spines (if you do a prepurchase with films and your horse is negative, please send it in)!

Etalon has teamed up with the Retired Racehorse Project and New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program to spread the word - and we need your help! Do you know a Thoroughbred diagnosed with Kissing Spines? To learn more go to https://www.etalondx.com/.../we-need-thoroughbreds...

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**Environmental Regulations and Large-Scale Equine Facilities**

Over the last several years the American Horse Council has been monitoring situations involving long-term/permanent equine holding facilities and the pressures placed on them due to environmental regulations in their state. California in particular has placed undue pressure on equine facilities bordering waterways, to the degree that several facilities may close down. Water Management and Environmental Protection laws in these cases are the product of state regulatory action. The singular Federal language of note used in the enforcement of these regulations concerns the definition of a concentrated animal feeding operation, or CAFO. CAFO's are described as small, medium or large, with large facilities being designated as permanently housing 500 animals or more for a period of 45 days or longer. As state regulations change, large CAFOs are expected to meet costly waste management, water runoff, and large-scale infrastructure requirements that are uncommon and often unnecessary to serve the unique needs of equine operations. Unfortunately, the designation of large CAFOs is unlikely to be changed at the federal level. As such, the horse industry needs to take active action to prevent burdensome regulatory action, or pursue equine specific exemptions in states with existing
environmental regulations. The American Horse Council (AHC) will continue to monitor the situation and facilitate what actions can be taken in Washington DC.

In this effort, the American Horse Council asks equine affiliated entities nationwide to take note and keep AHC informed of increasing pressure at the local and state level regarding environmental groups and new or increased enforcement of environmental regulations affecting equine facilities, event space, or multi-user public areas. Anecdotally, the equine industry has a long history of preserving and promoting greenspace preservation and conservation sound best management practices.

The American Horse Council would also request support identifying scientific studies that establish equine operations environmental footprint. We hope that by establishing the low to neutral environmental threat that horse operations pose, we may petition the Environmental Protection Agency to issue exemptions from regulations intended to govern traditional food animal livestock operations.

Please contact Julie Broadway at jbroady@horsecouncil.org or Cliff Williamson with any information at cwilliamson@horsecouncil.org.
DON'T be left out of the AHC's

2021 HORSE INDUSTRY DIRECTORY!

SEND IN YOUR HORSE INDUSTRY DIRECTORY LISTINGS TODAY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2021 EDITION.

Business directories are the ultimate unsung heroes – and the American Horse Council is proud to produce the horse industry’s leading source for all things equine!

NEW SUBMISSIONS AND/OR UPDATES TO 2020 LISTINGS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 31, 2021!

Great advertising opportunities are also available! If you would like to advertise in the HID, or would like to add your listing, please contact Julie Broadway at:

jbroadway@horsecouncil.org

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