

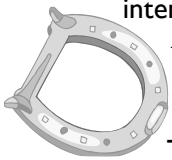


Program Description

The Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's "Horse Farm of Distinction" program was established to recognize and present to the public those Massachusetts horse farmers who set high standards and achieve a level of excellence in overall horse health, farm management, and compliance with public safety.

Farm Bureau intends that the "Horse Farm of Distinction" program be known as a prestigious award and that those who achieve it are granted recognition by their community and their state. It is our intent that the promotion enhances the positive image and visibility of the Massachusetts horse industry.

Qualified equine professionals evaluate horse farms participating in the program and it is our intention that participants will find these evaluations beneficial to their operation.



The program has been developed, and is overseen by the Equine Advisory Committee of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.



Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation®
Phone: 508-881-4766
Fax: 508-881-4768
Website: mfbf.net

Horse Farm of Distinction 2011



Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation®

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation®
2011 Horse Farm of Distinction
— APPLICATION —

I hereby apply for the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation's "Horse Farm of Distinction" program, to have my horse farm evaluated in accordance with the rules of the program contained herein. I understand that the judges will contact me to schedule their visits with short notice sometime between July and August. The award is granted for the year beginning January 1, 2011.

My application fee is enclosed, \$25 if I am a new Applicant; \$15 if I have been a previous recipient.

Farm Name: _____

Name: _____

Farm Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

(Required in order to apply)

Signature of Owner/Operator

Deadline for applications is April 30, 2010
 Make checks payable to: MFBF, and mail to:
 466 Chestnut Street, Ashland, MA 01721

 \$25 New Applicant

 \$15 Renewing Applicant

Rules and Scoring

Program Overview:

Awards are based on a number of criteria within the categories of horse health, farm management, and public standards compliance. The suitability of the farm for the breed or type of activity conducted will be considered when scoring each farm. Farms are judged annually and the award may be promoted by the recipient or used in farm advertising for the duration of the award year, provided farmers who apply for the award agree to answer questions and grant access sufficient to allow judges to score the farm. Applicants must understand that scheduling for judges' visits must be a shared responsibility between all parties. Recipients will receive a distinctive sign that should be mounted for public display throughout the year of the program. The words "Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation" appear in the advertising or promotion.

Program Rules:

1. Applicants must be Regular (not Associate) members in good standing with the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation at the time of judging.
2. Awards will be presented at a ceremony to take place at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, and are valid for the succeeding calendar year.
3. Applicants must have at least five years of involvement in the Massachusetts horse industry.
4. Horse Farm of Distinction signs shall remain the property of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation and may be reclaimed at any time that Farm Bureau determines that the farm fails to maintain the standards of the program.
5. There shall be a non-refundable annual application fee of \$25 for first-time applicants, and \$15 for renewing applicants. Fees cover the cost of administering the program. No farm will be judged unless fees are paid.
6. The sign shall not be displayed at or moved to other premises.
7. Judges' evaluation sheets will remain the property of Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.
8. The Judge's decision is final.

Judging Criteria:



Each Farm will be judged upon the following criteria with the perfect score being 100%. Any farm scoring at 85% or higher will be considered a "Horse Farm of Distinction" and recipient of the award. Two judges evaluate new applicants.

Horse Health Management (possible 40 points)

- General Appearance of Horses
- Evidence of Equine Health Program

Farm Management (possible 50 points)

- Overall Condition of Farm and Facilities
- Control of Pests and Vermin
- Condition of Stalls
- Condition of Turnouts, Pastures, Riding Surfaces and Fencing

Public Standards and Compliance (possible 10 points)

- Manure Management Program
- Fire Protection/Prevention
- Equine and Human First Aid
- Emergency Removal/Evacuation Procedure
- Condition of Tack and Equipment

- Licensing (as applicable)