



State of Utah

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Department of Agriculture and Food

LUANN ADAMS
Commissioner

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May 29, 2015

Subject: Horse Tripping Reporting Requirements

To Whom It May Concern:

This year the Utah Legislature passed H.B. 261 Substitute "Horse Tripping Amendments"; creating reporting requirements for venues holding horse roping or tripping events. This letter contains important information regarding your facilities responsibility on what to report, when to report it, and the consequences for failing to report these events. Please read it carefully and let the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) know if you have any questions.

Horse Tripping

Horse tripping means the lassoing or roping of the legs of an equine, or otherwise tripping or causing an equine to fall by any means, for the purpose of entertainment, sport, or contest. Horse tripping does not include accepted animal husbandry practices, customary farming practices, or commonly accepted practices occurring in conjunction with a sanctioned rodeo, animal race, or pulling contest.

Reporting Requirements:

Any event in which a horse is roped or tripped as part of the event or contest, must be reported to UDAF at least **30 Days in advance** of the event.

No later than **30 Days after** the event where a horse was roped or tripped for an event or contest the following items must be reported to UDAF:

- 1) The number of horse roping or tripping events or contests held.
- 2) The type of roping or tripping events.
- 3) The number of horses used.
- 4) How many horses were used in a horse tripping event and how many times each horse was tripped.

- 5) If a veterinarian was used during roping or tripping event to treat an injured horse. You must include the contact information of the veterinarian, the results of the examination, and all expenses incurred from the veterinarian.

Failure to Comply

The law includes a fine of \$500.00 per violation for any arena owner that fails to report the required information.

Reporting Forms

The online reporting forms can be accessed through UDAF's website by going to www.ag.utah.gov and selecting the "Animals" tab. The first link on the "Animals" tab will take you to the online form. Enclosed is also a hard copy of the form. If you would like additional hard copies, please contact Delia Tracey at 801-538-7168.

Additional Information

UDAF and the State Legislature take animal welfare and health very seriously, and want to better understand the impacts these events are having on horses. Information being gathered will allow UDAF and the State Agriculture Advisory board to make additional recommendations to the State Legislature regarding horse tripping regulations.

It should be noted that the over-all public perception of these events is generally negative. UDAF would discourage any arena owner from holding a horse tripping event. It is through education and awareness we hope horse tripping will no longer be practiced for sport here in Utah. For your better understanding, enclosed is a pamphlet with additional information on horse tripping. For additional pamphlets please contact UDAF.

Thank you for your time. Please let UDAF know if you have any questions regarding these new reporting requirements for horse roping and tripping events.

Sincerely,



LuAnn Adams
Commissioner