



United States Sport Horse Breeders Association

To all our USSHBA members:

The ongoing pandemic and its effects on the economy are issues of great concern to all, including those of us in the equestrian sector. Significant disruptions have been felt across the disciplines and at every level of sport. While inboxes overflow with 'CoVid19 outlines' from every imaginable source, USSHBA's concerns are centered around the impact of the current situation on breeders. In the midst of it all, the foals of 2020 are making their entrance, no matter the state of the world! They are an awesome crop so far, a welcome sign of hope for better times ahead.

In most states, veterinarians and equine caregivers are seen as "essential." USSHBA has reached out to AAEP for specific guidance about which veterinary services are included under this heading as they relate to equine reproduction; we will forward any information we receive. Riding and training has been curtailed in many areas, so for some operations certain aspects of young horse development are on hold for the time being. Breeders are closely monitoring whether domestic and international shipments of semen and transport of horses are being affected. Along with veterinary concerns, these factors and the condition of the general economy will certainly impact decisions being made about the current breeding season and expectations for 2021.

The health of our community is the most immediate concern. During its annual meeting in January, USEF had announced the imminent availability to its membership of a range of insurance products, to include group health, vision/dental, and accident policies. Those offerings are now available with an excellent selection of options for individuals and businesses. Many breeders are already USEF members, but for those who aren't, note that the USEF fan-level access that USSHBA members enjoy as a member benefit does not allow for eligibility for these programs. Upgrading to paid membership will be necessary. That said, USEF is currently offering a steeply discounted fan membership fee of only \$20 in response to the crisis; upgrading is a straightforward process using the promo code RELIEF. In addition, USEF has compiled a list of resources with links to public health advisories and business relief programs. See www.usef.org for further information and links.

As we continue to seek out additional resources that may be available and applicable to breeders, USSHBA also offers a platform for US breeders to express their concerns, by email to info@usshba.org, in the USSHBA Members Facebook Group, or by messaging the public Facebook page.

We wish all of you the best!

Board of Directors,

United States Sport Horse Breeders Association