



# CLARKE COUNTY EQUINE ALLIANCE

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Clarke County Equine Alliance was established in 2004 under the auspices of the county's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC), to unify and promote all equine-related business in the county, to be done by creating a central "clearing house" where members of the county's horse industry can access complete, detailed and precise information for all of their equine-related needs. We are dedicated to increasing the connectivity of all county equine and equine-related activities, spanning all types of horses and pony breeds, and equine events, businesses and properties. We serve professionals and amateurs alike.

We coordinate closely with the county's Farm Bureau, whose Equine Division works diligently to enhance the equine industry in both our county and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and who lobby effectively to protect the interests of the increasing numbers of horses and ponies which represent an ever increasing percentage of the Commonwealth's revenues. With the current economic down-turn, working together as an alliance to protect our equine interests becomes even more important.

Because of the increasing development in surrounding counties, and thanks to the firm control of Clarke County's conservation protections which restrict over-development, the county has seen an increasing influx of horses into the county, attracted to its extensive green spaces and agriculture-friendly environment. WE ARE GROWING: With some 4,400+ equine in 2001, in 2006 we surpassed 6,000 and continue to see more and more horses arrive from surrounding counties where over-development has eaten up farmland. Their total value in 2006 was \$73,367,000. In Virginia, the total amount of money spent on equine-related expenses (purchase, upkeep, activities, labor and capital improvements) was \$782,948,000 – an increase of 55% in just five years!!

Our members are kept informed on a regular basis of the county's equine events and other important news that may concern them. Our annual Directory gives important information on where to obtain the equine services in the county which our increasing equine population requires. Our website HYPER-LINK "<http://www.clarkecountyequinealliance.com>" [www.clarkecountyequinealliance.com](http://www.clarkecountyequinealliance.com) has the county's monthly show events Calendar which allows riders the possibility of programming their show year well in advance.

*If you are a horse lover, please join us!*

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