

Cornell University Cooperative Ext. of Saratoga County

Dear Horse Owners,

Please see the attached letter from Dr. David Smith from the Division of Animal Industry (DAI) about the dangers of Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV). Unfortunately NYS has had both human and equine fatalities due to EEE in the past 3 consecutive years. DAI is working cooperatively with the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation (NYSDOH and NYSDEC) to spread the word about the dangers of these mosquito borne diseases (called arboviruses) to humans and horses.

From the animal health side, there are effective vaccines for horses that can be given NOW in order to protect horses from EEE and WNV. People who work with horses need to be taking the proper precautions too. Even though these diseases cannot pass between humans and horses, humans are often working around the horses during those high mosquito activity hours – dawn and dusk. Helpful, preventative tips for both humans and horses are addressed in the letter.

The division's equine webpage is www.agriculture.ny.gov/AI/equine/equine.html has information about those diseases that you can also link to if you'd like.

Thank you for taking the time to read the letter. If you have any questions or concerns about EEE, WNV or horse vaccinations, please contact the Division of Animal Industry at 518-457-3502.

Let's all be safe while we take the time to enjoy our horses and riding this year!

Sincerely,

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