

2021-03-17

To our Saskatchewan Horse Federation membership:

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation would like to let our membership know that throughout the difficulties of the past year, we have continued to provide whatever support we can to equine sport, industry, and agricultural sectors.

COVID-19 has not been kind to any of these sectors, and it contributed to Prairieland Park's recent announcement to permanently cancel thoroughbred racing in our province.

Last year, the temporary cancellation of thoroughbred racing led to our Saskatchewan horses, trainers and jockeys having to race and train in either Alberta or Manitoba. Numerous breed horse shows, Equestrian Canada approved events and other unsanctioned equine events were also cancelled across Canada, leaving our athletes no opportunity to compete within Canada. These cancellations affected not only equine sport, but the agricultural side of our industry as well. They directly impacted our provincial athletes, breeders, trainers, officials, coaches, farriers, veterinary and therapeutic support teams, feed dealers, tack stores to name just a few. The millions of dollars that are normally put back into the Saskatchewan economy through vehicle, trailer and machinery sales, hotels, fuel, repairs, and farm maintenance annually were not.

This year, we were all shocked to read the announcement in the news last Friday, March 12, that declared the permanent cancellation of Thoroughbred Racing in Saskatchewan.

Representatives from the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society and the Horseman's Benevolent and Protective Association attended the Saskatchewan Horse Federation – Annual General Meeting on March 13, 2021 and provided our membership with an update on the previous day's news article.

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation acknowledges the negative impact on equestrian sport, the equine industry, and the entire Saskatchewan horse community, that is a consequence of this announcement. We met with the above representatives again this past week as well as Sask Sport and will continue to work together to provide support to the sport of horse racing.

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation is very appreciative of your continued support for our equine community.

Lisa Graham  
SHF President