Empire State Arabian Horse Association

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Recipient

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Our organization has proudly hosted our Spring horse show for over 40 years at the New York State Fairgrounds. We are also actively involved with the Region 16 Championship show often held at the NYS Fairgrounds in July. Our Spring show is a highlight even for our members and a primary source of income for our non-profit club.

In the midst of planning our show for May 2022, we learned last week that New York has posed new rates to rent the coliseum and exhibit center (dairy barn) that are 100% increase over the rate we paid in 2019 for a proposed total of $17,101. We can’t possibly run our show at the NYS Fairgrounds at those rates. Note: facility rates for 2021-April 1, 2022 were an increase of 7.6% over the 2019 rates (see attachments). These rates do not include the Exposition Center. That price was out of reach the year following its construction, and generally unused for horse events as originally intended.

We have reached out to other horse show managers who have expressed the same concerns and are either looking elsewhere or will not be running their shows in 2022 at the NYS Fairgrounds.

Horse shows cannot operate at a loss of this magnitude. The impact of agri-tourism is substantial. We are a primary driver of business to local hotels and restaurants. Our shows draw competitors from the northeast and Canada. The Region 16 Championship show draws exhibitors from across the US and Canada. For 2022, our Regional show was forced to move to the Virginia Horse Center, in Virginia. A significant blow to our local economy and reputation.

We are simply asking for the rates published for April 1, 2022 be suspended until a proper analysis can be completed. Horses show take time to properly plan. Many shows are already in motion and these newly published rates will prevent these shows from going forward at the NYS Fairground as intended.

Warm regards,

Author

Attachments