

# AgNews



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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## **Thoroughbred Racing Commission proposes adoption of a Claiming Option Rule**

The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission (DTRC) will have a public hearing on a proposed "Claiming Option Rule." The proposed rule, submitted by Secretary-Commissioner W. Duncan Patterson at the DTRC meeting on April 30, 2008, is modeled after a California Horse Racing Board proposal of "Claim-Proofing" horses that have been laid off of racing for a minimum of 180 days. The proposed wording of the new rule follows: *At the time of entry into a claiming race, the owner or trainer may opt to declare a horse ineligible to be claimed provided that the horse has been laid off and has not started for a minimum of 180 days since its last race and is entered for a claiming price equal to or greater than the price it last started. Failure to declare the horse ineligible at the time of entry may not be remedied. Ineligibility shall apply only to the first start following each such layoff.*

During the discussion, Commissioner Patterson commented, "I believe that this is a rule that is progressive in nature. It will protect the horseman who has worked diligently to get a horse back in the races by giving the owner the option of running his horse in a claiming race for the same price at which it last started, or more, and declaring it ineligible to be claimed. The owner will be relieved of the fear of losing the horse the first time it returns to the track." According to Patterson, the rule may encourage more participation by horsemen that have horses that fit the criteria.

John F. Wayne, Commission Executive Director stated, "The Commissioners are always looking at ways to improve the rules of racing and to give horsemen and track management the tools with which to be successful."

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