

AgNews

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**Delaware Thoroughbred Commission holding work shop meeting on
February 21, 2006 to discuss implementation of Blood Gas Testing Program
at Delaware Park during 2006**

The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission will hold a public work shop meeting on February 21, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in the Horsemen's Office at Delaware Park. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss options of implementing a workable plan for blood gas testing during the 2006 live racing season that begins on April 22, 2006.

Blood Gas testing rules were adopted in Delaware during 2005 in preparation of a testing plan to measure metabolic alkalosis levels in thoroughbreds. Jurisdictions throughout North America have been testing thoroughbreds for the past year to see if alkalizing agents are present in an effort to promote fairness. The illicit introduction of alkalizing agents is done to decrease the build up of lactic acid which leads to cramping.

The work shop, which has been published in accordance with the Delaware open meeting law, will feature a power point presentation displaying several options and testing scenarios. It is anticipated that attending horsemen will voice their opinions on which options will best suit their needs while maintaining the integrity of the program. Opinions and a consensus obtained during the work shop will be shared with the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission at their February 24, 2006 meeting. It is believed that one of the options will be endorsed and that blood gas testing will proceed for the 2006 live racing season.

John F. Wayne, Commission Executive Director commented, "In addition to the testing program, surveillance and investigative efforts will also be part of the whole package. Relying on testing equipment alone is not the whole answer to the prevention of illegal medication administration and introduction of foreign substances to horses on race day. We are ever vigilant to detect any rule violations and maintain the integrity of our sport."

For more information, contact John Wayne, Executive Director of the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission. (302) 242-4467

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