

# AgNews



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

**For Immediate Release: Contact Anne Fitzgerald**  
March 15, 2006 **800.282.8685 (DE only)**  
**302.698.4520**  
**302.242.4092 (Cell)**

Number of pages: 2

## **Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission and Delaware Park hosts the University of Louisville Stewards and Judges Continuing Education Program**

On March 13 and 14, the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission (DTRC) and Delaware Park hosted the University of Louisville's Continuing Education Program for Stewards and Judges. Delaware has been an educational hub of sorts for this program, hosting it three times during the past six years. This was the second time that the program was held at Delaware Park. Two years ago, the program was hosted at Dover Downs.

The program leader, Dr. Robert Lawrence, a professor at the University, was on hand to facilitate discussions between the senior racing officials and review racing films in an effort to have a broad critique by group. "We are always glad to hold the meetings in Delaware given their convenient location to various racing jurisdictions and the high quality of racing that exists with Thoroughbred and Harness Racing," Lawrence said. The group, which consisted of approximately 51 attendees, represented racing jurisdictions from around the world. Some of the stewards and judges that traveled the furthest were from South Korea, the islands of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago in the West Indies, as well as North America.

Among the topics discussed was the Jockey Club's **InCompass** data base program that tracks horses' movements and their eligibility. The moderator, Brad Kimbrell led a discussion electronically from Lexington, Kentucky via an internet connection at the conference. "It was the next best thing to being there," quipped Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission (DTRC) Chairman, Bernard J. Daney who also welcomed the officials at their opening session on March 13, 2006.

Feature presentations were also delivered by Drs. John Peters, DTRC Veterinarian, Mid Atlantic regulatory veterinarian, Dr. Jay Baldwin and private practitioner, Celeste Kunz. Also making presentations were Pete Lang, a senior Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau (TRPB) and Standardbred Investigative Services (SIS) Agent about security issues and J. Curtis Linnell, also of the TRPB about wagering trends and pari-mutuel pool indicators.

Dr. Lawrence brought in a special guest, Art McNally, who is director of officials for the National Football League. McNally discussed officiating in the league, instant replay and integrity issues and their similarities to horse racing.

Officials were placed together in small groups where they interacted with representatives from different jurisdictions reviewing films and forming opinions on the video tapes depicting various racing infractions. The entire group then reunited; each video was re-shown on the big screen for interaction and discussion. The discussions were led by Virginia Executive Secretary, Stan Bowker, Delaware Harness Racing Commission Administrator, Hugh J. Gallagher and DTRC Executive Director, John F. Wayne.

John Wayne added that "Delaware Park's venue to hold such an event was 'state of the art' with the video feeds

**-More-**

and equipment needed to hold such a media-dependent industry conference.” Wayne further commented that “the participation of the international group showed a commitment to excellence by the official’s respective jurisdictions and racing associations. Getting together to discuss and learn from each other, while following a structured program presented by Dr. Lawrence, displays the professionalism of our great industry which strives to get the calls correct, protect the integrity of the game placing emphasis on honesty of the sport for our racing fans, and safeguarding the participants and horses.”

####