



**Media Contact:**

Jason Politi | Baker Public Relations  
O: 518.426.4099 | M: 845.913.6394  
[jason@bakerpublicrelations.com](mailto:jason@bakerpublicrelations.com)  
[www.bakerpublicrelations.com](http://www.bakerpublicrelations.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund Awards \$150,000 to 2018 Grant Applicants**

**SCHENECTADY, N.Y.** – The Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund has awarded \$150,000 in total grant funding to five organizations involved in education and promotion of the harness racing industry. The Fund Trustees awarded grants based on the strength of the proposal, the availability of resources and meeting the statutorily mandated Mission of the Fund.

“The Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law gives us the authorization to distribute funding to support and promote research, educational programming, and preservation of the history and traditions of harness horse racing,” said M. Kelly Young, Executive Director of the Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund. “We are honored to present the grant winners with this funding as they clearly uphold the standards of this law as well as our mission at the Fund.”

The Fund awarded the following grants:

**Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame** received \$45,833 to support its education programming. Outreach to young people has grown in recent years and the demand for targeted harness racing programs continues to grow..

**Goshen Historic Track** received \$45,833 to make repairs to the Arden Barn, one of the most historically significant barns on the grounds, which is registered as a National Historic Landmark.

**4-H Standardbred Horse Program** received \$45,833 for the statewide education program that focuses on advancing interest in Standardbreds. The Fund has supported 4-H for many years and Cornell Cooperative Extension has a long history of effectively providing education and awareness programs through its state-wide network.

**Harness Horse Youth Foundation** received \$7,500 for two hands-on summer youth programs at Goshen Historic Track in 2018. One will be a five-day camp at the introductory level and the other will be a Leadership camp for previous graduates of the first program.

**Racing Under Saddle—New York** received \$5,000 for the County Fair racing series purses that the Fund has supported for several years. Nine fairs will host Racing Under Saddle events this year, with a final in September. Racing Under Saddle events are well attended at the county fairs and this racing series has grown to become another way to promote and enhance New York’s Standardbred breeding and racing program.

**About the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund:**

The Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund is a public benefit corporation established in 1965 by the Laverne Law (Laws of New York, Chapter 567 of the Laws of 1965). The mission of the fund is to promote agriculture through the breeding of Standardbred horses and the conduct of equine research within the state. To carry out its legislative mission, the Fund administers the New York Sire Stakes races, Excelsior/State Fair Series races, and County Fair Races.

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