



## *Emergency Equine Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions and Answers*

**Summary:** *DEC Emergency Equine Assistance Program is a payment program designed to assist horse/equine owners who demonstrate financial need with the cost of hay, feed or veterinary services for their equines. Payments will be to the feed/hay suppliers or veterinarians to cover actual, documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the horse/equine owner.*

**How it will be funded?** DEC will supply a specified dollar amount from its treasury and be open to donations to that fund from concerned equine enthusiasts or businesses. Any donated funds will be earmarked for the Emergency Equine Assistance Program and the Board of Directors may, at its discretion, provide additional funds for this purpose as they are available.

**Who will qualify for this program?** Individual equine owners may apply for assistance. An Equine Health Care Assistance Committee will review applications for completeness and documentation of expenses and the degree of financial need, and will grant payment based on the funds that are available.

**Who will not qualify for program?** Commercial entities of any kind, breeders, racing and businesses are ineligible to apply for the program. Individuals who have previously been convicted of animal cruelty or neglect are not eligible to participate in this program.

**How does the purchase and payment of product or services work?** If your application is approved, the DEC will send you a letter for the approved purchase amount, which you must print out and retain. Note that the DEC will issue a dollar amount to be used at a specified vendor. We will refer you to a specific hay/feed vendor who has agreed to work with the program to arrange your purchase. DEC strongly recommends that you contact the vendor before making the purchase, notifying them that you have a DEC letter to negotiate the amount of product you can purchase with your account. When you purchase product from the vendor you must present your letter to verify your eligibility. If the value of product purchased exceeds the prepaid amount you will be responsible for the difference. You will need to sign for your purchase to indicate that you received the product.

**How often can a horse owner receive approval?** In general, program recipients will be limited to one approval per application. DEC may make exceptions in extreme circumstances at its discretion, but may condition the granting of additional funds with requirements for additional documentation.

**What dollar amount will be approved?** The amount approved will be at the discretion of the DEC's Emergency Equine Care Assistance Program Committee. Payment amounts will vary depending on the number of horses, agreed upon term of assistance and availability of program funds, with a maximum amount being \$200.00 per application.

### **What else do I need to know?**

- All participants in the program will be required to sign a release allowing DEC to contact those individuals provided on the application form directly, and relieving DEC of any liability that may be a result from any documentation or personal information obtained in determining eligibility.
- All Participants in the program will be required to sign a release relieving DEC of liability for quality of product purchased and any risk involved in changing equine forage and/or feed needed during the period of time you need assistance.

- To help expedite the processing of your application, and the success of using this program, please take the time to be as accurate as possible in assessing the amount of product needed.
- After you submit an application, if your request is approved you will receive a document via email from the DEC Emergency Equine Assistance Fund Committee indicating the amount approved and the vendor you will purchase from. You will not be able to purchase product with this document. If the DEC is unable to grant your request, you will receive notice via email advising you of that fact and the reason why your application was not approved.
- All payments are made by the DEC Treasurer directly to the approved Vendor/Veterinarian, and NOT to the individuals.

***To request more information or an application be visit [www.delawareequinecouncil.org](http://www.delawareequinecouncil.org) or contact a Delaware Equine Council Board Member.***