

## Program Overview

Certificates of Merit are based on criteria of horse health, farm management, and public standards compliance. A Certificate of Merit may be used for promotion of the farm for the duration of the year. The suitability of the farm for the breed or type of activity conducted will be considered when scoring each farm. Farms are judged annually. Judging visits will be scheduled with the farms. Recipients will receive a distinctive sign that can be used at their discretion.

## Program Rules

1. A Certificate of Merit and sign will be presented at the Maine Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. The certificate will be valid for the succeeding calendar year.
2. Applicants must have at least two years of involvement in the horse industry.
3. Horse Farm of Merit signs are the property of the Maine Farm Bureau and may be reclaimed if the farm fails to maintain the standards of the program.
4. There shall be a non-refundable annual application fee of \$25 for Maine Farm Bureau members and \$125 for non-members. Fees cover the cost of administering the program. No farm will be judged unless fees are paid.
5. The sign shall not be displayed at or moved to other premises.

## Judging Criteria

Each Farm will be judged upon the following criteria with the perfect score being 100%. Any farm scoring at 85% or higher will be considered a "Horse Farm of Merit" and recipient of the certificate. Two judges evaluate new applicants and one judge for renewal.

### Horse Health Management (possible 40 points)

- General Appearance of Horses
- Evidence of Equine Health

### Farm Management (possible 50 points)

- Overall Condition of Farm and Facilities
- Control of Pests and Vermin
- Condition of Stalls and aisle ways
- Condition of Turnouts, Pastures, Riding Surfaces and Fencing
- Condition of Tack and Equipment
- Emergency Removal/Evacuation Procedure
- Equine and Human First Aid
- Fire Protection/Prevention
- Manure Management Program

### Business Practices (possible 10 points)

- Documents
- Liability Insurance
- Waivers
- Equine Limit to Liability signage

## Maine Farm Bureau

### 2009 Horse Farm of Merit - APPLICATION -

I hereby apply for the Maine Farm Bureau "Horse Farm of Merit" program, to have my horse farm evaluated in accordance with the rules of the program contained herein. I understand that the judges will contact me to schedule their visits with short notice sometime between August and October. The certificate is granted for the year beginning January 1, 2010.

My application fee is enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

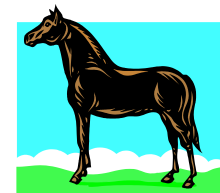
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Signature of Owner/Operator

***Deadline for applications is August 1, 2009***

### Make checks payable to:

Maine Farm Bureau  
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 1  
Augusta, ME 04330





Maine Farm Bureau Association  
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 1  
Augusta, ME 04330  
(207) 622-4111



**Maine Farm Bureau  
Horse Council**

## **Maine Farm Bureau Horse Farm of Merit**

### **Program Description**

The Maine Farm Bureau's "Horse Farm of Merit" program is established to:

- recognize Maine horse farms who meet high standards for overall horse health, farm management, and compliance with public safety.

The intent of the program is to recognize and promote those farms who meet or exceed the established standards.

Qualified equine professionals will evaluate horse farms.

The program will:

- provide the public with a list of farms meeting the standards.
- provide beneficial information to the farms.

The program has been developed and is overseen by the Maine Farm Bureau.