

**Survey Questions for Horse Owners
in the towns of Ashby, Pepperell, or Townsend**

**Please return to the 4H Office by October 30th, 2007
UMass Extension 4-H
240 Beaver St.
Waltham, MA 02452**

This survey is meant to be anonymous, since we realize the information is sensitive. But we do need your town information (below). Also, if you would like follow-up information or survey results, please include your name and address.

Name of town where you live: _____

Name of town where your horses are (if different): _____

ABOUT YOUR HORSE OPERATION:

1. Do you have a horse manure management system? Yes ___ No ___
Do you pick manure up regularly from your paddocks or enclosures?

2. Do you board your horse(s) at home or at a stable another facility? Home _____
Comments: _____ Stable _____

If you board at home:

3. How many horses do you have? _____

4. How many acres (approximately) do you have for pasture and paddocks? _____

If you board at a stable or if you own a stable:

5. How many horses do you keep? year-round__ summer__ winter__? _____

7. Are your horses housed for personal or commercial use? Pers. ___ Com. ___

9. Manure storage methods used currently (either at home or at stable):

a. Stored in a container Yes ___ No ___

b. If you stack it, where? stacked on a concrete slab ___ in a 3-sided
structure of some sort ___ on ground ___ other _____ Yes ___ No ___

c. If you stack it, where is the stack generally located? _____
(for example, "next to barn", "back of paddock", "side fence", etc.)

e. Is the stack covered? Yes ___ No ___

- f. Are flies a problem? Yes ___ No ___
- g. Is stormwater or surface runoff a potential problem? Is groundwater contamination a potential problem? (re-state as less accusatory) Yes ___ No ___
- h. Other: _____
10. Manure disposal method(s) used currently: (check all that apply)
- a. Container is picked up regularly Yes ___ No ___
- c. Stack is emptied once a year Yes ___ No ___
- d. Manure is spread on pasture Yes ___ No ___
- e. Manure is composted for owners' or local re-use Yes ___ No ___
- f. Stack is taken away every few years (or fill in time period: _____) Yes ___ No ___
11. If you use a container service:
- a. How often does it get picked up? _____
- b. What type of container is used? (brand, etc.; any information helps) _____
- c. What size is the container? _____
- d. Do you know where the manure gets disposed of by the service? Yes ___ No ___
- e. Do you have a concrete base for the container? Yes ___ No ___
- f. Is year-round access to the container a problem for the trucker? Yes ___ No ___
- g. Are you happy with the service? Yes ___ No ___
- h. What would you change about the service? _____
- _____
- i. Do you have enough room to store manure in between pickups? Yes ___ No ___
12. Bedding: What do you use for bedding?
- a. Straw ___ Sawdust _____ Wood shavings _____
- b. Other: _____
13. Do you have any provision to control stormwater or surface runoff from the manure storage area? Yes ___ No ___
14. Is the area where you store manure fenced in to prevent access by people and animals? Yes ___ No ___
15. What are your plans for the future, regarding your horses?
- a. Stay with the same number of animals Yes ___ No ___
- b. Increase ___ Decrease ___ (how many? + ___ - _____) Yes ___ No ___
- d. Other: _____

16. Do you think you handle your horse manure appropriately? Yes ___ No ___
Comments: _____

ABOUT YOUR COSTS AND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

17. How much does disposal of manure cost you (approximately)? \$ _____ per
Comments: _____ year ___ month__

18. If you have no cost for disposal of horse manure, would you stop having horses if you had to pay for disposal? Yes ___ No ___

19. Is your barn or stable(s) inspected by your town board of health or planning board? Yes ___ No ___

20. Are there any local bylaws that impact your operation? Yes ___ No ___

21. How close is your nearest neighbor? _____

22. Have you had any complaints from neighbors about the smell of manure or about runoff? Comments: _____ Yes ___ No ___

HOW CAN WE HELP?

23. Would you be willing to work with other horse owners in disposing of manure together? Yes ___ No ___

24. Would you be willing to come to a meeting to discuss manure disposal with other horse owners and stakeholders? Yes ___ No ___

25. Would you like some educational information about horse manure management? Yes ___ No ___

26. Would you like some information about area businesses that might be able to help you with your horse manure management? Yes ___ No ___

YOUR IDEAS: