

NEWS RELEASE
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Equestrian Land Conservation Resource Partners Program Reaches Record High 110 Members; Welcomes Diverse Group of Organizations

The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource's Equestrian Partners Program has reached an all time high of 110 members and is still growing. Membership growth in the partners program in 2008 was at 40%, and 2009 membership growth appears to be as strong or stronger. According to Georgiana Hubbard McCabe, President and Co-founder of the organization, "ELCR and our Partners Program has simply 'taken off' – at a gallop, one might say. Individual horsemen and equine groups have become aware of the land loss issue and have realized that ELCR is here with the tools and information available to address their needs."

The Partners program is comprised of conservation-minded organizations from the equine, trail and land use sectors—breeding; media; competition and discipline; equestrian parks and facilities; land conservation and stewardship; recreational riding and driving; government; and commercial organizations are all represented. Though the economy has faltered, the commitment of ELCR's members has not, thus confirming that the time is *now* for horsemen to confront the issue of land loss.

The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) is very pleased to welcome Dennis Badger & Associates (KY), Fallbrook Riders Field (CA), New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc. (NY), North Star Pony Club (MN), Pinto Horse Association (OK), and Shawnee Trail Conservancy (IL), South Carolina Horsemen's Council as new members in its rapidly growing Equestrian Partners program.

About our new members:

Dennis Badger & Associates, Inc. is a real estate appraisal and consulting firm based in Lexington, Kentucky. They pride themselves in offering timely real property appraisals of nearly all property types. Putting the needs of their clients and communities first is their most important goal. Visit <http://dennisbadger.com>.

Fallbrook Riders Field is an equestrian facility located on ten acres in the heart of Fallbrook, California. The field offers a variety of riding options for local equestrians including a full size dressage arena, a large stadium jumping arena and a beautiful cross-country course. Local schooling shows are held throughout the year in a fun, family friendly atmosphere. Visit www.fallbrookriders.com.

New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc. (NYTB) is a membership organization founded in 1974. NYTB is the official authorized representative of the Thoroughbred breeding industry in New York State and was formed in order to provide those individuals involved in the New York breeding and racing industry with an organization dedicated towards its advancement. Visit www.nytbreeders.org/.

North Star Pony Club (originally called Twin Cities Pony Club) was the first chartered United States Pony Club in Minnesota. The United States Pony Clubs, a premier-level member in ELCR's Equestrian Partner program, was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization for youth horsemanship. Pony Club is the leading junior equestrian organization in the world and is represented in 26 countries. Now there are many local clubs throughout the world, and North Star is one of them. Like its parent and other fellow Equestrian Partner organizations, North Star Pony Club recognizes the inextricable link between the enjoyment of horses and land conservation. Visit www.northstar.ponyclub.org/index.html.

Pinto Horse Association of America (PtHA) works to promote the colorful and resilient Pinto horse, encourage ideas of good horsemanship and good sportsmanship, and provide activities for PtHA members on a local basis. PtHA started from a grassroots movement in the 1930s to breed horses for good color and conformation. Visit www.pinto.org.

Shawnee Trail Conservancy is a grassroots nonprofit corporation that advocates multi-use of the Shawnee National Forest for recreational and sporting interests. The group is dedicated to preserving and protecting its natural resources through proper trail maintenance, good trail signing and education about wise use management practices and low environmental impact. Shawnee Trail Conservancy represents equestrians, hunters, ATV riders, bikers, hikers, campers, rock climbers, business people, professionals, retirees and others who desire to recreate, hunt and enjoy the beauty of the Shawnee National Forest. Their mission is to keep the Forest open to the public for its use and enjoyment. Visit www.shawneetrailconservancy.com/.

The South Carolina Horsemen's Council is a non-profit organization committed to providing information and expertise about activities and issues that affect the common interests of the equine community and industry in South Carolina. Through education, communication and advocacy, the Council strives to favorably represent the views of the equine community to the public, the media, government agencies and elected officials. Visit www.schorseouncil.org.

The Equestrian Partners program is a growing coalition of organizations from across the country that are committed to helping ELCR fulfill its mission of conserving land and access for horse-related activity. Despite their diverse interests and activities, our Partners recognize that with land in the U.S. being developed at the rate of 250 acres per hour jeopardizing our future and that of our horses. Equestrian Partners network through ELCR and promote ELCR's mission to their various members, constituents, donors, and friends.

It is necessary for us to *act now* to conserve land so that future generations will be able to enjoy horses as horsemen do today. If your organization would like to join our national efforts to save land for horses, visit www.ELCR.org, or call (859) 455-8383 for more information.

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About Equestrian Land Conservation Resource:

The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, the only national not-for-profit organization assisting in the conservation of land for horses and horse-related activity, serves as a clearinghouse and educational resource for land and horse owners on issues related to, conserving farmland, community land use planning, preserving horse access on public and private trails, and good land stewardship.