

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“GULF COAST HORSE AND FARRIER RELIEF MONTHS”

LEXINGTON, KY -- In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, the American Farrier's Association (AFA) has designated the months of October & November 2005 as “Gulf Coast Horse and Farrier Relief Months”. During these months the AFA will encourage its individual and Chapter members to hold fundraising events to provide financial aid to those farriers in need in the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Direct assistance events will also be encouraged.

U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee (a former professional farrier) has expressed his support for this initiative. “As a professional farrier for seven years, I recognize and appreciate the hard work and dedication my former colleagues apply to their profession. My heartfelt sympathies go out to those who have suffered great losses to their homes, businesses, and family members as a result of the hurricanes. I am proud to support the AFA's Farrier Relief Fund's designation as ‘Gulf Coast Horse and Farrier Relief Months.’”

Here's a sample of activities already conducted or planned:

- *Carolina Horseshoeing Conference* – Organizers have committed all proceeds from this one day farrier clinic to the AFA's Farrier Relief Fund. They have a goal of raising \$10,000. Stephen Teichman, CJF was the featured clinician. Special thanks to Stacy Miller. www.carolinahorseshoeing.com
- *Louisiana Rescue Horse Shoeing Task Force* – Ron Kramedjian of Lynnville, Tenn. led a group of farriers from across the country to Gonzales, Louisiana, October 2 – 4, to observe, treat and make ready for adoption horses that were abandoned after Hurricane Katrina. Watch for details in *Professional Farrier*.
- *Farriers for Katrina Equine Relief* – 15 farriers in the state of Washington joined with veterinarians, equine massage therapists, equine chiropractors, as well as a local 4-H Club on Sunday, October 2, to take care of about 100 horses. All proceeds, including funds raised through an auction and raffle, will be used to benefit the AFA's Farrier Relief Fund and the American Horse Council's Emergency Relief for Horsemen. The goal is to raise \$10,000. Thanks to Keith Swain & Shane Westman for directing this event.
- *AFA Chapter Challenge* - AFA Finance Committee Chairman Michael Joshua has challenged all Chapters of the AFA (there are 53 Chapters) to contribute \$500 each to the Farrier Relief Fund. AFA Board members have been asked to contribute \$100 each.

Opportunities for Chapters include:

- Clinics & Contests – Many AFA Chapters already have clinics and contests planned for the months of October & November. Organizers could consider passing the hat, conducting a raffle, or selling an auction item and donating the funds to the Farriers Relief Fund.

Opportunities for Individuals include:

- Farrier and Horse Owner (Client) Support - AFA members have been encouraging their clients to send tax-deductible contributions to the AFA office to support the Farriers Relief Fund. All contributions will be recognized.
- Contributions may be sent to the Farriers Relief Fund, American Farrier's Association, 4059 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 1, Lexington, KY 40511.

The American Farrier's Association is headquartered in the National Horse Center at the Kentucky Horse Park. For more information on the AFA, their certification program, guides to proper hoof care, or how to find (or become) a farrier, visit www.AmericanFarriers.org or call (859) 233-7411.

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