

Build and Protect Larimer County's Horse Industry

Larimer County is conducting a study of its existing regulations for horse business facilities such as boarding stables, training stables, and facilities that offer riding lessons or host competitions for a fee.

We need your input and help.



Photo by Joy Wooten: 2007 It's AgriCultural

Why is Larimer County studying Horse Business Facilities Regulations?

Larimer County's goal for the study is to **achieve enduring land use compatibility that supports both a healthy equine industry and the property rights of all Larimer County citizens**. Our County enjoys a rich agricultural heritage. The horse industry is an important element of that heritage, and an important segment of our economy. Horse business regulations are intended to minimize conflicts between those facilities and neighboring properties. At this time, some existing horse businesses are not in compliance with the County's regulations. This study will examine and possibly revise the existing County Codes and policies that regulate horse business facilities. Regulations for the private use of horses on private property will not be changed.

How is the study being done?

A Working Group of citizens has been assembled to develop a recommendation. The public, County staff, and existing Boards and Commissions are involved and providing input. Public meetings are being held to solicit ideas and a project webpage has been developed. Any changes to the existing County codes must go through formal hearing processes which will likely occur in November and December 2009.

What changes are being considered?

The Working Group is developing a definition for an equestrian center to describe horse businesses. Activities where a fee is collected for services such as horse boarding, training, hosting equestrian events and competitions and giving riding lessons will be included in the definition. The current regulations treat all businesses that are boarding 5 or more horses the same; they are all required to secure a Special Review approval from the County Commissioners to operate legally. The Working Group is considering a "scalable system" that would match the required County review to the scale of the business. Small businesses would be allowed without County review as a use by right. Medium sized businesses would complete a Minor Special Review process. Only the largest businesses would require Special Review. The Working Group is still considering which characteristics of the business to measure to classify its size. The thresholds used to separate businesses into small, medium or large categories will also need to be determined. **Public input is welcomed!**



Photo by Charlie Johnson

Additional Information:

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