

Equine industry equals big money

By **TERESA MELNICK**
rmelnic1@twny.rr.com



MELNICK

fessions and businesses created and/or supported by the equine industry are too numerous to list, but the bottom line is an equine industry with a total inventory value of \$1.83 billion.

Yes, billion.

This impressive sum reflects just how important the horse industry is to New York State.

It also reflects just how strong our voice can be when we unite to make changes and pass laws that benefit our livestock and our businesses.

For example, we all know that regular hoof care is not optional.

It's crucial to the health of the horse. Yet, farrier services are still taxed despite a bill passed in 2000 that made all farm related purchases tax exempt.

Right now, the New York Farm Bureau is actively lobbying to amend the tax exempt law to include farrier supplies and services.

Farm Bureau is also working to pass a second amendment to the tax law that would greatly benefit commercial boarding facilities. As it stands now, training, showing and instruction are tax exempt, but daily routine care and maintenance of the horse is taxable.

The amended version, if passed, would

make "the care, custody, and control services provided by commercial horse boarding" tax exempt. This would include all routine horse boarding activities like feeding, watering, mucking, grooming, exercising, etc.

What a boon to the horse industry! And you can help to make it happen.

New York Farm Bureau already has fought for, and won, a number of benefits for horse operations. But there is much work to be done. **Please take the time to contact your legislator to support the sales tax exemption on farrier supplies and services.**

We need your voice. If you own horses or a horse related business, New York Farm Bureau needs you.

And you need New York Farm Bureau.

Statistics provided by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Dec. 31, 2006.