



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Department of Agriculture Offering Rescued Horses and a Mule
For Sale at Annual UConn Auction on Saturday**

Hartford, Conn.-State Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky today announced that sixteen horses and one mule seized in animal cruelty and neglect cases will be offered for sale this Saturday, April 23, at the University of Connecticut's Annual Spring Horse Auction.

"The Department staff at our "Second Chance" barn has worked hard to rehabilitate these animals. They have come a long way since their rescue and they are healthy and ready to find new homes," Commissioner Reviczky said. "Funds received from this sale go right back into our rehabilitation program. For those individuals looking for a nice horse, the UConn auction is the place to be on Saturday. Buyers would also be helping out UConn's Equine Science students who have organized the sale."

The sale preview begins at 11 a.m. and the auction starts at 1 p.m.

The annual Horse Auction and Tack and Equipment Sale, held by the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, benefit of the Equine Science Program in the Department of Animal Science. Students work the sale and care for horses leading up to the auction to prepare them for the sale. The Tack and Equipment Sale held on auction day features various vendors selling everything from used boots and breeches to horse trinkets and saddles.

All but three of the rescued and rehabilitated animals that the Department of Agriculture is consigning to the UConn auction have been cared for at the Department's rescue barn located at the Gates Correctional Facility in Niantic. Built in 2003, the rescue barn is a cooperative effort of the Departments of Agriculture and Correction. The animals, all of which have been seized as a result of evidence of animal cruelty and neglect, are cared for daily by Department of Agriculture staff and inmates at the Gates Correctional facility. Combinations of over 180 horses, mules and donkeys have been rehabilitated at this facility since its opening.

The Connecticut Military Department has also assisted the Department of Agriculture with its large animal rescue program. Three horses that will be in the sale have been cared for as part of a working agreement between the two agencies.

The Animal Science Department of UConn's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources has been an important partner in finding good homes for the rehabilitated animals. The staff and students have taken a genuine interest in the animals as shown by their cooperation and dedication at each sale that has been held since 2003.

The animals to be sold are completely rehabilitated back to a healthy condition. The horses and the mule have current vaccinations, health certificates, negative Coggins tests and each has a microchip (LifeChip[®]) for identification purposes. All records will be available to prospective buyers. Although all of the animals are healthy, some are not sound and these will be shown to the viewing attendees as horses for adoption in need of good homes.

For more information regarding the Department of Agriculture animals contact the Department at (860) 713-2506 or visit the website at

<http://www.cag.uconn.edu/ansci/ansci/equine/horsesale.php>

www.ctgrown.gov

www.ct.gov/doag

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