

# Feed firms back BETA's NOPS code of practice

BETA has introduced a new, voluntary code of practice for feed manufacturers to reduce the risk of naturally occurring prohibited substances in equine feeds. The code was implemented on 1 October with commitment from leading manufacturers, including Baileys, Blue Chip, British Horse Feeds, Dodson & Horrell, Natural Animal Feeds, Red Mills, Saracen, Spillers, TopSpec and Dengie (subject to FEMAS approval).

The Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS), Naturally Occurring Prohibited Substances (NOPS) Code was developed by BETA in conjunction with assurance scheme experts in response to an increased incidence of positive dope tests for morphine, a NOPS for high-priority screening in racehorses.

The international FEI rules for competition and the British Horseracing Authority's Rules of Racing state a no-threshold policy for naturally occurring substances that could affect performance, with the exception of theobromine. The consequences of a positive dope test are disqualification

and loss of prize money.

Feeds and supplements conforming to the new code will carry labelling to reassure owners and trainers of the stringent quality management procedures that have been undertaken during every step of the sourcing, storage, transport and manufacturing processes for each product. Suppliers of raw materials will be regularly audited and staff will undergo rigorous training to ensure strict adherence to the code.

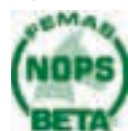
The code has been endorsed by the British Horseracing Authority and the National Trainers Federation, with endorsement being sought from the British Equestrian Federation in the future. "By significantly reducing the risk of NOPS, the new code provides important protection for those competing or racing under rules," said Professor Tim Morris, the British Horseracing Authority's director of equine science and welfare. "The fact that most of the UK's major feed manufacturers have already agreed to comply with the code confirms its

viability as a workable verification system."

For further information, contact BETA, tel 01937 587062, email [info@beta-uk.org](mailto:info@beta-uk.org) or log on to [www.beta-uk.org](http://www.beta-uk.org)

## NOPS for high-priority screening

Morphine  
Caffeine  
Theobromine  
Theophylline  
Hysocine (Scopolamine and Metabolites)



## Low-priority NOPS

Bufotenine  
Lupanine  
Hordenine



Sources of NOPS responsible for contamination include residues, weeds, plant bioactives, human food ingredients and commercial waste.

# ETN



### Equestrian Trade News

Stockeld Park,  
Wetherby,  
West Yorkshire LS22 4AW  
Tel: 01937 582111  
Fax: 01937 582778 – Sales  
Email: [sales@equestriantradenews.com](mailto:sales@equestriantradenews.com)  
Website: [www.equestriantradenews.com](http://www.equestriantradenews.com)

### Publisher:

Equestrian Management Consultants Ltd

### Editor:

Deborah Hayward  
Email: [editor@equestriantradenews.com](mailto:editor@equestriantradenews.com)  
Tel: 0845 6185007  
Mob: 07825 620225

### Advertising Sales:

Nicki Lewis  
Email: [sales@equestriantradenews.com](mailto:sales@equestriantradenews.com)  
Tel: 01937 582111  
Fax: 01937 582778

### Advertising Copy:

Nicki Lewis  
Email: [sales@equestriantradenews.com](mailto:sales@equestriantradenews.com)  
Tel: 01937 582111

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G.H. Smith & Son,  
Market Place, Easingwold,  
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YO61 3AB  
Tel: 01347 821329  
Fax: 01347 822576  
Email: [etn@ghsmith.com](mailto:etn@ghsmith.com)  
Web: [www.ghsmith.com](http://www.ghsmith.com)

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## Campaign fights horse tax plans

BRITAIN'S equestrian world is rallying together in a move against the Government's plans

to introduce a horse tax. A coalition of eight groups, including BETA, the British Horse Society and the BEF, has launched the Rethink the Horse Tax campaign website, where visitors are urged to sign an online petition to the Prime Minister and write to their MP.

An annual charge of £10.50 per horse is part of a scheme to create an expensive, new Government body responsible for dealing with animal health and collection of the tax.

Campaigners are concerned that the plans would have a negative impact on the equine community and place an unfair burden on both this sector and taxpayers because the new animal health body outlined in the proposals would cost £2.3million to set up and run, as well as forcing horse owners to contribute 20 per cent of that figure.

The plans are also believed to go against the government policy of encouraging outdoor exercise and boosting equine sport ahead of the 2012 Olympics. Additionally, the fact that the horse-racing industry already contributes about £750,000 a year to central funding to prevent and control infectious diseases appears to have been overlooked, according to the campaign.

Rethink The Horse Tax



## Pippa's clipper is a winner!



LISTER Shearing Equipment's competition to find the oldest Lister clipper has been won by Pippa Aaker, from Wiltshire, who had a 184 clipper, which was launched in the 1930s. It was one of the first models designed for clipping horses and would originally have been sold with a hand-powered "machine". It was not a solo task then and would have been slower and more difficult to use compared with today's clippers. Once mastered, however, it would have done a comparable job. The 184 fell into Pippa's hands when she moved into her farm 12 years ago and found it left in an old shed. "I knew it was old, but I didn't realise how old," she said. As the lucky winner, she was presented with a limited-edition golden Star clipper, manufactured to mark Lister's centenary. "I've always bought Lister clippers and trimmers," she added, "and, to be given a limited-edition one is fantastic. I'm going to keep this one safe and pass it down the family."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### White means green

WHITE Horse Bedding is a new, pelletised product launched in the UK. Designed to fill a gap in the market between high-cost, high-quality imported wood pellets and low-quality, locally manufactured products, it offers horse owners a cost-effective and environmentally friendly bedding solution.

Equestrian spokesperson said that the range had done extremely well at the retail outlet but it was time for it to move into additional stores. This would be done via Puffa's distribution and sales network.

### Arthur loses cancer battle

ARTHUR Cottam, of the famous family business Arthur Cottam Horseshoe Company - supplier of horseshoes, tools and equipment to the farriery profession - died last month after a long battle with cancer.

### Puffa for Price

KATIE Price's bright and colourful KP Equestrian range will no longer be sold exclusively through Derby House. A KP

  
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