



**NORTH CENTRAL  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Lincoln | **EXTENSION**



**Michigan**

**The Equine Business Network,  
Delivering On-line Horse Education**

There are over 1 million horses and 162,000 horse farms in the North Central Region of the United States. In 2013 it was estimated that 4.6 million Americans in the U.S. are involved in the horse industry as horse owners, service providers, employees and volunteers. The industry itself employs 701,950 people. In response to requests by producers for information relevant to their individual operations, in 2013 Michigan State University (MSU) in collaboration with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Iowa State University (ISU), New Mexico State University (NMSU) and the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation, developed five on-line equine business short courses. These courses were delivered through [eXtension.org/horses](http://eXtension.org/horses). Each course contained current information on liability and farm safety on horse operations, including topics regarding immigration, youth and contract/employee labor law, and liability issues of equine veterinary practices.

Coordinated by lead project director Christine Skelly (MSU), horse industry professionals were invited to participate in this on-line short course series connecting

them with other land grant universities, equine business experts, and provided them with unlimited networking opportunities. In addition to a webinar, each course contained an interactive quiz, a decision tool, and relevant articles and links. Specific topics were: Contract/Employee Labor Law: When is a Worker a Horse Operation Employee?, Liability Issues of Horse Operations & Veterinary Practices, Youth & Volunteers: Enabling Experience without Jeopardizing Your Horse Operation, Ensuring Proper Documentation to Enable Employment on Horse Operations, and Best Practices for a Safe & Efficient Facility. These webinars were archived at [MyHorseUniversity.com](http://MyHorseUniversity.com) for future viewing.

Evaluations were conducted at the course completion, and three months and one-year post-completion of each course to determine each participant's adaptation of best hiring and safety practices. Presenters encouraged networking by class participants with each other through social media like Facebook, Twitter, and a HorseBiz Blog.

As a result of these classes, 423 people took part in this equine course series with 50% actually completing the course. After three months, 40% reported that they would be making changes to their hiring practices, 38% reported they would make changes to decrease their liability risks and 67% reported they would make changes to improve their worker safety. Comments included "Very informative and made me aware of things that I was not aware of that will apply to me as I grow my business in the future" and "Great to have a better grasp of the role of minors and volunteers on our farm".



*"There is enough information to make sure operations are carried out in a safe and legal manner " MyHorseUniversity.com*





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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

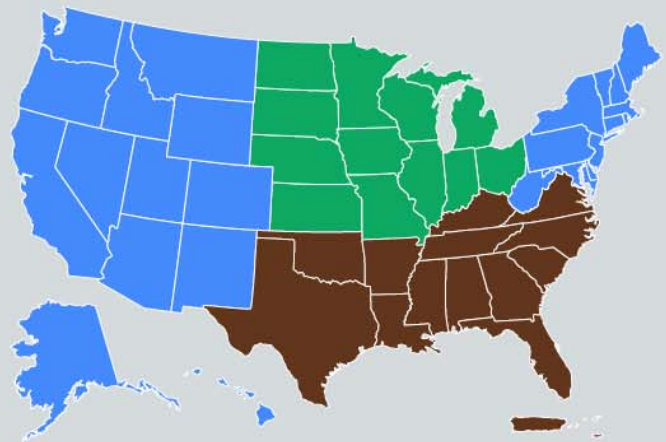
National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

**“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers  
to manage the unique risks of producing food  
for the world’s table.”**

**Extension Risk Management Education (ERME)** is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website. <http://ExtensionRME.org>



**ERME Regional Centers**



**NORTH CENTRAL  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

University of Nebraska  
Dept. of Agricultural Economics  
303 Filley Hall  
Lincoln, NE  
68583-0922

(402) 472-1742  
NCERME.org



**NORTHEAST  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

112 Townsend Hall  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE  
19716-2130

(302) 831-6540  
NERME.org



**SOUTHERN  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

2301 South University Ave.  
Little Rock, AR  
72204

(501) 671-2165  
SRMEC.uark.edu



**WESTERN  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

222 N. Havana St.  
Spokane Valley, WA  
99202

(509) 477-2176  
WESTRME.wsu.edu



**EXTENSIONRME.org**

